



Railway service to resume towards Karachi soon

The Business

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No room for harassment of women, says Sherry Rehman



COAS, UN military adviser discuss regional security

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa met United Nations Military Adviser Gen Birame Diop during his ongoing visit to the United States and discussed diverse matters, including the overall regional security, the military's public affairs wing said in a statement on Sunday.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the top military officials discussed the matters of mutual interest as well as the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan. The army chief appreciated the role of Gen Diop, who is from Senegal in promoting core values of the United Nations and its response during the disaster in the country.

Gen Diop expressed his grief over the destruction caused by floods in Pakistan due to climate change and offered condolence to the families of the victims. He also assured full UN support for the affectees. "He acknowledged Pakistan's contribution in UN peace-keeping Missions and extraordinary achievements in counter terrorism," the ISPR added.

According to a report, the army chief reached the US on Friday for an almost week-long visit, which includes meetings with senior officials of the Biden administration. Pakistani officials are also trying to secure a meeting between Gen Bajwa and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. —APP



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi addresses at the launching ceremony of Punjab Ehsaas Roshan Programme of Rs100 billion on Sunday.

Cabinet okays legal action against Imran, over audio leaks

Copy of cypher 'missing' from PM House records, cabinet told; another audio clip surfaces, purportedly of Imran talking about 'foreign conspiracy' cypher

ISLAMABAD: The cabinet has formally given the go-ahead to hold an inquiry into the audio leaks purportedly featuring PTI Chairman Imran Khan and his party leaders, it emerged on Sunday. On Friday, the cabinet suggested that legal action could be taken after a steady stream of audio recordings surfaced, most recently of informal conversations allegedly between Imran and his aides — Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Asad Umar and his former principal secretary Azam Khan — purportedly discussing the cypher that the PTI chief has for long presented as evidence of a "foreign conspiracy" to oust him from office.

According to Cabinet Division documents dated October 1, the Friday meeting had constituted a sub-committee "to deliberate and recommend actions regarding the conversation of the former Prime Minister Imran Khan, his political associates and the then secretary to the PM, available on the internet regarding the cypher message received from Parep Washington (Cypher No. 1-0678 dated March 7, 2022)".

"Therefore, the apex investigation

agency (FIA) may be directed to inquire into the matter by constituting a team of senior officers, which may co-opt officers/officials from other intelligence agencies for the purpose, and to proceed further against the perpetrators in accordance with the law," the memo said. The cabinet also sought the implementation report on its suggestions "immediately". In a handout issued after the Friday huddle, it was revealed that a copy of the cypher had gone "missing" from the Prime Minister House records, and the cabinet had subsequently formed a special committee which would determine the legal action to be taken against all those involved, including the ex-premier, ex-principal secretary to prime minister Azam Khan and senior ministers.

"The cabinet committee will consist of the representatives of the coalition parties in the government, along with ministers," the handout issued had said. The handout had declared that the "theft of diplomatic cypher records is an unforgivable crime" and violation of the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

The cabinet was told that the audios

purportedly featuring Imran and his aides exposed "the criminal conspiracy of the former government", while the cypher was given "fictitious meanings for political mileage and subsequently it was stolen after fraud, forgery, fabrication."

Meanwhile, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz maintained that the cypher was not just a piece of paper, saying "it belongs to the state of Pakistan."

"Whoever violates the interests of the state by betraying the national trust should be made an example so that no foreign agent dares to harm the country in a political guise."

PTI leaders react to cabinet's decision Senior PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the cabinet summary has "proved that the cypher is a reality".

"The government has accepted our stance on the cypher," he told a gathering in Multan on Sunday.

Qureshi said his party is not afraid of the investigations announced by the government. "We never took a step that

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BISP disburses over Rs60b among 2,404,151 flood-victims

ISLAMABAD: Despite the weekly holiday, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disbursed cash relief among 25,859 flood affected families on Sunday through its Special Payment Campsites.

On special instructions from Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Shazia Marri payment campsites were kept open even on the weekly holiday for smooth disbursement of financial assistance to flood affected families. Total of 25,859 flood affected families have received financial assistance from different campsites established in flood hit areas till date.

So far a total of Rs 60,103,775,000 has been disbursed among 2,404,151 flood affected families of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan. In Balochistan 177,565 flood affected families have received Rs 4,439,125,000. 1,670,223 affected families of Sindh have received Rs 41,755,575,000. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 265,746 families have received Rs 6,643,650,000 whereas 290,232 families of Punjab have received Rs 7,255,800,000. In Gilgit-Baltistan 385 flood affected families have also received Rs 9,625,000. A control room has been established at BISP headquarters to ensure smooth payments. —APP

Missing of cypher must be probed, says Qureshi

MULTAN: Vice Chairman Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Sunday those who are responsible for the missing of the cypher must be investigated. Addressing a press conference here, Shah Mahmood Qureshi stated that PTI did not take any illegal step which could harm national interest. He observed that an effort was being made to create division in PTI. Different perks are being given to parliamentarians of Pakistan Tehreek Insaf. A good number of citizens rushed to Bani Gala after hearing news of arrest warrants of Imran Khan. The masses registered their protest in different cities, he expressed.

Responding to a query, he observed that the government should investigate audio leaks and share facts with the masses.

Qureshi stated that the last PTI government had given facilities during long marches of PPP and JUI F. However, PTI workers underwent torture on May 25. Shah Mahmood Qureshi also demanded of fresh and transparent elections. —APP

Sherry condoles aggrieved family of martyred soldier

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman sent her condolences to the aggrieved family of Havaladar Babar Siddique who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty during a UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"I extend my heartfelt condolences to the wife and children of Havaladar Babar Siddique and send my prayers in this difficult time. Losing a husband, father and son is heartbreaking and I wish the family strength and stand with them in this time of grief," she said in a statement received here on Sunday. —APP

Mian Mansha donates Rs23m for flood affectees

LAHORE: Renowned businessman Mian Muhammad Mansha along with his son Hassan Mansha called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Sunday. During the meeting, Mian Muhammad Mansha donated an amount of Rs 23 million for Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund. —APP

New UAE visa rules begin today

ISLAMABAD: The UAE's new visa rules will come into force today (Monday).

Among the major changes, which were approved by the Cabinet in April, are longer visit visas for tourists, long-term residency for sought-after professionals and easy access to the 10-year golden visa initiative.

Golden visa holders who stay outside the country will not have their permits cancelled.

People who cancel their residency visas will have a six-month grace period to stay in the country. Previously, people were allowed only one month.

The visa changes represent one of the biggest shake-ups of the country's immigration policy in years. The new visas include a standard 60-day entry permit, rather than 30 days at present, and a five-year, multi-entry tourist visa that allows visitors to stay in the country for up to 90 days in a row, The National UAE reported.

The UAE will also introduce five-year green visas, which are aimed at skilled workers, freelancers and the self-employed, and a job exploration entry visa for degree holders that does not require a sponsor or a host.

Parents can sponsor their male children until the age of 25, up from 18, allowing them to remain in the UAE after school and university. The golden visa initiative will also be expanded, as skilled professionals on salaries of Dh30,000 (\$8,100) a month or more will find it easier to secure a 10-year visa. The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security last month also unveiled the new version of the UAE passport. Current holders whose passports have expired can apply for a new one through ICP's website or smart app or the country's embassies and consulates.

8m families to benefit from 'Ehsaas Roshan Programme'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Cooperatives and Environment Muhammad Basharat Raja said on Sunday that 'Ehsaas Roshan Programme' had been launched in the province and eight million families would be provided edible items on concessional rates under the initiative.

According to official sources here, he said that Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi had approved a hefty amount of Rs 100 billion for the program. He said that low-income people could easily get edible items from the local grocery shops in a respectful manner.

He said that citizens could get their registration done by sending their computerised national identity card (CNIC) numbers on 8123. Muhammad Basharat Raja said that the Punjab government would also get a bill approved for 'Kafaalat' of those living below the poverty line.

CM launches Rs100b Ehsaas Ration Subsidy Programme

By Our Staff reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has launched Punjab Ehsaas Roshan Programme of Rs100 billion on Sunday.

The Chairperson of Punjab Ehsaas Programme Senator Dr Sania Nishtar, former Federal Minister Moonis Elahi, Adviser Omar Sarfaraz Cheema also accompanied him.

CM started the Punjab Ehsaas Roshan Programme from the Bismillah General Store in the Shadman market which got itself registered under the Ehsaas Roshan Subsidy Programme.

CM was given a detailed briefing about the Punjab Ehsaas Ration Programme by Dr Sania Nishtar and apprised him about the components of the programme. Later, the CM while talking with the media on the occasion said that the Punjab government has

Dr Sania Nishtar gives a detailed briefing to CM Pervaiz Elahi about components of Programme

launched the Ehsaas Ration Programme with a substantial amount of Rs 100 billion for 80 lac families of the province.

He disclosed that under the Punjab Ehsaas Ration Subsidy Programme the deserving families will get flour, pulses, cooking oil and ghee at 40% subsidised rate. He revealed that the deserving families can buy flour, ghee and pulses at 40% subsidy rate from the registered karyana stores and adding further edibles in the programme will be reviewed.

Ehsaas Ration programme is the vision of our leader Imran Khan and we will extend the scope of Ehsaas ration Programme to every street and town.

CM stated that 40% subsidy for the

poor segment is a huge subsidy and the flood affectees of three flood-affected districts have also been registered in this programme.

The flood affectees will get a great benefit under the Punjab Ehsaas Ration Subsidy Programme, whereas, 80 thousand people have given their response with regard to this programme in one hour and thousands of families got themselves registered under this programme adding that the registration process will continue for two weeks.

CM paid tribute to Dr. Sania Nishtar for working day and night to make

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KARACHI: Flood victims rest in a tent at a temporary housing facility set up by Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) for flood-affectees.

'Pakistan's agri products export to China to further grow'

BEIJING: Pakistan has rich potential of the export of agricultural products to China and the present government is taking concrete measures to take advantage of huge demand of fruits and vegetable in the Chinese markets, said Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir.

"I think, the increase in the agricultural products exported to China this year is still tip of iceberg. The potential is much more and we are working hard to further enhance our exports to China," he told APP on Sunday. According to the data from China Customs, Pakistan's agricultural products exported to China from Jan to Aug

2022 reached US\$730 million with a year-on-year increase of 28.59 percent. Pakistan's agricultural exports to China are expected to exceed a record high of US\$ 1 billion in 2022. He informed that both Pakistani and the Chinese authorities were satisfied over the increase but they expressed a need to improve the trade balance between the two countries.

"So, we are working hard with the Chinese authorities for making more cooperation and we're expecting some good news about exports of different products, he added. Ghulam Qadir hoped that more export could also start and having US\$1 billion worth of agricultural products' exports to China was

still not enough as compared to the overall potential of the Chinese market. He said that more efforts were needed to enhance exports and he vowed to continue to work with the relevant authorities in this regard. The Commercial Counsellor said that at present, agricultural products including fruits, vegetable, sesame seed, pine nuts and seafoods were being exported to China. These are overall products, but we need to increase that basket and we are working on it, he added. As per official data, Pakistan's trade surplus with China in agricultural products also reached US\$ 527 million with a year-on-year increase of 48.38 percent in the same period. —Online