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Alvi asks OPs to contribute more for country progress

The Business

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Economic uplift related to political stability



'Agencies have right to thwart attack on capital'

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has warned that Federal Law-Enforcement Agencies reserve the right to thwart any attack on Islamabad by any armed group. Talking to media in Islamabad on Tuesday afternoon, he said Imran Khan Niazi and his misguided activists are trying to spread anarchy and chaos in the country. He said the PM has directed that the police and FC personnel would only use teargas and rubber bullets to disperse participants of the long march but according to reports, PTI leadership is accumulating ammunition and armed men to attack the federal capital. Rana Sanaullah said in view of these reports, federal law enforcement agencies

can face a loss and Imran will be responsible for it. The Interior Minister said the people of Lahore and Gujranwala Divisions have rejected Imran Khan's long-march as only a few hundreds of people could be seen in the long march. He, however, urged Imran Niazi to shun his agenda of chaos and sit with the political forces of the country to find a political solution of issues. He said Pakistan needs unity not anarchy. Responding to a question, the Interior Minister said no talks are being held with Imran due to his behaviour and the language he uses against state institutions. Strongly condemning the statement made by Imran yesterday regarding imposition of martial law in the country, Sana said PTI chief gives irresponsible statements aimed.



BEIJING: Representatives of Chinese companies call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Both countries should move forward with CPEC, Gwadar Port

China will support Pak in stabilising financial situation

BEIJING: China will continue to support Pakistan in stabilising its financial situation, state media quoted China's President Xi Jinping as saying on Wednesday. China and Pakistan should move forward more effectively with the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as well as accelerate the construction of infrastructure for the Gwadar Sea Port, state media reported Xi as saying. The Chinese president made the remarks in a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during which the two leaders agreed to strengthen the strategic partnership between Islamabad and Beijing, as well as multilateral cooperation in various areas, including the CPEC. The bilateral consensus between the two leaders was reached as PM Shehbaz called on Xi at the People's Great Hall of China. The Chinese president and PM Shehbaz discussed "broad-based cooperation in economy and investment and exchanged views on regional and global developments". They expressed the desire to further promote the all-weather strategic cooperation partnership between their countries. Later in the day, PM Shehbaz invited Chinese investment for the government's 10,000

megawatt solar and other renewable energy projects, the Prime Minister's Office said, adding that the offer received an encouraging response. Shehbaz Sharif, who landed in Beijing on a two-day visit last night, had given approval for the execution of the solar project in September as part of measures to reduce the import bill. He met Chinese investors and businessmen today and besides seeking investment for the solar energy project, he encouraged Chinese investment in other renewable energy projects, including wind power turbines. "Leading Chinese companies have shown a keen interest to invest in Pakistan's solar, water and other infrastructure projects," the PMO statement said. The prime minister expressed regret over "the obstacles faced by Chinese companies in the past on matters pertaining to payments on imported coal". He assured the businessmen and investors that his government had resolved several issues faced by them since assuming power in April. Pending dues worth Rs160 billion had been cleared and a payment of Rs50 billion was made yesterday, the PMO quoted him as saying. Moreover, the premier said a revolving fund having Rs50 billion seed money had been established

China to export high speed train tech

The Business Report

BEIJING: China will export technology for a 160 km/h high-speed railway train to Pakistan, state broadcaster CCTV said on Wednesday. A first batch of 46 train carriages has been loaded and will be shipped on Nov. 3. Parts for another 184 carriages will be delivered to Pakistan to assemble, the report said, adding this is the first time China has exported the technology. by the State Bank of Pakistan on the directives of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. Regarding other projects, the PM stressed the early completion of the Gwadar international airport and was assured by Chinese companies that the project would be completed by the start of next year. The premier also resolved to address issues pertaining to the acquisition of land for Diamer-Bhasha Dam and hurdles in the completion of the Mohmand Dam project on a priority basis. He expressed the federal and Sindh

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PSX gains 135.90 points, closes at 41,944.59 points

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) saw an optimistic session on Wednesday and the index rose by 0.33pc after China pledged assistance for Pakistan during PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit to the neighbouring nation. China's state media on Wednesday quoted President Xi Jinping saying that his country will continue to support Pakistan in stabilising its financial situation and both sides agreed to accelerate work on CPEC projects. This rejuvenated investor interest in the equity market and they made fresh purchases. By the end of the session, the KSE-100 Index closed with a gain of 135.9 points

or 0.33% to close at 41,944.59 points. Beginning with a dip, the market recouped losses and staged a modest recovery in early hours. While the KSE-100 Index remained range-bound for most part of the day, the final hour saw a buying spree that notched up the gains. Index-heavy automobile, fertiliser and oil segments closed with gains but chemical and banking sectors closed on a mixed note. On the other hand, cement sector closed with modest losses. Capital Stake, in its report, said that continuing with the positive trend for third consecutive session, the PSX once again closed in green. "Indices traded in green for most part of the day while volumes surged from previous close," it said.

NAB controllers foisted thieves on country: IK

From Our Staff Correspondent

GUJRANWALA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said that those who are controlling the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) have imposed thieves on the country. Addressing the participants of the long march, the former premier [Imran] went on to criticize the incumbent government, saying that the cases of their leaders have been ended. Lashing out at the Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) bigwigs - PM Shehbaz Sharif, Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz and Hamza She-

hbaz - Imran said that, Shehbaz, Maryam and Hamza cases have been finished, while he [Nawaz] is all set to make his way back to the country. Continuing to take a dig at the coalition government, the PTI chief said that it [government] has rolled out a law that encourages to arrest the small thieves, but sparing the big looters and allowing them to plunder the nation's money and stash it in foreign accounts. Imran kept on slamming the government - now in terms of inflation - questioning that what made it [government] to increase the prices of POL products, power and other commodities so significantly.

Cabinet seeking 7-year jail for spreading hate on social media

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Wednesday approved an amendment imposing seven-year imprisonment for those spreading hateful content on social media. Under the amendment, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has been authorised to take action against such individuals. The proposal has also recommended the inclusion of Section 505 of the Pakistan Penal Code in the FIA Act. Once the amendment is approved, FIA will also have the authority to take action on any kind of fake news and rumours on social media. The cabinet approved the amendments in the FIA act through a summary moved via circulation. The final approval of the amendment will be taken by Parliament. In February of this year, President Arif Alvi had approved

an ordinance of a similar nature proposing amendments in the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, (PECA) 2016. The ordinance was signed by the president when the Imran Khan-led government's cabinet had approved it. The law, back then, proposed a five-year sentence for criticising state institutions, including the Pakistan Army, judiciary and others on electronic media. However, in April of this year, the Islamabad High Court had declared the ordinance "unconstitutional" and directed the federal government to probe abuse of the law and submit a report. The media bodies had challenged the "draconian law" in the IHC following countrywide protests. Journalist associations, including the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors

(CPNE), the Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND) and some senior journalists of the country, had filed the petition through senior lawyer Munir A Malik. **Elections to be held in Oct next as per Constitution: Dastgir** Minister for Energy Khurram Dastgir says Assemblies will complete their constitutional term and general elections will be held in October next year in accordance with the Constitution. Addressing a press conference in Gujranwala on Wednesday, he reiterated government's commitment to establish the writ of state at every cost by suppressing the anarchist elements with iron hands. The Minister expressed satisfaction that all the affairs of country are being run in calm manner and the government will not allow fascist elements to succeed in their nefarious agenda.

Chinese Cos agree to invest in Pakistan

BEIJING: The leading Chinese companies have agreed to invest in Pakistan's solar, water and other infrastructure projects, an official statement said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met officials of the companies in Beijing. The prime minister invited the Chinese corporate heads to visit Pakistan and invest in the government's comprehensive solar power project aimed at generating 10,000 megawatt electricity, the PM Office said Wednesday in a statement. He also encouraged the Chinese investment in Pakistan's alternative energy resources including the wind turbine power plants. Shehbaz Sharif stressed early completion of the infrastructure of Gwadar International Airport, to which the Chinese companies assured to complete the project by the beginning of year 2023. The prime minister in a meeting with Chinese investors and businessmen said the government since assuming power in April had resolved several issues pertaining to them and had paid them the pending dues of Rs 160 billion. An amount of Rs 50 billion has been paid to them yesterday, he added. He said a revolving fund had been established by the State Bank of Pakistan on the directive of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar with a seed money of Rs 50 billion. He regretted the obstacles faced by the Chinese companies in the past on the matters concerning the payment of imported coal. He vowed addressing on priority the issues relating to the land acquisition for construction of Diamer Bhasha Dam and other hurdles in way to completion of Mohmand Dam. Shehbaz assured provision of foolproof security to the Chinese personnel working in Pakistan and said that an across-the-board security would be ensured for those deputed on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and other joint initiatives. He extended condolences over the death of Chinese men and women who lost their lives while at work in Pakistan. —DNA

Long March will reach Islamabad on 11th: Asad

ISLAMABAD: PTI Secretary General Asad Umar has announced Long march will reach Islamabad on November 11. He tweeted PTI has set the dates about arrival of Long march and caravans from all over the country in Islamabad. According to new schedule of Azadi March, Imran Khan will reach Rawalpindi on November 10. All the PTI caravans from across the country will reach Islamabad on November 11. —Online

Rupee settles at 221.43 against US dollar

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistan's rupee registered a depreciation of 0.35% in the inter-bank on Wednesday, as investors awaited the US Federal Reserve's decision on the policy rate that was to be announced later in the day. As per the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the rupee closed at 221.43 after an appreciation of Re0.78. On Tuesday, Pakistan's rupee had registered back-to-back gains against the US dollar, and settled at 220.65 after an appreciation of Re0.24 or 0.11% in the inter-bank. The gains came after market sentiments improved following Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's meetings with the high-ups of banks and exchange companies. However, in a key development, Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation increased to 26.6% on a year-on-year basis in October 2022 as compared to an increase of 23.2% in the previous month and 9.2% in October 2021, as per latest data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Tuesday. Arif Habib Limited (AHL) in its report said volatility in the PKR-USD parity has been witnessed in recent weeks amid debt obligation over the next 12 months in the backdrop of tough global conditions.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi presides over a meeting on recreational facilities to be provided in the Lahore Zoo and the Safari Zoo.

CM grants approval to theme park in Safari Zoo

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: On the special direction of Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi recreational facilities will be provided in the Lahore Zoo and the Safari Zoo and the decision to reorganize Lahore Zoo and Safari Zoo has been taken in this regard. The CM has also granted approval to establish a theme park in the Safari Zoo in order to provide quality recreational facilities to the children of a common man. CM disclosed that the Safari Zoo will be made a recreation place of an international level adding that South Asian and African theme zones will be established in the Safari

Zoo. He revealed that food courts will be established in the Lahore Zoo and the Safari Zoo in the forest environment and the food courts will remain open at night also. CM presided over a meeting in which a decision has been made to establish Zoo & Wildlife Management Authority in order to provide maximum recreational facilities to the children of the common man. CM accorded approval to establish Zoo & Wildlife Management Authority and stated that the Zoo & Wildlife Management Authority will work for the construction and restoration of the zoo houses and safari zoos across Punjab. Joy land, tram structure and other facilities will be provided in the sa-

fari zoo and bird shows will also be organized in the Lahore Zoo for the interest of children. A meeting was held under the chair of Chief Minister Punjab Ch Parvez Elahi in which the financial management act was reviewed. The finance secretary gave a briefing on the important features of the act. **CM seeks a report from IGP** Chief Minister has sought a report from the IG police about the murder of three brothers in Pakpattan and directed that the arrest of the accused persons should be ensured. They should be brought under the grip of the law and justice be ensured, he added.