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'God is my witness': President Alvi denies he signed Officials Secrets, Army Acts into law

Says he did not sign the bills; alleges his staff "undermined his will and command"; PTI to take matter to Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr. Arif Alvi denied signing the Official Secrets Amendment Bill and the Army Act Amendment Bill.

In a statement on social networking website X (Twitter), Arif Alvi said that God is witness, I have not signed the Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 and the Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023 because I do not agree with these laws.

He wrote that I had asked my staff to return the bills without signature within the stipulated time to render them ineffective.

Dr. Arif Alvi wrote, "I have confirmed with the staff several times whether they have been sent back (without signature) and I have been assured that they have been sent back.

However I found out

today that my staff did not agree to my wishes and He went against the order.

He further wrote that Allah knows all. He will forgive in sha Allah but I ask forgiveness from those who will be affected by it.

Meanwhile Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to approach the Supreme Court immediately in the light of the eye-catching tweet of the President of the country in which he denied his signatures on Army Act and Official secret act amendment bills.

In the statement issued by the spokesperson of Tehreek-e-Insaf said on the matter of the signatures of the President on the drafts of amendments in the Official Secrets Act and the Army Act, the Constitution and the law, the basic rights of the citizens and

the survival and security of the democracy and parliament have risen above the fears and concerns.

It has been announced to express gratitude to the President for taking a stand and fully support the President's stand at the national and judicial levels.

The spokesperson of PTI said that the position of the President of the country on the process of ratification of the most important legal drafts is unusual in all respects and requires the most serious measures.

During the last 16 months in Pakistan, the evil tradition of deviating from the constitution, breaking the law, fleeing from democracy and subordinating the state to personalities has been reinforced. It was said in statement.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar and caretaker Provincial Ministers meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

Bills become law after no objection from president within ten-day: Law Minister

There is no third option under Article 75 of the Constitution: Ahmed Irfan Aslam; President should take responsibility for his own actions, says ministry.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Law and Justice Ahmed Irfan Aslam on Sunday said that under Article 75 of the Constitution, a bill automatically becomes law if the President didn't approve or reject it within stipulated time period of ten days.

He was addressing a press conference along with Caretaker Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi here.

The law minister said that the caretaker government has no political agenda and its mandate was also limited. He said that being the head of the federation, the president is revered in all of our hearts.

He said that 'The Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill 2023' was received by the presidency on August

2, while Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill reached there on August 8, after being passed by the two houses of the Parliament.

The caretaker law minister said that when a bill is sent to the President, he has two options: either to approve the bill or send it back to the Parliament with his observations in writing. There is no third option under Article 75 of the Constitution, he said, adding that ten days of time period is fixed in the Constitution to exercise one of these options.

Ahmed Irfan Aslam said that the President has exercised these powers many times in the recent and distant past. The President gave observations in many laws and also sent back bills to the Parliament, he said.

Bilawal grieves over loss of lives in road mishap

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhattu Zardari has expressed his grief and sorrow over the loss of lives in a motorway bus accident near Bhatiyani, Rawalpindi, here Sunday.

He said, "I am shocked to hear the news of the tragic accident."

Bilawal said that his heart went out to the bereaved families, who had lost their loved ones in the accident.

Newly appointed IGP Sindh assumes office

KARACHI (APP): The new Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Riffat Mukhtar has taken the charge of his office on Sunday. An officer of Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) Grade-21 Riffat Mukhtar has assumed the official charge of the post of Inspector General of Police Sindh.

Law Ministry's clarification removes ambiguity created by President's 'tweet': Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Sunday said a clarification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice had removed the ambiguity created by a statement posted by President Dr. Arif Alvi on its personal account on X (formerly known Twitter) regarding signing of two legislations.

"The President is a head of the state, and his position demands respect. No one should expect that we would speak against the respect of the President," said the information minister while addressing a news conference here.

Flanked by Caretaker Minister for Law and Justice Ahmed Irfan Aslam and Principal Information Officer Asim Khichi, the minister said there was no need to politicize the caretaker government's efforts, that were aimed at removing

ambiguity on important matters. He said the President had posted a statement on the X about the two bills, sent by the Parliament, from his personal account on the platform, which might have created some sort of confusion, but did not cause any upheaval.

However, it was imperative to remove confusion on the matter and the Law Ministry had issued a statement in this regard, he added. To a query, Solangi said he did not have any knowledge about the President's intentions and desires, particularly concerning his continuation in office. Institutions existed in the country for enforcement of laws, and a complete system was in place to ensure provision of rights to citizens and uphold the supremacy of the Constitution and laws, the minister said in response to another question.



ISLAMABAD: Former Member of Balochistan Assembly Mir Saleem Khoso called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Govt to ensure security, create jobs Caretaker PM vows to resolve challenges faced by Balochistan

KAN MEHTARZAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar said on Sunday that efforts would be made to provide employment opportunities and maintain peace and security while expediting the development process in Kan Mehtarzai, Killa Saifullah and other areas of Balochistan.

PM Kakar while addressing a reception through a video link, organized by the All Parties Conference in his native village Kan Mehtarzai, said that he would visit Kan Mehtarzai soon and review the issues faced by local people.

Anwarul Haq Kakar said that he was grateful to all the organizers of today's reception for felicitating him on behalf of all political parties, tribal elders, scholars, civil society and lawyers from his native town after his nomination

as caretaker prime minister. A large number of people including leaders of various political parties, tribal elders, scholars, journalists, farmers, lawyers and students participated in the reception ceremony. The government and opposition parties unanimously nominated Anwar Haq Kakar as caretaker Prime Minister.

The local notables expressed confidence that Anwar ul Haq Kakar as caretaker Prime Minister would play his key role in the elimination of terrorism in the country, conduct of transparent elections and restoration of law and order.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Sunday held a meeting with Senator Arbab Umar Kasi and discussed issues related to Balochistan.



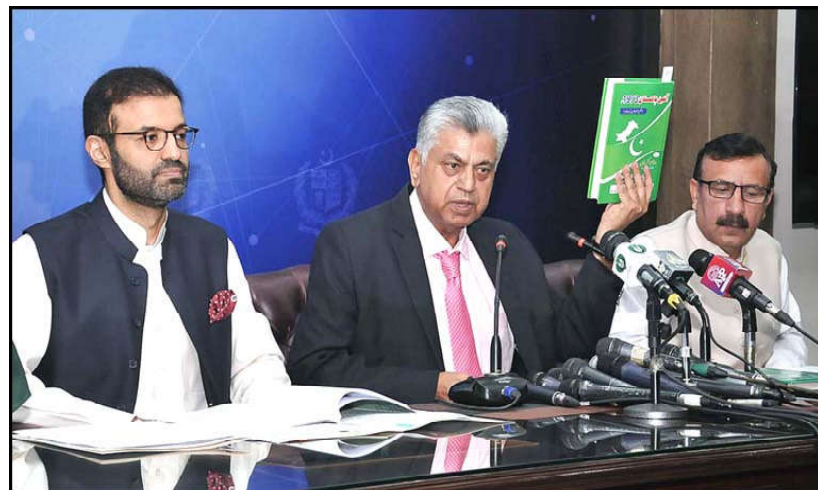
HYDERABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Convener, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui talking to media persons after offering fatcha for the departed soul of brother of Kanwar Naveed Jamil Deputy Convener MQM during condolence meeting held in Hyderabad.

Khalid Maqbool looks forward to free fair general elections

HYDERABAD (APP): Convener of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said the constitution of Pakistan has laid down the procedure of holding free and fair elections and that law should be followed in letter and spirit.

Talking to the media at the Soyam of MQM-P's Deputy Convener Kunwar Navid Jameel in Latifabad here on Sunday, Siddiqui observed that the recently conducted population census had shown an increase of 50 million people in the

country's population since the last census. According to him, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was expected to carry out the delimitation of constituencies in light of the increased population. Siddiqui expressed hope that the ECP with the support of the caretaker governments in the centre and the provinces would be able to conduct free and fair elections. The MQM-P's convener praised the departed soul for his unflinching support and loyalty towards the party and followers.



ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Murtaza Solangi and Federal Law Minister Ahmed Irfan Aslam addressing an important press conference at PID Media Center.

PPP demands president Alvi's medical examination

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan People Party (PPP) has demanded medical examination of President Arif Alvi after his tweet denying signatures on army act and official secret act amendment bill.

Arif Alvi's tweet is question mark on his mentality, PPP said.

In reaction to president's tweet, Pakistan People Party (PPP) secretary general Syed Nayyar Bukhari said former president Asif Zardari and Bilawal Bhattu's declaration of PTI Pakistanism division

anarchy proved correct.

He said Alvi committed nefarious crime by playing role of PTI worker and role of personal employ. Syed Nayyar Bukhari said president neither approved nor objected the bills and hence bills became effective after specified time limit. He said president's allegations on his own staff are not worthy of president. President explanation is the biggest joke of this century. Arif Alvi's statement is lair gangs ringleader Imran Khan's instrumentality, he add.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club.

Saudi Hajj Minister arrives in Pakistan on four-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umra Dr. Taufeeq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiya along with a delegation arrived in Islamabad on Sunday evening on a four-day visit.

He was cordially welcomed by caretaker Federal Minister for religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Saeed Almalki at the airport. During the visit, the Saudi delegation will discuss various issues related to the facilities being provided to the Pakistani Hajj and Umra pilgrims, Road to Mecca project.

Saudi Minister for Hajj will also meet with the President caretaker Prime

Minister and the Chief of Army Staff.

The visiting Saudi delegation comprises heads of the Saudi civil aviation and airlines and other department. Earlier Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed Sunday said that Saudi Arabia's Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiya will be warmly welcomed on his historic trip to Pakistan after 40 years that would provide a 'timely opportunity' to deepen bilateral cooperation. "All the arrangements have been put in place to accord a warm welcome to the visiting dignitary and his entourage", he said while talking to PTV news channel.

Caretaker CM directs police to nab PPP worker's killer forthwith

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar while taking notice of the killing of PPP leader Shaukat Hamid in Baldia Town, has directed the Police to arrest the killer immediately. He had also sought a detailed report of the incident from the Additional IGP Karachi.

The Caretaker CM directed to control snatching of mobile phones and other incidents in the city.

Baqar said that the protection of the life and property of the citizens was the primary responsibility of the police.

MQM-P summons Rabta Committee meeting today

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has summoned an important meeting of Rabta Committee today Monday to deliberate on country's political situation and upcoming general elections.

MQM-P summoned an important meeting of Rabta Committee at 05:00 pm in Pakistan House, PECHS. Meeting summoned to deliberate on country's political situation and upcoming general elections. Matters related to delimitation of constituencies of national and provincial assemblies will also be discussed. The meeting will also formulate a strategy to raise strong voice for 'fair' delimitation of constituencies.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar giving the instructions to facilitate the the Motorways on his visit hazara Motorways and Peshawar.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmad receiving Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umra Dr. Taufeeq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiya who arrived in Islamabad on Sunday evening on a four-day visit.

President's tweet give arises to many real question then constitutionals

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan People Party senator Raza Rabbani said presidenty Alvi's tweet caused arouse of more real questions as compared to some constitutional questions. Under article-50 of 1973 constitution President is the part of Parliament, he said.

Further he said

President's statement should be investigated under whole committee of senate in which whole senate sits. Relative staff should appear in front of Bar of Senate.

He maintained that President leveled very serious allegations and it will have far reaching consequences on whole system.

Minister visits NHA headquarters after assuming charge

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister of Communications, Postal Services, and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar on Sunday paid a visit to the National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters following his assumption of the portfolio.

Head of the Public Relations Department Sabtain Raza Lodhi, conveyed that a warm welcome was extended to Shahid Ashraf Tarar by various officials,

including Federal Secretary of Communications and Postal Services, Captain @ Muhammad Khurram Agha, Zahir Shah, Member Admin, Sajjad Ahmed Khan, Member of the Board, Shakeel Anwar, General Manager of Establishment, Abdul Ghaffar Farooqui, Director of Establishment, Umair Saduzai, PRO to Chairman NHA, and others. They congratulated him on his new role, said a news release.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar giving the instructions to facilitate the the Motorways on his visit hazara Motorways and Peshawar.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Catch-22

The country's superior judiciary remains in a bind. Ever since an eight-member bench led by the chief justice acted prematurely to ensure that the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act would be a stillborn law, several senior justices have, on different occasions, been less than enthusiastic about hearing major cases till questions regarding the constitutionality of the aforementioned law are firmly decided.

The issue arose again during the Friday hearing of a petition challenging the changes made last year by the PDM government to the country's anti-corruption laws. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who is part of the three-member bench that has been hearing the long-running case, proposed the formation of a full-court bench to hear the matter, noting that since the SC had not yet issued a final judgement on the Practice and Procedure law, it may be best to refer the matter to a larger bench keeping in mind the implications of the case.

It may be recalled that, through the Practice and Procedure Act, the PDM government had sought to take suo motu powers and the prerogative to form benches away from the chief justice and hand them to a committee comprising the three senior-most judges of the apex court. Parts of the Practice and Procedure Act also made their way into the later Supreme Court (Review of Judgements and Orders) Act, which the SC struck down last week.

At one point in the ruling striking down the latter law, the chief justice observed that "it would veer towards irrationality to hold" that the legislature could supersede the CJP and enact a law taking away his prerogative to exercise and invoke jurisdiction under Article 184(3).

This would seem to suggest that the Practice and Procedure Act may meet a similar fate. However, the bench hearing the case seems caught in a Catch-22 situation, with a decision either for or against the law complicated by the apex court's internal divisions.

The Practice and Procedure Act may never have become an albatross around the SC's neck had the chief justice addressed the differences within his court early and in an amicable manner. He was asked repeatedly by his fellow judges to devise rules regulating suo motu and bench-fixing powers but refused to relinquish control over them.

When the PDM government moved to capitalise on these divisions for its own ends, he failed to rally support from within the institution behind him, to the judiciary's general detriment. However, it is never too late to learn from past mistakes. The chief justice still has a month till his retirement. He must spend it tying up loose ends. Much time has been lost and grass trampled on in this fight between elephants. He must put it to rest.

Are kids alright?



Muna Khan

I'm always impressed by the level of curiosity students bring to the classroom and this new academic year is no different. I enjoy discussing questions for which there are no right or wrong answers — what is objectivity, what is truth, who decides who is a journalist, etc. However, in the six years I have been teaching various iterations of this course, something is different: these students do not feel hopeful. About anything.

This was in response to me asking if the media reports too much bad news, and if so, how would they correct it. Over the years, students have always felt there's a lot of bad news, then disagreed on how it should be rectified and if it was a journalist's job to make audiences feel good, offer hope. This year though, this bright, inquisitive, thoughtful group of students didn't think there was anything to make them feel hopeful.

I'm rarely at a loss for words but hearing this broke my heart that morning. They deserve better. In an attempt to create some optimism, I said I felt hopeful after reading about PPP giving land rights to 5,000 families in Larkana affected by the floods. Last month, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari distributed the title deeds — in women's names, which in itself is huge. It can have a ripple effect, I said.

Not many of my students knew about this. It hadn't created waves like the contenders for interim prime minister or anything to do with the former can't-be-named prime minister.

They all knew about the Intercept story but no one had read the whole piece. It's not surprising to hear that none of them read a physical copy of the newspaper. They are, after all, digital natives.

But because they don't see themselves or the issues that impact them in mainstream media, they are less eager to engage with news as it's presented today. This has the beginnings of a media outlet's nightmare: a future audience that does not want to consume the news it's selling.

This isn't unique to Pakistan.

According to a study by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, 38 per cent of people it polled in the US said they "sometimes or often avoid news". The number of those who had replied "very" or "extremely interested in the news" has shrunk over the years.

This "news avoidance" could be a response to "hyper information", a constant access to information on all devices, say researchers. "Digital media has made news ubiquitous and instantly available from thousands of sources representing every ideology, geography and language," the report says.

This can drive feelings of depression, hopelessness, anxiety and anger, it adds.

These emotions are evident in classrooms and living rooms across Pakistan. However, a change in leadership isn't going to fix this. Young people care more about economic security and climate change, two issues that directly impact their well-being and future. And they see all political parties as a graveyard of dead ideas.

Can you blame them? In his column for Washington Post earlier this month, Paul Farhi noted how news avoidance may be playing a role in the "ominous declines pummeling media

organisations of all kinds".

I am not lucky enough to have access to audience metrics of news organisations here but given the rise of YouTube 'journalists' who do not have to deal with the same restrictions (or consequences) as those in the press, I feel confident saying things don't look good. It requires a major rethink.

How can media outlets present news in a way that engages people, not alienate them? Can profit-driven models produce journalism done in the public interest? More importantly, can the media treat young people as stakeholders whose opinions are taken seriously. Various sources list the median age in Pakistan as 21. Who is reporting on their dreams, aspirations, fears etc with as much seriousness given to tried and dusted leaders?

A lot of young people in Pakistan connect with leaders like Saad Rizvi, Manzoor Pashteen, Mohsin Dawar as well as a host of folks on social media offering alternative viewpoints to history. There is a dearth of young people in newsrooms assisting in making decisions about how, what to cover for younger audiences concerned about things like the high fees of education, the city's infrastructure, discrimination and policymaking. They should not be treated as indifferent to the problems but as participants who may offer solutions to issues that impact them the most.

The press is considered the fourth pillar of a democracy because it shines a light on issues that allow the public to make smart choices, especially at election time. The media can break its current trend of covering only the (outdated) political class by focusing on the young whose future is at stake. — Courtesy Dawn

Brain drain



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Post-dinner conversations in most urban middle-class households start these days with commentaries on the unstable politics and abysmal economic situation of Pakistan and end with the concern about the youth exodus from Pakistan to the seemingly greener pastures of North America, Europe, Australia and the Gulf. However, before drawing any conclusions, it would be important to take a broader look at the issue.

Firstly, Pakistanis going abroad is not a new phenomenon. Since 1971, the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment estimates that over 10 million Pakistanis have gone abroad for employment. Secondly, figures vary from year to year, with no particular trend of a steep rise. In 2022, 800,000 left Pakistan for employment overseas, which is less than the pre-pandemic figure of 946,571 in 2015. Thirdly, accurate numbers of those going abroad are hard to estimate because many avail student visas or permanent residency visas or go abroad through illegal means.

Hence, what is more relevant to the debate are not the numbers but reports that most of those moving abroad these days comprise Pakistan's youth. PIDE economist Faheem Jahangir Khan says that "67 per cent of Pakistani youngsters want to leave the country". The trend of brain drain is also being reported by other surveys and analyses.

The youth are Pakistan's future leaders.

At a time when the European and Chinese populations are aging, the youth bulge here is an advantage if they can participate in the development of their own country rather than serving societies abroad.

The reality, however, is that students are desperately looking for scholarships to study in the US, Australia, Europe, China and East Asia. Those already in foreign universities are reluctant to return because of joblessness in the country. Talented IT professionals are being lured by West-based companies who offer lucrative terms. Our leadership and intelligence, therefore, have a responsibility to identify the reasons for the youth leaving Pakistan, and then make policies that incentivise the youth to work for the country.

A major reason that frustrates our youth is the pervasive unemployment in the country. There are nearly 200 universities in Pakistan many of which award degrees in disciplines for which there are no jobs in the market. Having spent considerable sums on education, not finding a well-paying job is a deeply frustrating experience for a young person. The lucky ones who find jobs are also frustrated because of abysmally low salaries. Sarah Gilani, a start-up professional who worked for many years in Pakistan and now lives and works in Austria, says that the work culture in Pakistan is rigid and leaves little room for a healthy work-life balance, particularly for working women.

Young physicians also want to move abroad for better salaries and access to modern medical technologies. Sameera Rabbani, who graduated from a medical school in Lahore and now lives in Australia, observed that doctors are underpaid, overworked and underappreciated in Pakistan as opposed to the West where they are paid

adequately, with a contribution to the retirement fund.

Some professionals like Maheen Ahmad, who teaches at a premier institution in Islamabad, wish to go abroad only to improve educational qualifications. She recognises, though, the growing financial difficulties of salaried professionals and limited job growth prospects in Pakistan.

The second source of frustration for the youth is the deep political polarisation that exists and that is exacerbating the economic crisis. Nearly every family has been affected by this bitter political divide, particularly the youth. The third reason for the youth's growing disaffection is their aspiration for a life of respect, dignity and prosperity. They want equal opportunities and a level playing field. They are disappointed to find that the system does not work for them, but just for a select few, ie, the elite.

So, what can be done to stem the brain drain? First, the country needs stable politics, a charter of economy that binds political governments to ensure continuity of economic policies, and ease of doing business for investors, traders, and industrialists. Secondly, job creation should be a high priority. Since governments can create only so many jobs, it is industry which can absorb educated and semi-skilled youth. The education system should pivot towards technical education and vocational training to feed industry and the IT sector.

Thirdly, we need an efficient judicial system at all levels. Above all, the country needs a climate of justice, equal opportunity and dignity for every citizen. The National Security Policy announced last year provides a good way forward. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Envoys show keen interest in RCCI "Health Expo"

RAWALPINDI (APP): Ambassadors of different countries have shown keen interest in the two-day RCCI Health Expo and Summit 2023.

According to a statement issued here on Sunday, Atadjan N. Movlamov, Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Yezan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan Ulanbek Totuiaev, Syrian Ambassador Rameez Alraee, Ethiopian Ambassador Jamal Becker, among others who visited different stalls and appreciated the products.

Ethiopian Ambassador Jamal Becker in his tweet lauded RCCI's efforts for a successful event, Med-Health Expo

2023, showcasing the health sector's potential. He also desired close cooperation in the health sector between the two countries.

The official Twitter and Facebook accounts of the Kazakhstan embassy in Pakistan also highlighted the visit of the ambassador of Kazakhstan, Yezan Kistafin, at the RCCI Med-Health Expo and Summit 2023.

The major aim of the expo was to provide a platform to explore the export potential and address the key challenges faced by the health and pharmaceutical sectors in Pakistan. A panel discussion was also organised on the sidelines of the expo where speakers highlighted the export potential of pharmaceuticals in Pakistan

given its capabilities in drug manufacturing, a skilled workforce and a growing global demand for affordable medicines. Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry was known for producing high-quality generic medicines at competitive prices and this cost-effectiveness makes Pakistani pharmaceutical products attractive to countries seeking affordable healthcare solutions, they added.

The topics for the panel discussion include Medical Care and Challenges in the Modern Era, the Development of Health Care Equipment in Pakistan, Biological and Vaccine Development in Pakistan, Industry-Academia Linkage and Research in the Health Care Sector and health tourism in Pakistan.

8th Colour & Chem Expo concludes

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's 8th largest and exclusive two-day exhibition of dyes, chemicals & allied industry concluded here on Sunday.

A two-day workshop was held here on August 19-20 at the Lahore International Expo Centre. The title of this year's theme was "Transforming Challenges into Opportunities." Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Fahimur Rehman Saigal and Pattern-in-Chief of PIAF and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar inaugurated the event on Saturday.

The exhibition was organised under the aegis of Event and Conference International Pvt. Ltd and Rainbow Group in collaboration with the Asia Dyestuff Industry Federation. The event was supported by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI).



LAHORE: Women are actively engaged in work during a Property Sale Event hosted at a local hotel.

Energy projects proved to be game changer in economic stability: CEO PEDO

PESHAWAR (APP): The Chief Executive Officer, Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) Engineer Naeem Khan Sunday said that the ongoing energy projects for the production of cheap hydropower in the province will be proved as game changer for the stability of the economy of province and to control the ongoing energy crisis in the country.

Apart from the production of cheap electricity, the industrial sector would be developed

on one hand while on the other hand, new employment opportunities will be available in the province. The damages caused to some parts of the energy projects in the district of Swat due to the disastrous floods in August will be proved as game changer for the stability of the economy of province and to control the ongoing energy crisis in the country.

the final stages of completion. He expressed these views while visiting various ongoing hydropower projects under the supervision of PEDO in Swat and Lower Dir districts. On this occasion, he was accompanied by a team of project directors of various projects. He went to Daral Khwar power plant Swat of 36 MW where he reviewed the emergency safety arrangements and speed of work on flood protection for power plant and colony.

Experts term ecotourism vital for sustainable local development

ISLAMABAD (INP): The experts have called for promoting ecotourism for sustainable development of local resources and communities.

Speaking to the participants of the National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD) three-day training workshop on 'Ecotourism and Sustainable Development' on Sunday, they urged the participants to play their role in practicing the ecotourism framework right from individual and family picnics to larger group tourism.

The experts also urged the authorities to ensure implementation of sustainable development models in letter and spirit engaging community-based interventions. The provincial government shall devolve powers to union council

level and develop a system for local development and community empowerment.

As many as 34 mainly mid-career professionals from different cities including northern parts of Pakistan participated in the three-day training workshop. It was organized by the Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD), and concluded on Sunday.

The expert trainers included founder and director Pakistan Mountain Festival and Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed, EvK2CNR Scientific Advisor Ashiq Ahmed Khan, PTDC managing Director Afiaz-ur-Rehman, former IG Forests Syed Nasir Mahmood and former bureaucrat Zafarullah Siddiqi.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling vegetables on his stall at Sunday bazaar Abpara Market.



RAWALPINDI: Labourers make bricks at a bricks factory outskirts area of the city.

ICCI, CDA launch Tree Plantation Drive from F-6 Markaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman CDA Noorul Amin Mengal along with President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Director General (DG) of Environment Protection Agency Farzana Altaf Shah visited Islamabad's posh commercial center F-6 Markaz and launched a tree plantation drive from markets by planting a saplings in the Supermarket.

F-6 Markaz Traders Welfare Association President Shahzad Shabbir Abbasi, Secretary General Aqib Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Saifur Rahman Khan, Akhtar Abbasi, Malik Shabbir Awan, Imtiaz Abbasi, and others were also present on the occasion, said a press release issued here on Sunday. Chairman CDA took a round of the market along with Chamber President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, DG of EPA Farzana Altaf Shah.

Pakistan's journey towards digital transformation, & connectivity-MOITT at forefront

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an era when technology is transforming to the next level with each passing day, and nations are striving to surpass each other in this field, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT) is playing a pivotal role in empowering Pakistan's digital future.

Through visionary policies and proactive measures, the MOITT is driving technological advancements and fostering enhanced connectivity across the country.

These efforts are not only shaping the nation's

digital landscape but also positioning Pakistan as a dynamic player in the global tech arena.

In recent years, Pakistan's IT sector has undergone remarkable growth and development, making strides towards becoming a digital powerhouse in the region. Recognizing the importance of digital transformation for economic progress, MOITT has been at the forefront for fostering a conducive ecosystem for businesses, investors, and innovators.

With a skilled workforce, growing digital infrastructure and

proactive measures to strengthen cyber security, Pakistan is fast becoming an attractive destination for investment in IT-related ventures.

The MOITT has laid the groundwork for a flourishing startup ecosystem by establishing Incubation Centers across the country. These centers provide startups with essential resources, mentoring and support to foster innovation and growth.

To propel software development and IT-enabled services, the MOITT is setting up Software Technology Parks equipped with state-

of-the-art facilities.

These specialized zones create an enabling environment for technology companies to thrive, contributing to the IT export industry's substantial growth.

Meanwhile, Pakistan is also aiming to reduce its dependency on imports and create local employment opportunities by promoting mobile manufacturing and the government, through the MOITT, offers incentives and facilities to attract investment in this sector.

Recognizing the telecom sector's pivotal role in Pakistan's digital

transformation, the MOITT prioritizes support for telecom companies in order to create an enabling environment for their operations and encourage further investments in expanding and enhancing the nation's telecom infrastructure.

In an era marked by increasing cyber threats, the MOITT took significant strides to bolster Pakistan's cyber security posture. The federal cabinet of the last PML-N led coalition government approved the Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) Rule 2023.

CM Punjab says: Rs2m approved for each affected family of Jaranwala

Independent Report
FAISALABAD: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Rs.2 million was approved as compensation for each Christian family affected by riots in Jaranwala three days ago.

Addressing a meeting at ACE Church Isa Nagri Jaranwala here on Sunday, he said that Pakistan was a motherland for every Pakistani including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Hindus and the government would support and help every oppressed person.

He said that he along with his cabinet members

had come here to express solidarity with the Christian community as the Jaranwala incident was a major tragedy for all.

"My team had been working for the last three days for early rehabilitation of affected families. In this connection, it had a number of meetings with the Christian community and the government promised to provide justice to the affected at every cost", he added. He said that the Secretary Communication and Works along with his team had started work for the rehabilitation of the churches yesterday and

two churches had so far been fully restored while restoration work of the rest of the churches was in full swing.

He announced that he would not take rest until all the churches were completely restored although he had to visit Jaranwala repeatedly for the purpose. He said that the government had promised to restore all churches affected in the Jaranwala incident to their original condition and this work would definitely be completed on a war-footing according to the will and aspiration of Christian people.



BAHAWALPUR: Governor of Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman, is receiving a briefing from the Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa about the security measures implemented on the occasion of his visit at the Mari Qasim and Mochiwala Dams.

Governor visits riverside areas to monitor flood situation

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur-Rehman visited the riverside area of Mari Qasim Shah and Mochiwala to monitor the flood situation, here Sunday. Commissioner of Bahawalpur Division Dr Ehtesham Anwar, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Zaheer Anwar Jappa, and officers of relevant departments were also present.

Governor Punjab said that all departments should take precautionary measures to protect the people from floods.

He said, "The district administration has been working to avoid floods since the first water flow of Sutlej."

He said that all possible measures should be taken to maintain the strength of 30 levee dams in the region.

All government institutions should perform their duties to protect the life and property of the people from floods, he added.

"Divisional and district administrations have made plans to deal with possible floods."

Dr Ehtesham Anwar said, "Rescue and relief camps have been established in the riverside areas." "People living in the river area are being shifted to safe areas," he told.

He said, "The survey of the livestock and the people living in riverside areas has been completed."

Punjab Ombudsman intervenes to provide relief to widow

LAHORE (APP): In compliance with the orders of Punjab Ombudsman Maj @Azam Suleman Khan, the Parks and Horticulture Authority Gujranwala has disbursed outstanding dues of Rs.2,401,974 to the widow of an employee who had passed away during service.

The widow had lodged a complaint to the Office of the Punjab Ombudsman for the provision of outstanding dues of her late husband

who died in 2020 while doing a job as a spray man with the PHA Gujranwala. Despite her appeals, the PHA Gujranwala had not taken action to address the financial obligations owed to her following her husband's death.

The applicant also added that she and all other dependents were unemployed. Seeking equitable resolution, she turned to the ombudsman's office.

Dera police arrested 13 outlaws

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police arrested 13 outlaws and recovered weapons and stolen goats from them in the limits of Shaheed Nawab police station on Sunday.

According to the details, on the direction of District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, SHO Shaheed Nawab Police Station Khanzada Khan carried out operations against the criminal elements and arrested two accused Alam Sher son of Behram Khan resident of Wanda Budh and Gul Niaz son of Dil Muhammad.

Governor GB meets Governor KP, discusses joint work on tourism sector

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah reached Governor House Peshawar on his visit to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Matters of mutual interest and other important issues were discussed in the meeting.

In the meeting, the two governors discussed the promotion of tourism activities between Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan and for the development of the tourism sector.

It was also agreed to take joint measures to provide the best facilities. On this occasion, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said that Gilgit-Baltistan is an area rich in tourism and natural resources. The promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and the northern regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will benefit the country's economy.

He said Babu Sar top to Gilgit-Baltistan and all these areas are very attractive for tourists, there is a need to develop the tourism sector in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Ghulam Ali said.

On this occasion Governor GB Syed Mehdi Shah thanked for the hospitality and said that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan are peaceful people and the crime rate here is also negligible.



PESHAWAR: Members of the Christian minority hold placards as they shout slogans during a protest against mob attacks that erupted the day before in Jaranwala, near Faisalabad, in Peshawar.

Bringing 4.7mn out of school children in KP under education net a gigantic task

PESHAWAR (APP): Where literacy rate is detrimental in bringing socio-economic uplift in a country and putting it on the path to development and prosperity, it also indicates the priorities of a particular government it set for the well-being of the masses.

In a country like Pakistan where the population has crossed the psychological barrier of 240 million in May this year, and where there are an estimated 22.8 million out-of-school children, the

education sector was in dire need of having more attention and resources by the authorities concerned.

The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)'s national socioeconomic registration census report 2021 revealed that 4.7 million children aged 5 to 16 years were out of school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The breakup of the data informed that 1.38 million male and 2.38 million female students were out of school in KP, while 0.36 million male and 0.65 million were out of school

in seven merged tribal districts owing to a lack of educational institutions, poverty and other socioeconomic barriers mostly caused by population explosion.

The highest percentage of 77 percent was reported in Palas Kolai district followed by 70 percent in Upper Kohistan, 69 percent in Lower Kohistan, 61 in Torghar, 55 in Shangla, 53 in Lakki Marwat and 51 percent each in Tank and Batagram districts.

In erstwhile Fata,

around 66 percent of children were out-of-school in North Waziristan, 63 percent in Bajaur, 61 in South Waziristan, 51 each in Mohmand and Khyber, and 47 percent each in Kurram and Orakzai.

"I left education in childhood after the untimely death of my father due to blood cancer. After enormous financial problems, I started labour work to support my six sisters and an ailing mother," said Faizur Rehman (18), a resident of

Pabbi Nowshera while tears rolling down over his cheeks.

"My father wanted to see me as an engineer but the fortune overturned and I was left with no option but to enter the painstaking construction labour work to support my family," he added.

Besides poverty and socioeconomic imbalances especially in rural areas, he said most of poor students left education due to the expensive cost of books and other education expenses.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi is distributing supplies during his visit Danish School Camp regarding the incident Christian Colony Jaranwala.

International News

China stages war games in 'stern warning' to Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China held air and sea drills around Taiwan, in what it said was a "stern warning" after the island's vice president visited the United States.

William Lai — the frontrunner in Taiwan's presidential election next year and a vocal opponent of Beijing's claims to the island — returned on Friday from a trip to Paraguay, during which he stopped in New York and San Francisco. China has reacted angrily to the US stops, and on Saturday reiterated that Lai was a "troublemaker" while vowing to take "resolute measures... to safe-

guard national sovereignty and territorial integrity".

The People's Liberation Army "launched joint air and sea patrols and military exercises of the navy and air force around the island of Taiwan" on Saturday, military spokesperson Shi Yi said, according to state media outlet Xinhua.

Taiwan said 42 warplanes had entered its air defence zone since 9am, and eight Chinese vessels took part in the exercises.

Twenty-six of the warplanes involved crossed the Taiwan Strait median line, the island's ministry of defence said in a statement.

Xinhua said the drills

were carried out "in the waters and airspace to the north and southwest of Taiwan Island" to test the PLA's ability "to seize control of air and sea spaces" and fight "in real combat conditions".

They were also intended to serve as "a stern warning to the collusion of 'Taiwan independence' separatists with foreign elements and their provocations", it added.

A social media video published by the PLA on Saturday showed soldiers in fatigues sprinting through a military facility and fighter jets soaring above clouds, set to action-movie-style music.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte attend a press conference, in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

Thai ex-PM Thaksin to return after 15 years in exile

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra is set to return to the kingdom, the same day as a key parliamentary vote could end a political deadlock, his daughter said.

The 74-year-old billionaire was ousted in a 2006 military coup and has spent 15 years in self-exile. Thaksin has long said he wanted to return home but faces multiple criminal charges that he says are politically motivated.

"On Tuesday, August 22, 9am I will pick up my father Thaksin at Don Muang Airport," his daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who is one of the Pheu Thai Party's candidates for prime minister, said on Instagram.

Thaksin later said he was definitely coming home this time.

"I don't want to offend people. I want everyone to love each other. I want the country to be peaceful," he told BBC Thai on Saturday.

"I'm old, I miss my grandchildren, I want to be with my family." His return will coincide with an afternoon vote on whether to approve Srettha Thavisin — from the Thaksin-linked Pheu Thai Party — as prime minister and end months of political uncertainty since a May general election.

To become premier, Srettha needs to muster a majority across the lower house of 500 elected MPs, and the 250-member senate that was handpicked by the kingdom's last junta.

Russia's first lunar mission in 47 years smashes into the moon in failure

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's first moon mission in 47 years failed when its Luna-25 spacecraft spun out of control and crashed into the moon after a problem preparing for pre-landing orbit, underscoring the post-Soviet decline of a once mighty space programme.

Russia's state space corporation, Roskosmos, said it had lost contact with the craft at 11:57 GMT on Saturday after a problem as the craft was shunted into

pre-landing orbit. A soft landing had been planned for Monday.

"The apparatus moved into an unpredictable orbit and ceased to exist as a result of a collision with the surface of the Moon," Roskosmos said in a statement.

It said a special inter-departmental commission had been formed to investigate the reasons behind the loss of the Luna-25 craft, whose mission had raised hopes in Moscow.

Turk Cypriots say road project disputed by UN is 'essential'

Monitoring Desk
NICOSIA: Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar on Saturday described as "essential" the construction of a road which has triggered rare tension with United Nations peacekeepers on the divided island. Scuffles broke out on Friday between UN, peacekeepers and Turkish Cypriot security personnel when peacekeepers tried to prevent roadworks starting in an area the U.N. says is part of a buffer zone under its jurisdiction.

US, Japan and Australia plan joint navy drills in disputed South China Sea, Philippine officials say

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The United States, Japan and Australia are planning a joint navy drill in the South China Sea off the western Philippines this week to underscore their commitment to the rule of law in the region after a recent show of Chinese aggression in the disputed waters, Philippine security officials said Sunday.

On Aug. 5, Chinese coast guard ships used water cannons against Philippine vessels in the contested waterway where disputes have long been regarded as a

potential flashpoint and have become a fault line in the rivalry between the U.S. and China in the region. The drill will include three aircraft and helicopter carriers sailing together in a show of force and undertaking joint drills. Their commanders are set to meet with Filipino counterparts in Manila after the offshore drills, two Philippine security officials told The Associated Press.

Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not allowed to publicly discuss details of the planned drills.

The U.S. plans to deploy an aircraft carrier, the USS America, while Japan would send one of its biggest warships, the helicopter carrier JS Izumo. The Royal Australian Navy would send its HMAS Canberra, which also carries helicopters, one of the two officials said, adding that the joint drill was planned a few months ago.

The Philippines would not be part of this week's drills due to military logistical limitations but is open to becoming a participant in the future.

North Korean hackers target U.S.-South Korea military drills, police say

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Suspected North Korea hackers have targeted a joint U.S.-South Korea military exercise being held this week though classified information has not been compromised, South Korean police said on Sunday.

South Korea and U.S. forces will on Monday begin 11-day Uchi Freedom Guardian summer exercises to improve their ability to respond to North Korea's evolving nuclear

and missile threats.

North Korea objects to such exercises saying they are preparations by the U.S. and its South Korean ally for an invasion of it.

The hackers were believed to be linked to a North Korea group that researchers call Kimsuky, and they carried out their hack via emails to South Korean contractors working at the South Korea-U.S. combined exercise war simulation centre.

Japan, Iran leaders to meet in Sept in New York - Kyodo

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will meet in New York in September to discuss Iran's nuclear programme among other issues, Kyodo news agency said on Sunday, quoting unnamed Iranian diplomatic sources. Iran aims to promote relations with Japan, traditionally a friendly nation, to avoid international isolation as Iran's talks with the United States and Europe over their nuclear deal have stalled.



Supporters of Republican presidential candidate and former U.S. President Donald Trump arrive for the Old Town Day Parade in Londonderry, New Hampshire, U.S.

Jaranwala incident investigation PUC, Church of Pakistan announce 24-member committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) and Church of Pakistan on Sunday jointly established a 24-member committee in a concerted effort to address the tragic incident in Jaranwala, foster interfaith and inter-denominational unity, and quell extremist narratives. Co-chaired by PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi and Church of Pakistan President Bishop Azad Marhal, the committee comprises diverse leaders including Bishop Aleem Anwar, Bishop Arshad Joseph, Muswar Abbasi, Pastor Immanuel Khokhar, Zaher Abbas, Pastor Shahzad Gul, Pastor Immanuel Lorraine, Bishop Leoradic Paul, Bishop Alvin Samorel, Mishaal Samorel, Sahil Advocate, Pir Naqibur Rehman, Sahibzada Hassan Haseebur Rehman, Maulana Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Allama Arif Wahidi, Allama Tahirul Hasan, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Maulana Muhammad Aslam Siddiqui, Farzad Islam, Sardar Ajmal Advocate, Sajid Iqbal Advocate and other dignitaries. Ashrafi emphasized during a media interaction that building a peaceful and resilient Pakistan required active participation from all segments of society. He stressed the inclusion of leaders from various religions in the 24-member committee, bridging the gap between Muslim and Christian leaders. "We must strive to cultivate tolerance, respect, and patience in our society and reject any attempts to exploit religion for personal or political gains," he added. He further noted that concerted efforts would be made across all levels to discourage illegal actions under the guise of blasphemy or religious insult. Ashrafi said the PUC had pledged to provide assistance to the young victims of the Jaranwala incident, announcing their commitment to organize arrangements for the affected girls' dowries as part of their ongoing support efforts.



SARGODHA: A view of burned bus after incidence while eighteen people were killed and fifteen others injured when a passenger bus caught fire after being smashed into a pick-up carrying diesel drums at Motorway near Pindi Bhattian.

SAPM Malik, EU Ambassador agree to strengthen Pak-EU ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis, Jawad Sohrab Malik has said the government is committed to tackle the challenges faced by Overseas Pakistanis in the European Union. He stated this while talking to European Union Ambassador Dr. Riina Kiosks in Islamabad on Sunday. Various matters like improving Pak-EU economic ties, regional security, and aiding Overseas Pakistanis in the European Union were come under discussion. The SAPM said Pakistan receives a distinct incentive through the EU's GSP+ program to encourage sustainable development and good governance. Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umra Dr. Taufeeq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiya along with a delegation arrived in Islamabad on Sunday evening on a four-day visit. He was cordially invited by caretaker Federal Minister for religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmad and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Saeed Al Malki at the airport.

Caretaker PM pays tribute to Rashid Minhas Shaheed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar on Sunday paid tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider) on 52nd anniversary of his martyrdom. The prime minister on social media platform-X, posted "Observing the 52nd anniversary of martyrdom of Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider) today, we as a nation salute his undying courage." Rashid Minhas Shaheed's act on 20 Aug 1971 preserved the national dignity and his legacy of valor remained undimmed, he added in his post.

18 burnt to death, several injured in horrific bus-pick up collision

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least 18 people including women and children, were burnt to death while several others sustained injuries in a collision between a passenger bus and a pick-up carrying diesel barrels on Faisalabad Motorway near Pindi Bhattian early Sunday morning. According to details, Rescue 1122 informed that the drivers of both vehicles were also killed in the crash. The bus, carrying about 40 passengers, was going to Islamabad from Karachi when the horrific accident occurred. The injured have been admitted to Pindi Bhattian Hospital. The District Police Officer Dr Fahad talking to a private news channel said that the fire engulfed the bus shortly after the collision. He said most of the injured persons are in critical condition. The eyewitnesses said people from nearby areas tried to pull the passengers out of the burning bus by smashing windows. A National Highways and Motorways Police (NHMP) spokesman also added that at least 15 passengers were safely pulled out of the wreckage. He said IG NHMP Sultan Ali Khawaja is supervising the rescue and relief activities. Khawaja also inquired after the injured. He said short-circuiting was said to be the cause of the fire in the bus. Further investigation was underway. Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the accident of a passenger coach coming from Karachi to Islamabad.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing a ceremony held on "Uniting against Thalassemia for Healthier Pakistan".

President's denial of signing bills Dar demands resignation, Rana demand inquiry

ISLAMABAD (Online): In their statements former finance minister Ishaq Dar has demanded the resignation of President Arif Alvi and former interior minister Rana Sanaulah demanded inquiry on president denial of signing bill. Responding to President Arif Alvi's tweet in a statement on social media website Twitter, Ishaq Dar said that it is unbelievable, morality demands that the president resign, the president has failed to manage office affairs effectively. Official work is run on files and execution is ensured, such statements indicate just playing with the gallery. May Allah help us. Talking to a private TV about the President's tweet, the former interior minister said that it does not look good for the President to tweet like this, there should be a full inquiry into the matter, what is meant by the staff, the President should clarify. Even if the bills were true. Inquiring them, apart from the investigation, it should not be discussed, a procedure would have been adopted after the inquiry, what the president is saying is not possible at all, he mocked the country by tweeting.

PTI leader Asad Umar 'arrested' in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (INP): PTI leader and former federal minister Asad Umar has been arrested in Islamabad, his party has claimed on Sunday. As per claims of the PTI legal team, the former finance minister has been arrested in the FIR registered over the misplacement of a US cipher. On Saturday, his fellow party leader and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was also arrested in the same case.

Arrest of PPP workers' killers demanded

KARACHI (APP): General Secretary of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Sindh chapter Senator Waqar Mehdi and President PPP Karachi Division Saeed Ghani have demanded the arrest of killers, involved in the killing of two local PPP workers. While condemning the killing of PPP workers in a communique here on Sunday, Waqar Mehdi demanded of the Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister to investigate the two incidents of the killings. He said that the terrorists and their patrons were trying to disrupt the peace of the city under a conspiracy. Saeed Ghani condemned the killing of Senior Vice President of PPP UC 31 Shaikat Hamad Baloch in Baldia Town Abidabad area and one another.

Ahsan Iqbal meets CPC leader Ma Xingrui

URUMQI (China) (APP): Former federal minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Sunday called on Ma Xingrui, Member of the Polit Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC [Communist Party of China] Xinjiang Uyghurs Autonomous Regional Committee. He was accompanied by Senator Mahmood-ul-Hassan and other officials of the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, a news release said. The Chinese side also included Erkin Tuniyas, Governor of Xinjiang, Chen Weijun, Executive Vice-Chairman of the People's Government of Xinjiang, Kaysar Abdurkier, Vice Chairman of the People's Government of Xinjiang and other high-ranking officials from Xinjiang. Warmly welcoming the Pakistani side, Party Secretary Ma Xingrui remarked that both countries have withstood the vicissitudes of times, despite the global political landscape. He conveyed President Xi Jinping's strong commitment to further solidify Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partnerships in diverse fields.



LARKANA: Activists of Awami Workers Party (AWP) are holding protest demonstration against inflation, unemployment and price hike of petroleum and other products, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana

Sutlej witnesses 'worst flooding in three decades'

KASUR (INP): The Sutlej River surged to extremely high levels at Ganda Singh Wala Barrage resulting in the evacuation of hundreds of families from 72 villages in Kasur and Chuniya, while three people drowned in floodwater in Kasur while trying to find higher ground. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) reported that a high-level flooding situation was underway in the Sutlej River and the situation would depend on water flow at Harike Headworks and Ferozpur Headworks. The water level had risen to 23 feet, with a flow of 269,000 cusecs at the Ganda Singh Wala Barrage. In Sulemanki, there was a moderate level of flooding with a flow of 83,072 cusecs. There is a looming threat of extremely high-level flooding at Head Sulemanki in the next 24 hours. The water flow had reached 30,142 cusecs at Head Islam. The risk of extreme flooding in Head Islam is expected to commence from August 22. However, the water flow in Sindh, Jhelum, Chenab, and Ravi remained normal. The administrative authorities of the districts adjacent to the Sutlej River were put on high alert and measures had been implemented to restrict the movement of people in areas near Sutlej. Relevant deputy commissioners have been directed to reinforce the dykes along the Sutlej River.

Visits Jaranwala PPP delegation expresses sympathy with Christian affectees

FAISALABAD (APP): A delegation of senior politicians of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has visited Jaranwala here on Sunday and expressed sympathy with the people of the Christian community affected in August 16 tragedy. The delegation comprising of former Chairman Senate Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi, former federal ministers Sherry Rehman, Rana Farooq Saeed and Nadeem Afzal Chan went to Christian Colony and condemned the riotous incident in Jaranwala. They appreciated the government's efforts for rehabilitation of the affectees and demanded indiscriminate action against those responsible for this tragedy.



HYDERABAD: Superintendent of Police (SP) Cantt, Aleena Rajpar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Police Headquarters in Hyderabad.

SFA in collaboration with private sector ensuring food quality. DG SFA

Independent Report KARACHI: Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain has said that in first phase from five star hotels to small hotels/restaurants have been asked to mention calories in the food items, they serve, and in second phase sweets/bakeries items manufacturers/sellers are asked to mention calories in their food stuff, they sell. This he said while addressing as a chief guest at a seminar, held at Department of Food Sciences and Technology, University of Karachi. The seminar was organized by Sindh Food Authority and KASAN, focusing on menu labeling and nutrition facts, specifically for sweets and baked goods. Sheikh Muhammad Tehseen, President of KASAN, welcomed the participants and provided insights into KASAN's history and its efforts in support of bakers. Dr. S. M. Ghufuran Saeed explained the methodology behind menu labeling and calculating nutrition facts. Addressing the seminar DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain told about underscoring the significance and practical implementation of menu labeling. He said that people had right to know about the quality of the food items, being served to them. Saqib Ahmed Vice President of KASAN, concluded the session.



HYDERABAD: Members of the Christian community chant slogans as they gather to condemn the attacks on churches and houses in Jaranwala town of Faisalabad, during a protest in Hyderabad.

President grieved over loss of lives in bus accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday expressed his deep grief over loss of precious lives in a road accident, after a deadly fire burnt down a passenger bus near Pindi Bhattian. The president expressed his sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured passengers. According to media reports, as many as 18 people, including women and children, were killed while 15 others sustained injuries after a passenger bus rammed into a pick-up carrying diesel drums near Pindi Bhattian on motorway. The ill fated bus was enroute to Islamabad from Karachi.

Murtaza Solangi grieved over loss of lives in road mishap

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the accident of a passenger coach coming from Karachi to Islamabad. In a statement, the minister expressed sympathy and condolences to the families of those who died in the tragic accident. "The reasons should be determined so that such accidents can be avoided in the future," Solangi said. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear this loss with fortitude. Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi also prayed for early recovery of the injured.

Martyrdom anniversary of Rashid Minhas observed

KARACHI (INP): The 52nd martyrdom anniversary of Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, was observed on Sunday. He is the youngest recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, who embraced Shahadat at Goth Ahmed Shah, Sujawal on August 20, 1971. On his 52nd martyrdom anniversary, Armed Forces of Pakistan, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Services Chiefs have paid glowing tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed. The ISPR said that Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas' martyrdom anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices made by the armed forces of Pakistan. It said that Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas lived up to great traditions of Pakistan armed forces in defending.



KARACHI: Members of civil society holds placards during protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

Experts for 'Joint Forum' to improve livelihood, food protection

KARACHI (APP): Experts have emphasized the need for establishing a joint forum based on national agricultural institutions, policymakers, and breeders to improve livelihood and protection of food in the country. They also propose legislation and genetic inspection to prevent defective seeds in the country and to certify imported seeds. While addressing a two-day seminar titled "Seed Sector: Challenges and Options" at a local hotel co-hosted by Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) and Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC), Dr. S.M. Tariq Rafi, the Chairman of SHEC said that there was scope for more research in the agricultural sector, which could play an essential role in the development of the country. He said, "We will release grants for research proposal, the researchers came up with various projects including new seed varieties." Secretary of Agriculture Sindh Qazi Aijaz Mahesar addressing said that first forum of this kind had been created. He said that new legislation should be made for the seed sector. Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan said that the role of universities in agricultural research was important. He said that the research of universities should not be limited to academic use only but should be transferred to the applied side. He said 500 varieties of different seeds were approved.

Court grants one day physical remand of Iman in terrorism case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Regional court of Islamabad granted one day physical remand of Iman Mazari in terrorism case and one day judicial remand on interference in government work and holding unauthorised public meeting. According to details former human rights minister Shireen Mazari's daughter and human rights activist Iman Mazari and former Member National Assembly (MNA) Ali Wazir were arrested in case of intervention in government work after participation in (Pashtun Tahafuz Movement) PTM public rally. Just next day after arrest Iman Mazari was presented in additional and session court duty judge Ehtsham Alam. On the start of hearing media persons' entrance was prevented from court room and deployed huge contingents of police outside the court. Police demanded physical remand of Iman Mazari and presented other FIRS (First Information Report) of rebellion and terrorism before judge. During hearing Shireen Mazari came on rostrum and said she is not nominated in the case then why her cell phone was snatched. CCTV cameras of her house were broken. She said I imagine myself unsecure afterward.



KARACHI: Students of the Jamia Binoria Alalamia Islamic are solving paper during the seminary first term exam held in Karachi

Effective steps required to provide relief to poor people: Ch Nizamuddin

HYDERABAD (APP): PPP leader Chaudhry Nizamuddin Arain has demanded the caretaker government to take effective steps to reduce the inflation in the country, as the problems of the poor segments of the society are increasing day by day due to inflation. He said that people should be given subsidies on essential items through utility stores to provide them relief. In a statement issued on Sunday, he further said that the people working in factories, mills and industrial units should be given salaries as announced by the government. Young people are being employed in factories and mills on a salary of 15,000 to 20,000 rupees, which is not sufficient for them and it is also against human rights, he added. Arain further said that in view of the current economic situation, the government should provide immediate relief to the poor masses.