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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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President assures support on PEMRA (Amend) Bill 2023

President Alvi appreciates collective efforts of media community; Says amendment bill brought improvements to existing media law; Urges need for promoting diversity of thought and opinions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday assured media workers and the journalist community of his support for the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Amendment Bill 2023. The president was talking to a delegation of the representatives of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND), who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The delegation included Afzal Butt, Arshad Ansari, Naz Afreen Saigol, Samad Ali, Shahab Zuberi, Shaheel Masud, Ijazul Haq, Kazim Khan, Ayaz Khan, and Azhar Abbas. Talking to the delegation, the president appreciated the collective efforts of the media community for introducing amendments to the PEMRA law, especially to protect the rights of media workers. He said that the linking of government advertisements with the payment of dues to electronic media employees would help address their issues. The president discussed in detail various aspects of the bill with the visiting delegation. The

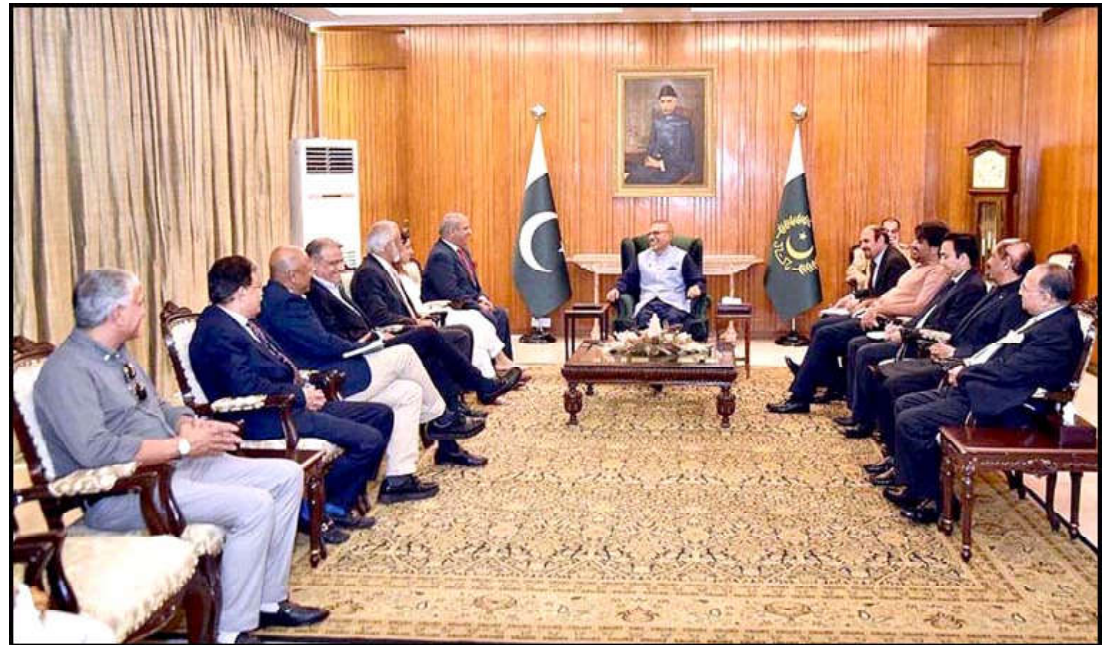
amended bill had brought improvements to the existing media law, he said. He also asked the members of the delegation to volunteer to educate the youth about fake news and disinformation, and highlighted that teenagers were among the most vulnerable populations to the scourge of fake news, and needed to be educated and sensitized about its implications. He further said the media, especially senior journalists, should enhance linkages with academia and universities to guide and educate students about fake news and the new developments taking place in the field of journalism.

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Approves PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Tuesday accorded his approval to Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Amendment Bill 2023.

The president approved the bill under Article 75 of the Constitution of Pakistan, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting with the representatives of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND), who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

'Matter of public interest' ECP should conduct delimitations transparently, says CJP Bandial

Says Election Commission should resolve all issues before polls; SC refers matter of Sindh delimitations back to electoral body.

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has returned the matter of delimitation of constituencies to Election Commission (EC). The petitions filed against provincial delimitation of constituencies by EC in Sindh came up for hearing before 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial Tuesday.

The CJP remarked delimitation of constituencies is matter of public interest. The matter of delimitation of constituencies has come in SC several times. EC

should conduct delimitation of constituencies in transparent manner. There is too much sensitivity on delimitation of constituencies in Sindh. It is often complained by Sindh that delimitation of constituencies was not carried out correctly.

The CJP inquired during the hearing of the case EC is holding election when. Upon it DG Law EC shrugged his shoulders.

The CJP remarked no date has been set for election so far. EC should resolve all matters before election.

PM for road infrastructure in areas serving magnet for foreign investment

Emphasizes upon completion of road infrastructure in Balochistan and directed the reconstruction of Karachi to Chaman highway; Briefed in detail about ongoing work on Pinjara bridge on Quetta-Sukkur Highway and Sawar bridge on Quetta-Zhob Road

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that an efficient road infrastructure played a pivotal role in the development and progress of any country and stressed for laying of road infrastructure in those areas which could attract foreign investment. The caretaker prime minister chaired a meeting to review the ongoing road infrastructure projects. The meeting was attended by

relevant authorities, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting was briefed in detail about the ongoing work on Pinjara bridge on Quetta-Sukkur Highway and Sawar bridge on Quetta-Zhob Road. The work on Pinjara bridge, which was damaged during the last year's flood, would commence next month. A causeway was constructed after floods which restored the vehicular

movement. The construction period of the new bridge with 15-meter height and 12-meter width, would take about nine months, it was further added. The prime minister directed for reducing the stipulated time period for the completion of new bridge. The meeting was apprised that the reconstruction and rehabilitation work

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Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited the residence of President JUI-F Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman to express his condolences for those martyred in suicide attack in Khar, Bajaur at the JUI-F Workers' Convention Islamabad.

Caretaker PM vows to eliminate terrorism, promote peace

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visits Maulana Fazal's residence to condole over death of party workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday visited the residence of Amir of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman to express condolences on the death of his party workers who were martyred during a terrorist attack on a party convention in Khar, Bajaur district

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori also accompanied the prime minister, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister offered Fataha for the departed souls and prayed for the early recovery of the injured. He reiterated that terrorist elements could not deter the morale of Pakistani nation and assured taking of steps against terrorism and maintenance of law and order in the country on priority basis.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, on the occasion, felicitated PM Kakar on assuming the office of the caretaker prime minister and extended his best wishes.

News about resignation of Governor baseless and fabricated

Independent Report QUETTA: The Spokesman to Governor Balochistan Secretariat has contradicted a news item running on social media regarding resignation of Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

According to a statement issued here by the spokesman to Governor's Secretariat, the news running on social media about resignation of the Governor Balochistan is baseless and fabricated. There's no truth in the news in this regard, he added.

The spokesman urged the people associated with the media to avoid spreading unverified news and sensation.

Care taker PM decides to induct small cabinet

ISLAMABAD (Online): Care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar has decided to keep small cabinet and consultation process has been accelerated in this regard.

Care taker PM has decided to review profile of all the persons by him in connection with cabinet. The name of those who are likely to be inducted in care taker cabinet have come to fore.

Consultations have been started for giving portfolios of main ministries including ministry of foreign affairs, finance, interior and others.

As per sources the name of Faisal Vawda, Maj (Retd) Khurram Hamid

Rokhri, Shahid Afridi, Qari Sadaqat Ali, Ahmad Cheema, Mushtaq Sukhera, Muhammad Ali Durrani, Jalil Abbas Jilani, Absar Alam, Salim Safi, Hamid Mir, Hafiz Sheikh, Gohar Ejaz, Dr Shoaib Suddal, Ahsan Bhoon, Sarfraz Bugti, Zulfiqar Cheema, Shamshad Akhtar, Raza Baqir, Ashtar Ausaf, Mohsin Jugnoo and Ayesha Raza Farooq are under consideration for induction in care taker cabinet.

Sources disclosed name of Brig (Retd) Muzaffar Ranjha and Sittara Imtiaz are also under consideration.

In the first phase 10 to 12 ministers will take oath.

Seven students, teacher of a school among 8 injured in road accident in Kuchlak

Independent Report QUETTA: A total of 31 persons including seven students and a female teacher of a school got injured in two different road accidents occurred in Kuchlak area of Quetta and Bolan area of Kachhi district on Tuesday.

According to details, the first road accident occurred in Kuchlak area where a school van carrying female teacher and seven students of a school to main Quetta city met road accident. The van collided with a passenger coach coming from opposite direction at a turn in Kuchlak area. As a result eight persons including female teacher and seven other students aged between 6 to 15 years got injured.

The rescue teams and police reached the spot soon after the accident and shifted the injured to the civil hospital.

According to the hospital sources, all the injured have been admitted in the Trauma center and being provided necessary medical aid. However, condition of a student is stated to be critical.

The other accident occurred in Gogart area of Bolan where a passenger wagon rammed into a truck coming from opposite direction.

As a result of collision, some 23 passengers sustained injuries who were shifted to the civil hospital, Dhadhar. Condition of at least four passengers is stated to be critical. Out of all injured, some 11 were shifted in the trauma center of civil Hospital Quetta the same night.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Additional IG Police Jawad Ahmed Dogar pinning ranks to officers promoted as DIGs

ECP urges caretakers to ensure 'level playing field' for all political parties in next polls

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday instructed caretaker governments in the Centre and all the provinces to provide a level playing field to all contesting candidates and political parties during the upcoming general elections in the country.

In a statement, the election watchdog said that the National Assembly and provincial assemblies in Sindh and Balochistan stand dissolved on August 9, 11 and 12 respectively.

Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar — a lawmaker belonging to Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) — has been selected as caretaker prime minister. The decision came after the second

round of consultations between then prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and Leader of the Opposition in the dissolved NA Raja Riaz, and a summary to this effect had been approved by President Arif Alvi under Article 224 1A.

In Sindh, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Leader of the Opposition in the dissolved provincial assembly Rana Ansar on Monday night reached a consensus on the appointment of Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar as the interim CM.

The selection for the name of caretaker chief minister in Balochistan remains in limbo, as incumbent CM Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and Leader of the

Electricity supply fully restored to Makran Division from Iran

Independent Report QUETTA: The supply of electricity was fully restored from Iran to Makran Division on Tuesday.

According to spokesman of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), the quota of power supply has also been increased by Iran for the areas fall in Makran Division.

The QESCO spokesman said that supply of 100 megawatt is continued from the 132 KV Polan-Jiwani transmission line while 100 megawatt electricity is also being supplied from 132 KV Jeki Gor-Mand transmission line.

Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor selected for Tamgha-e-Imtiaz

Independent Report QUETTA: The Dean Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities, University of Turbat, Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor Baloch has been nominated for the civil award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz in recognition of his meritorious services and performance in the literature.

The selection of Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor Baloch has been made on the eve of Independence Day, stated in an official hand out issued here on Tuesday.

The award would be conferred on Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor Baloch on Pakistan Day, 23rd March, 2024. Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor of University of Turbat, Dr. Jan Muhammad as well as faculty members and students have congratulated Dr. Abdul Saboor Baloch on his achievement.

The Vice Chancellor described the award not only for Dr. Abdul Saboor but also for the province and University of Turbat.

Sikander, Bizenjo engages in discussions to select interim Chief Minister

QUETTA (APP): Opposition Leader Malik Sikander Khan Advocate met with Outgoing Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Tuesday to evolve a consensus on the name of the caretaker chief minister.

They discussed the names of the proposed candidate to reach a consensus over a candidate for the post of interim chief minister as the decision has to be made within three days of assembly dissolution, under the law.

The two leaders, agreed to continue the discussions until to finalize the name of the caretaker chief minister by mutual agreement, said a handout released here.

A consensus on the name of the caretaker chief minister in Balochistan is expected soon.

On August 12, Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Kakar signed the summary moved by CM Bizenjo for the dissolution of the provincial assembly.

BAEF approves 515 cases in its 20th board meeting

QUETTA (APP): The Board of Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund (BAEF) has approved 512 cases to provide financial assistance to poor patients. The decision was taken in 20th board meeting of BAEF, held under the chairmanship of Secretary Social

Welfare Imran Khan on Tuesday. A total of 532 new cases suffering from various diseases across the province were presented in the meeting, of which 515 were approved for treatment.

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Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar offering Fataha for departed soul of Abaseen Roshan son of PKMAP leader Essa Roshan

Kashmiris observe India's Independence Day as black day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiris living in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday observed India's Independence Day as a black day to mark protest against long forced and illegal occupation of a large part of Jammu and Kashmir State by India.

According to the report, in district Mirpur, a protest rally was staged to observe the black day, through a unanimously passed resolution warning India to abstain from launching any aggression against Pakistan or Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

"Every individual of AJK is fully prepared to make a defense of inch after inch of the motherland — shoulder to shoulder with valiant armed forces of Pakistan if India dared to launch any attack against Pakistan or AJK", the rally declared.

The rally thanked and paid rich tributes to the people of Pakistan for their unequivocal full support of Kashmiri's struggle for right self-determination.

The Indian independence day was marked with mass anti-India protest ral-

lies and demonstrations in all small and major towns in the liberated territory including the capital city of Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Kotli, Bhimbher, Rawalakot, Bagh, Palandri, Neelam Valley, Jhelum valley, Haveli and other towns and villages.

People from diverse segments of civil society including social, political, and other public representative organization

attended the rallies holding black flags and wearing black bands around their arms to mark Indian Independence Day as black day. In Mirpur, elders of the city representing all segments of life including social and political workers, employees of private and public sector organizations besides senior officials led the rally which marched through major city streets including Quid e Azam Chowk, Mian Muhammad Road, Allama Iqbal Road, and central Shaheed chowk raising zindabad slogans for Pakistan and the valiant armed forces of the country. The rally expressed grave concern over the fast-deteriorating conditions of the people in strife-torn and fully-locked indefinite cur-

few-riddled Indian held Jammu and Kashmir for the past 10 days. India, it said, has latterly turned the occupied J&K state into the world's largest jail and garrison. The rally, through another resolution, called upon the international community especially the United Nations to immediately move for getting the special status of the disputed Jammu & Kashmir state restored — for onward early peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue in line with the UN resolutions.

It urged the world body to take immediate notice of history's worst Indian act of state terrorism and aggression let loose against the innocent people in occupied Jammu Kashmir by forcibly revoking the special status of the disputed state. Through another unanimously passed resolution, the rally called upon the world body — UNO, international human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Red Cross, Human Rights Watch, and others to immediately move for ensuring the supply of food and medicines to save the lives of the house-detained people in curfew-riddled occupied Jammu.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Gilgit Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Martyred cop laid to rest, son granted to join police dept

ISLAMABAD (APP): The funeral prayer of the valiant martyr and Head Constable of Islamabad Capital Police, Rashid, was held on Tuesday at the police lines headquarters with utmost respect and honor.

The ceremony was attended by a multitude of police personnel, including Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and senior police officers.

The sacrifice of Rashid, who lost his life in the line of duty, was commemorated with somber reverence. A vast gathering of police officers and employees, along with ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, offered their final respects in a touching funeral prayer.

The attendees expressed their deep condolences and offered Fateha for the elevation of the martyr's rank.

Honoring the supreme sacrifice made by Head Constable Rashid, his son was announced to be granted a position within the police department, a fitting tribute to his father's legacy. Additionally, his name will be submitted for consideration for the prestigious 'Tamgha-e-Shujaat' by the ICCPO, recognizing his bravery and dedication.

Head Constable Rashid's journey of valor began on the night of January 17, 2022, when he,

along with his fellow policemen headed by ASI Arshad Mehmood, confronted armed terrorists riding on a motorcycle during snap checking at Naka Chaman Road Jilania Chowk in G-8 area of Karachi Company police station.

The attackers, armed with Kalashnikovs and pistols, unleashed a hail of gunfire, resulting in the martyrdom of Head Constable Munawar and critical injuries to Head Constable Rashid and Constable Rooh Amin. Despite their best efforts, the injuries proved fatal for Rashid who was struggling for life at the hospital.

NDMRF to kick off country's first ever 3-day DRR Expo today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) is going to inaugurate the country's first ever three-day disaster risk reduction expo at the Pak-China Friendship Center that will continue from August 16-18 with a vibrant gathering of local and international experts on the subject matter. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the NDRMF is organizing a national-level Pakistan Expo on Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR-23) under the title Making Resilient Pakistan.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of NDRMF, Bilal Anwar in a video message shared on the official Twitter handle of the Fund informed the masses regarding the PEDRR-23. During PEDRR-23, a large number of high-level dignitaries, representatives from the international community, government officials, humanitarian organizations, academia, media, and members of the private sector would attend the event.

He said, "PEDRR-23 will comprise of multiple activities including seminars, panel discussions, green talks, student competitions, and academic paper presentations. NDRMF looks forward to collabora-

tive efforts in making it a success."

The Green Talks at PEDRR-23 is one of the important events focused on Climate-Induced Disasters to be led by CEO NDRMF, Bilal Anwar.

The Green Talks that aim to shed light on the lessons learned from Pakistan's experience with disasters, showcasing stories of resilience, innovation, and community empowerment will highlight key lessons learned from past disasters, focusing on innovative approaches, community-driven initiatives, and sustainable solutions that have emerged from Pakistan's experiences.

Moreover, a panel discussion under the title Investing in an Adaptive and Resilient Future of Pakistan would also convene key stakeholders to unearth the way forward in the rising climate crisis and vulnerability of the region. Pakistan's vulnerability to a range of climate-induced disasters underscores the urgent need for comprehensive strategies that enhance disaster resilience. This Panel Discussion, hosted by NDRMF aims to bring together experts, policymakers, and practitioners to delve into effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).



ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference are shouting slogans during protest outside Foreign Office to commemorate Indian Independence Day as Black Day because of their oppressor attitude with the innocent citizens of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Proud to be part of Pak, China first collaborative feature Movie: Aasma

ISLAMABAD (APP): Popular makeup artist and fashion designer Aasma Khan has said that she was proud to be part of the Pakistan-China first collaborative feature Movie "Ba'tie Girl. Talking to APP, she said that she had also worked on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Cultural Caravan which was one of the successful projects.

Aasma Khan said that she had done numerous international fashion photo shoots as well, adding that "I have completed my fashion designing from Hunerkada College of Visual & Performing Arts".

"I have always had an artistic mind since I was a little child and that mindset

of always coming up with something creative and different that has prepared my mind for the role that I am playing today and who I am," she added.

She said: "I like working on eastern fashion because the idea of designing is to be versatile and not to restrict at any point. And my wardrobe has also been featured on Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and in other artists music videos too."

Aasma Khan said that Pakistani fashion industry needed to catch up with the Chinese fashion industry, because we were far behind them. She suggested to new comers to remain consistent and keep on working hard to achieve the desired outcomes.

Healthy diet, regular exercise can prevent obesity, Expert

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Health expert Tuesday advised that all parents should monitor their children's eating habits and encourage the development of healthy eating and regular exercise for better mental health.

Talking to a private news channel, A health specialist Dr. Shabana Naz explained that children eat excessive amounts of food, and the calories they consume mostly go unburned due to a lack of physical activity.

She emphasized the need to build more and more playgrounds and parks to promote the culture of walk, exercise, jogging, and other recreational activities in children youth, and elderly people.

IHC directs police to produce Afridi

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to produce arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) leader Sheharyar Khan Afridi before it on Wednesday and also summoned the Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) in personal capacity.

Justice Babar Sattar, hearing the case, observed that it was necessary to cite reasons for keeping anyone in custody. He issued show-cause notices to the ICT Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations as to why not contempt of court proceedings should be initiated against them.

Outsourcing of IIA for 15 years approved

ISLAMABAD (Online): Approval has been accorded to outsource Islamabad International Airport (IIA) for 15 years.

According to sources third party will pay 100 million dollars in advance after IIA is outsourced. The agreement will stand cancelled without returning advance payment in the event of any violation.

According to sources customs site security and immigration services will remain with Civil Aviation Authority.

The administrative matters, financial close, design and construction, services charges, exchange rate and shops rent will be the responsibility of third party.

Sources disclosed that third party will be allowed to open shopping mall and brands shops at airport.

ECP's training program for 29 officers commences at PADM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The training of 29 officers of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) began on Tuesday at the ECP's Pakistan Academy for Democratic Practices, Research, and Management (PADRM).

On the inaugural day, ECP's Additional Director General Law Khurram Shahzad delivered an enlightening lecture, focusing on election laws and the constitution, a press release said. Scheduled until August 25, 2023, the in-

Court instructs Bushra to join investigation

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Tuesday granted last opportunity to Bushra Bibi, the wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, to join the investigation in a case registered by the Kohsar Police Station and extended her pre-arrest bail.

The same court also reserved its judgments on the interim bail petitions of Imran Khan in six cases registered in connection with the May 9 incidents.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Sohail heard the interim bail petitions of the PTI chief and his wife in various cases.

GB Governor calls on Caretaker PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Gilgit Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah Tuesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and congratulated him on assuming the charge of Caretaker PM.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar thanked the GB Governor on extending best wishes to him.

The GB Governor said selection of a caretaker prime minister from Balochistan province would strengthen the federation of Pakistan.

He invited Caretaker PM Kakar to visit GB and address the Gilgit Baltistan Assembly.

Court terminates interim bails of PTI chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday terminated the interim bails of PTI Chairman in three cases registered under anti-terrorism law. ATC Judge Abul Hassnat Zulkernain announced the verdict against the pre-arrest bail petitions of PTI chairman.

The court dismissed the petitions due to none pursuance and none appearance. The Khanna Police Station had registered two cases of terrorism while Barakahu Police Station registered one case against the PTI chairman.



ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the Bari Imam Shrine illuminated with colorful lights as decorated by authority due to the starting of Urs Mubarak, which will be from 15 August till 17 August in Federal Capital.

Exorbitant prices of back-to-school supplies haunt inflation-stricken parents

ISLAMABAD (APP): With back-to-school essentials in demand amid opening of the educational institutions in the federal capital after summer vacation break, majority of the parents are grappling with the exorbitant prices of all school items.

Most of private schools start their new academic session after the summer break when most of parents have to purchase back-to-school essentials for their kids by physically visiting the stationary stores or ordering through online suppliers.

The price of school supplies from glue, color pencils, markers, lunch box, water bottles, geometry boxes, school bags, and cut boxes to textbooks, notebooks, and uniforms has registered a significant increase which made it diffi-

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University of Tehran offers Adjunct Professorship to Prof. Choudhary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The President of the University of Tehran, offered Adjunct Professorship to Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary at the Institute of Biotechnology and Biophysics, University of Tehran. Through a letter addressed to Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, he offered Adjunct Professorship in recognition of outstanding contribution of Prof. Choudhary.

He further mentioned that the expertise, experience, and perspectives of the university's adjunct professors were highly valued assets to the academic programs of the university.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary is a world renowned medicinal chemist. He has published 1,175 research papers in the fields of organic and biorganic chemistry in international journals, 76 books and 40



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia H.E. Jemal Beker Abdulla along with Principal, Ms. Sobia Abid distributing shields to student in connection with 77th Independence Day Celebration at Roots International Schools & Colleges, H-8.

University of Tehran offers Adjunct Professorship to Prof. Choudhary

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Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary is a world renowned medicinal chemist. He has published 1,175 research papers in the fields of organic and biorganic chemistry in international journals, 76 books and 40

chapters in books published by major US and European press. He has secured 40 US patents so far.

Prof. Choudhary's work has been cited by the researchers from around the world by 27,407 times and his h-index is 70.

By now 94 national and international scholars have completed their PhD degrees under his supervision. Prof. Choudhary is D.Sc., Ph.D., and C. Chem. He has been awarded by different governments of Pakistan with Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, and Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. He has been elected fellow by world renowned science academies named Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, Islamic World Academy of Sciences, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Royal Society of Chemistry, and Chemical Society of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Student giving final touch to her painting in the training class at Peshawar Morning Weekly Bazar.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in building a boundary wall on Islamabad Expressway.

Daily Voice of Masses
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Wednesday August 16, 2023

Resurgent terrorism

As the nation enters a period of political transition, there is a critical need to stay focused on counterterrorism measures. This is particularly true for the militancy-hit parts of KP and Balochistan, where security forces regularly continue to face off against militants.

Two incidents on Sunday in the two provinces illustrate the varied nature of the threat. In Gwadar, calamity was narrowly averted when security personnel confronted terrorists belonging to the banned Baloch Liberation Army. The ISPR says two terrorists were killed as they attacked a convoy transporting Chinese workers in the port city. Luckily, the foreigners were travelling in bullet-proof vehicles. The Chinese consulate in Karachi has called upon the state to "severely punish the perpetrators and take concrete ... measures" to protect Chinese citizens and projects. In the other incident, a soldier was martyred while four TTP terrorists were killed in a gun battle in Bajaur.

The top brass is seemingly aware of the delicate situation. While addressing the Independence Day parade at Kakul, the army chief thanked the people of KP and Balochistan for "resiliently fighting ... terrorism", while he urged Afghanistan to prevent its soil from being used against Pakistan. Yet the battle against militancy cannot be an open-ended exercise, as people living in the affected regions have had enough of violence, and are demanding the state take decisive action.

In this regard, a rally was held on Saturday under the aegis of the Bara Siasi Ittehad in Khyber district. The event, which saw heavy participation from the public, was supported by political parties from across the ideological spectrum. The main demands of the rally participants were peace in their region, and an end to violence, extortion and militancy. This is only the latest of well-attended rallies in KP that have echoed similar demands.

Whether it is TTP, IS-K or separatist militants, an effective counterterrorism strategy is needed to calm the affected regions, dislodge the terrorists and cause minimum disruptions in the lives of the local people, who have sacrificed much over the past several years and seen numerous counter-insurgency operations. Within Pakistan there can be no safe havens for militants, their sympathisers or facilitators. Moreover, the state must continue working with the Afghan Taliban to ensure no anti-Pakistan militants find sanctuary across the western border. Efforts to address Pakistan's concerns on this front may have continued since the Taliban took Kabul in 2021, but have yielded mixed results.

Sometimes there is talk of cooperation, at other times much acrimony. For example, the Taliban spokesman recently criticised Pakistan for being unable to address the militancy issue. Instead of trading blame, both sides should work to ensure militants do not have the space to operate, with the onus on Kabul to prevent anti-Pakistan terrorists from launching attacks.



Arifa Noor

The parliament elected in 2018 has come to an end, but despite not lasting longer than its predecessors, it seemed to stretch on. The caretaker prime minister is in place, a dark horse for sure. A senator from the Balochistan Awami Party, he has announced stepping down from the party as well as the Upper House, a positive move indeed. His nomination has been widely welcomed. How much of this is due to Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's affability and how much due to the current mood where few are willing to question the choice of those who matter is hard to tell.

But the reception aside, there are questions about the selection process. Politicians of the

former government are whispering or saying out loud how they were kept in the dark about the dark horse on whom the spotlight was switched on last Saturday. First came the 'admission' of Khursheed Shah, who told the media his party did not know about Kakar. And how he may not have been a good choice. However, his words were followed by a statement from Shazia Marri dispelling the impression of the PPP having any reservations. Since then, Akhtar Mengal has issued a strongly worded letter on the matter.

Be that as it may, the story of how Anwaar Kakar was shortlisted and then chosen is still to be told; but this is Pakistan and few of us can resist telling a good story. It is bound to come out sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, the rest of us will keep wondering about the details. After all, Raja Riaz was going to be the key man in making the decision, as many had been predicting, so did Shehbaz Sharif go rogue? Not rogue on those he is accused of being close to but his own fam-

Age of caretaking

ily members? Or was it simply a matter of the family accepting the inevitable? As someone pointed out, once all the legislation was done, there was little leverage the PML-N enjoyed. In other words, even if Nawaz Sharif wanted Ishaq Dar as caretaker prime minister, there was little he could do to insist his choice be accepted. In case of a deadlock, the decision would have ended up with the ECP, and their wavelength is aligned with the stars that shine near the old airport of the twin cities.

But while we await the details, there are some news stories about BAP from recent days, which are intriguing to say the least. One was the random and rather short news story about Abdul Qudus Bizenjo having written a letter to Asif Ali Zardari, expressing his regret at having decided against joining the PPP. This news came in the last week of July. No outlet provided details on what this meant for the other BAP politicians who had joined PPP earlier in the year.

Shortly after came

the news of the Jam Kamal group in the BAP meeting the prime minister with a view to joining the PML-N. The delegation included the caretaker prime minister but again, the news disappeared as quickly as it appeared and there were few details on what the final decision was.

Without any information from any zarai, all one can assume is the efforts to push some in Balochistan to the PPP had become half-hearted if not been dropped altogether; and that some winds may also have begun to blow towards the PML-N.

If this had some bearing on the decision of the new caretaker prime minister, we may just find out soon enough. Once we do, we'll also find out why the PML-N is stoically quiet, while the PPP is not.

Mengal's letter is perhaps not all that important in the context of the politics of allies. However, it does point to something more pervasive if we want to give it importance, ie, how this appointment will be viewed in the home province. The

caretaker prime minister may not be in a position to assuage any of the discontent in Balochistan by his climb to the highest office (in theory) in the country.

But then, this is not a serious concern if elections are held in time. The caretaker prime minister is, after all, not there to hold state and society together. His or her job is to hold elections and go home. But in case he stays on a Punjab and KP, his personal reputation will come under strain. Whether that is a cost too heavy for the prime minister is hard to say; the past five years show no politician or party has found the price of power too high to pay. Will Kakar be the exception that proves the rule?

Moving beyond, it is worrying that everyone expects a delay in elections. No one thinks elections within three months are a possibility while some hope they will take place within six. A delay of more than six months is not in the realm of the impossible even though the variables are so many that few can be sure of this

eventuality. Herein lies the rub. If one of the reasons for the delay is the PTI's popularity, a second, more important one is of economic reform. If elections are delayed, some of the truly 'difficult' decisions will have to be taken under the caretaker set-up. This may range from quick privatisation to raise some cash, as well as expanding the tax base and/or reducing subsidies or cutting expenses. Each one of these solutions will lead to social costs — lobbies or sectors will be hurt and state-employed people will be let go. There will be a backlash, which will add to existing socioeconomic problems as well as the worsening security situation. Can Kakar Sahib be the face of these decisions? Will his cabinet bear the burden? I am reminded of my early years in journalism when Pervez Musharraf came in promising change but backed down soon enough. But then he wanted legitimacy and popularity. Perhaps those are not needed nowadays in the difficult times we face. -- Courtesy Dawn

Fighting disability with creativity



Dr Naazir Mahmood

Without differences in our abilities, the world would have been a bland sphere in the universe. Some people have more pizzazz than others, and one such person is Zahid Abdullah who according to him can perform all tasks with his "eyes wide shut". He learnt the art of living without sight some 20 years ago. Even before that, his sight was declining steadily, and his gradual sight loss was a painful process as he knew that soon he would be a different person altogether. Till he lost the capacity to see in his early 30s. To live his life without the power to see was a challenge that he took head on, and his story is worth telling for all those who can see but lack the vision to transform their lives in the face of adversity.

Zahid is a master learner; he quickly adapted

to the new realities that enriched his other senses. He could hear and smell much better and his taste developed beyond simple culinary delights; he acquired a taste for creative arts, music, and of course drama in life; he had also studied a drama course as a student and teacher of English Language and Literature at the post-graduate level. With his partial sight he completed his first Master's degree at a public university and acquired another from a private university after he had lost his sight.

Zahid was not an only child of his parents; he had eight siblings and one can imagine the plight of a boy growing up with declining sight in such a large crowd. Ultimately, he managed to raise his three daughters and proved that a sightless father may be an even more caring parent.

Throughout his life he has fought against access barriers and advocated for a better physical and social environment for people living with disabilities. He believes that an inaccessible environment renders people disabled, not the impairment itself.

Disability rights are not the only area he is working

in. The right to information has become his lifelong passion, and he has delivered some remarkable instructions to relevant departments as the information commissioner. He is also a researcher, resource person and trainer who teaches how to improve productivity to his colleagues and learners in a friendly manner.

He has authored books and has become an objective commentator on human contradictions that he reflects in his writings. 'The Wise Man' was his second book that attracted the attention of readers in 2015. It was a collection of stories that he wrote in a humorous manner.

But here we are more interested in his first and third books. 'Disabled society' (2012) was his first ground-breaking book that deals with the challenges and problems people living with disabilities face in a society such as Pakistan. Its contents ranged from strategies to cope with disabilities and the misplaced concept of 'divine justice' and 'majoritarian dictatorship' that marginalizes a differently abled minority. The book also discusses the lack of ethical behaviour in medi-

cal professionals, a majority of whom need better training and capacity development in dealing with differently abled people.

Zahid has written 'Disabled society' with an insight that comes with a life of constant challenges and obstacles that hinder the path to a successful career. He has specifically focused on gender issues that are normally ignored in discussions about people with disabilities. One of the most significant contributions the book makes is on the front of information access. It argues that society itself blocks building barriers so that only a privileged few enjoys access to information and uses it for their benefits. Any information about the rights of the disabled is not easily available to those who may benefit from it.

The book is unique in that it includes four research papers on people with disabilities and the electoral process. The papers also deal with the gender divide that is even more harmful for women with disabilities; perhaps it is the first-ever research paper in Pakistan that so comprehensively covered the topic.

Girls and women with disabilities face extraordi-

nary discrimination and misbehaviour, especially in universities. In a society where campus officers and university teachers indulge in immoral and unethical practices of blackmailing students, one can imagine how vulnerable disabled female students are.

Now something about Zahid's latest book 'Honour Among Judges and Other Tales of Justice'. This is a marvellous collection of stories and revolves around a group of lawyers who gather at a restaurant in April 2021 when the government lifted the lockdown it imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 15 lawyers gather on a rooftop of a popular restaurant near Heera Mandi in Lahore and narrate their stories. The women of the red-light area have a specific significance as the writer mentions in his prologue.

"They have been shunned and condemned by some, but loved and patronized by most. The last one to condemn them was a cartoonish general who had a permanent smile plastered on his face, though it was never reflected in his cold eyes. When he closed down the Heera Mandi in the 1980s, these girls spread

across many different parts of Lahore."

The story tells that these lawyers were regular customers of the particular restaurant but the pandemic intervened and they could not meet as long as the lockdown lasted. Now they regroup — minus the two who succumbed to the virus — and share their tales.

There is a lawyer who claims to 'punish evil and reward virtue', coupled with a judge who has 'sad roomy eyes'. There is one law practitioner who brews his own wine and always has Plan B ready for all eventualities. Another lawyer nicknamed the Decoupler deals with divorce cases. Then there are lawyers in their 70s, with plenty of experiences to share.

There is a female lawyer with 'well-earned bragging rights' to claim that she had never taken a single case before a judge and yet had the most successful practice in the city. Not far behind is the story of a public prosecutor famous for his "dogged pursuit of criminals". Then there is "Wiley Wali" with a dubious reputation of hiring judges to seek justice for his clients. -- Courtesy TheNews

Let's adapt



Aisha Khan

Adaptation by definition means the process of change through which integration into an emerging new order is facilitated via actions that make transition possible. In the climate world, this refers to strengthening resilience to absorb shocks and recover from crises. In politics, it means marching in step with the times you live in and course correcting to stay ahead of the curve. In science, it means discovery, in research innovative thinking, in media effective communication and at the people's level, embracing change and willingness to transform.

You can look at adaptation through any lens but the end response will yield the same sequential process ... anticipatory planning, thinking strategic and maximising co-benefits.

Climate change is not a stand-alone subject and therefore cannot be addressed in isolation. It changes demography, alters social dynamics and has a direct impact on the growth indicators of countries most affected and least prepared to cope with change.

The sectoral impacts of climate change are well researched and policies and plans in place to highlight implementation intent through action frameworks. However, the missing piece in the puzzle is who, when and how. This stumbling block has prevented us from achieving policy objectives and making the required progress in our climate journey. There can be no progress without investing in enabling agencies re-

sponsible for structural adjustments and making the necessary changes at different levels. In every society, the enablers are the people, government and policymakers who together work on, and support strategies for enabling critical actions to push the change agenda forward.

In Pakistan the climate crisis is a cause that is championed by all political parties and experienced by people at all levels. But despite national consensus on being a vulnerable and hard-hit country, not enough has been done to make a difference on ground. This places a high responsibility on the interim government to own the climate agenda and use the momentum for raising the level of engagement to a higher equilibrium. This is a time to go beyond rhetoric and take a more reflective view of the challenge. There is a growing tendency to attribute everything to external finance and resort to inaction. However, not all paradigm shifts cost money. Finance is only a byproduct of good policy. A little soul-searching may help us to understand that investment in people, shift in policy, and indirect approaches can enhance productivity, boost the economy and incentivise family planning.

There is no country in the world that has prospered without giving women equal access to opportunities and resources. Giving women equal space in society and freedom to make life choices needs no money and will serve as a powerful enabler.

Investing in human capital with a focus on science and technology has been the foundational building block for developed countries to become resilient societies. We need to deliver quality education to all citizens to build a resource pool for functions needed by the state to optimise opportunities for growth.

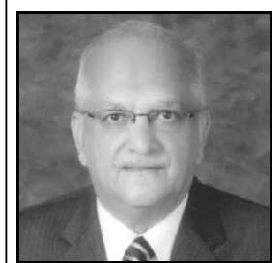
It is not a coincidence that countries with high human capital and empowered women have sustainable populations. Advocacy alone on family planning has not shown the desired results in Pakistan. The latest census is a strong signal for the need to adopt an indirect management approach for long-term dividends.

Twinning human capital with gender empowerment may well provide the answer to the population conundrum.

There is global recognition that climate change knows no borders. It is also pertinent to note that the relevance of impact is more powerful when disruptive changes take place in your neighbourhood. This makes regional integration an imperative and an essential part of adaptation, not just in the climate domain but also at the political, and people's level. As part of one South Asia, no country can forge its future trajectory without taking cognisance of climate-triggered upheavals in the region. Moving beyond past barriers to find common ground is also a part of adaptation that can no longer be ignored.

As political parties prepare for the next elections, it is important that clarity is provided to the people on actions that will be part of their electoral manifestos on climate change. The vision for a resilient Pakistan needs to go beyond going green to transformative changes in the social landscape and demonstration of political will to shift from status quo to new and dynamic equations for internal and external cohesion. An enabling environment is the product of actions set in motion by enablers. It is time to adapt and move forward recognising constraints and building an evolving narrative for a safe future. -- Courtesy Dawn

Workers' benefit



Parvez Rahim

By virtue of the 18th Amendment, all labour laws were devolved to the provinces, which then got the authority to amend them or make new laws. They have been doing so but the lack of coordination among them has caused acute differences in benefits for workers.

The Employees' Old-age Benefits Institution, constituted under the 1976 Act, is the only such scheme which continues to be administered centrally by the federal government of the day despite devolution. There is no doubt that issues relating to disbursement of pension to migrant retired employees will arise if the Act is devolved to the provinces. Nevertheless, over the last 13 years, the federal government has made no effort to give legal cover to retaining this scheme. In 2014, the Sindh Employees' Old-age Benefits Act was promulgated but has not been operational as the federal government has not transferred the funds to Sindh.

EOBI was being managed smoothly until devolution and all three stakeholders — employers, employees and government — faced no issues. An increase in employers' monthly contribution would mostly be followed by an increase in pension. After devolution, the federal government had no lawful authority to administer the scheme but has continued with it on an ad hoc basis.

A 2005 amendment to the Act of 1976 changed the basis of the monthly contribution by employers from a percentage of the

fixed amount to the following: "wages" means the rates of wages as declared under the Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers Ordinance, 1969". After devolution, any amendments carried out by the government in federal laws would only extend to Islamabad Capital Territory, and not beyond.

Fixing the minimum wage for unskilled workers became a provincial subject after devolution, but employers would not accept these for paying EOBI contribution as the relevant law for the purpose was the 1969 ordinance. Consequently, some employers continued to pay the contribution at six per cent of Rs6,000 per insured employee, which was the minimum wage rate under the latter ordinance at the time of devolution in April 2010.

In 2015, the federal government made an amendment to the 1969 ordinance, fixing the minimum wage at Rs13,000. The relevant notice to employers by the EOBI to pay a monthly contribution of 6pc of this amount was challenged by them across Pakistan before their respective high courts. They got favourable judgments from the Punjab, KP and Balochistan courts, whereby the EOBI's claim was set aside.

The Sindh High Court in its judgement dated Feb 22, 2023, has held that employers are required to pay a contribution of 6pc of the prevailing minimum wage of Rs25,000 per insured employee. High courts in the other provinces have granted stay orders on paying the contribution at this rate. While employers in Sindh are paying it, those in the other provinces pay workers at rates ranging from 6pc of Rs3,000 to Rs13,000 or at whatever rate they deem appropriate.

The federal government would be empowered to resolve this issue by taking EOBI into its fold

through a parliamentary majority. Doing so would be in the interest of all stakeholders. EOBI could then fix the same amount of contribution across the country. Pensioners wouldn't have to wait for years for an increase in pensions; employers would have no cause to agitate. The authorities should realise that EOBI will not sustain the current ad hoc arrangement for long.

Another law which needs to have a uniform policy relates to maternity leave. The West Pakistan Maternity Benefit Ordinance, 1958, was promulgated by repealing existing laws on the subject. Under this ordinance, women with at least four months' employment in an establishment immediately preceding the day of delivery are eligible to get 12 weeks of maternity leave with full payment of salary, six weeks before and six weeks after childbirth. The employer is prohibited from dismissing the services of a woman in this situation.

Punjab and KP follow leave stipulations of the 1958 ordinance, but Sindh has a total of 16 and Balochistan 14 weeks of maternity leave with different conditions for eligibility. As requirements are not different anywhere, it is more realistic to have similar conditions and quantum of leave in the entire country. Under all these enactments, there is no limit to the number of times a woman may avail her maternity leave during her employment with the same employer. Conversely, most progressive organisations allow maternity leave only twice during a woman's career. The respective provincial legislatures should also consider prevailing industrial practices to this effect. Having a realistic common policy for the grant of maternity benefits all over Pakistan will be more acceptable to employers. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM for boosting efforts to rehabilitate drug addicts

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the 'Roshan Ghar' rehabilitation center for drug addicts in Raiwand on Tuesday, where he assessed the facilities provided for the recovery of individuals struggling with drug addiction. He thoroughly inspected the various sections and wards dedicated to the drug addicts, engaging with them and encouraging them to overcome their addiction. During the visit, Mohsin Naqvi emphasised the need to enhance the rehabilitation and treatment services for drug addicts. He also issued directives for the establishment of new centers to cater to their rehabilitation. He assigned the task of building additional centers to the Secretary of Social Welfare

and the Secretary of Health, with a mandate to complete centers with a combined capacity of 400 beds across different areas of Lahore within a span of two weeks. The CM also highlighted the importance of providing quality nutrition and regular supply of fruits to the addicts at 'Roshan Ghar'. He pledged to allocate all necessary resources for effective treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and he stressed the significance of digitising the records of these individuals. While touring the facility, Mohsin Naqvi visited the computer lab and domestic tailoring lab that serve the drug addicts. He acknowledged the devastating impact of addiction on families and expressed his commitment to helping those affected find a path to recovery. As

part of the effort to combat drug trafficking, a comprehensive crackdown had been initiated across Punjab. The chief minister received detailed briefings from the Secretary of Social Welfare regarding the rehabilitation process for drug addicts and from the Secretary of Health concerning the available treatment facilities. The briefing revealed that 'Roshan Ghar' currently houses up to 100 beds. Present on this occasion were Provincial Minister of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Dr. Javed Akram, along with the secretaries of Health, Industry and Excise, Commissioner of Lahore, Director General of Social Welfare, Deputy Commissioner, Principal of Allama Iqbal Medical College and other relevant officers.



LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Amir Meer inaugurates 4 new buses for Culture Department.

Corruption case: Parvez Elahi remand in NAB custody till Aug 21

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Tuesday handed over former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on physical remand till August 21 in a case of receiving kickbacks in development projects. Earlier, the NAB team produced the PTI president before Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani amid strict security. Advocate Amjad Pervaiz requested the court to grant him 15 minutes to talk to his client before submitting arguments,

which was granted by the court. Special prosecutor Waris Ali Janjua, who represented the NAB, requested for physical remand of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi. He argued that four persons had already been arrested in connection with the case. He submitted that as chief minister Punjab, Parvez Elahi gave a development package of Rs 72 billion for Gujrat division alone. He submitted that a list of 200 projects was finalised and approval was given for the projects on a fast-track basis, in violation of the rules and regulations. He further alleged that after settling the matter of

the kickbacks, the amounts for the projects were released even before the commencement of the work. He submitted that the step was also a violation of the law and the bureau had strong evidence in this regard. At this stage, Parvez Elahi's counsel Advocate Amjad Pervaiz submitted that the cases were pending at the Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court against the arrest of his client. Therefore, the court should give the physical remand of Parvez Elahi till Monday, so that the decision of the Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court would also come by then, he added.



SUKKUR: Members of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) are holding protest demonstration against killing of Jan Muhammad Mehar Senior Journalist, at Sukkur press club.

LWMC, Motorway Police sign MoU for licensing of drivers

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Waste Management Company and National Highway and Motorway Police on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for technical training and licensing of drivers of operational vehicles. More than 3,000 LWMC drivers will be assisted in technical training and licensing. Under the MoU, LWMC's drivers and other staff will be eligible for international licence, on completion of technical training. Further, the Education Wing of Motorway Police will provide awareness about road safety and rules. According to LWMC spokesman Umar Chaudhary, Motorway Police Sector Commander Shahbaz Alam and Deputy CEO LWMC Fahad Mehmood signed the

MoU. LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din, DIG Motorway Police Ahmed Nasir Aziz Wirk, and a large number of LWMC officers including a licensing and education team from Motorway Police participated in the event. Addressing the event, LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din said that the department is taking all possible steps to train and guide workers. "Trained staff is the strong pillar of the organization. Our workers are our valuable asset who perform the duties of cleaning Lahore with full honesty and hard work on every occasion and festival," he added. He thanked IG Motorway Police Ahmed Nasir Aziz for supporting this great initiative and requested the cooperation of citizens to support the LWMC staff.

Restoration of Lahore's historical gates approved

LAHORE (Online): Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has approved the plan to restore four historical gates to their original condition out of 11 historical gates and one Mori. It has been reported that the summary sent by the Walled City Authority has also been approved, according to which the project will cost seven and a half crore rupees. Among the historic gates to be restored are Shiranwala Gate, Lohari Gate, Kashmiri Gate and Roshnai Gate, instructions have been issued to remove all encroachments from outside.

Five injured as lightning strike hits Attock Kurd police station

ATTOCK (APP): The Attock Kurd Police station turned into rubble as a Police spokesman attributed it to lightning in the early hours of Tuesday. Five Policemen were also injured in the incident, among them one critical. According to a police spokesman, the lightning hit a portion of the police station where the mall khana was established which results in a blast subsequently the whole building was damaged. The spokesman said that five police officials including assistant sub-inspector Imtiaz, Wireless operator Bilawal Siddiqui, constable Sajjad, Faizan, and Louqeer. One of the injured was shifted to Rawalpindi due to his critical injuries. Soon after the incident, rescue 1122 teams reached the spot and carried out rescue services. The fire tenders have extinguished the fire.

Minister inaugurates new buses for sightseeing tour of Lahore

LAHORE (APP): In a bid to boost tourism, the Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information and Tourism Amir Mir on Tuesday inaugurated four new buses for sightseeing tour of Lahore. Through a collaboration of Punjab Tourism Department and Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP), these newly introduced single-deck buses would now run on the roads of the city. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the minister said the new buses would also be utilized for tours to Wagah Border and Gurdwara Kartarpur. Currently, these buses would operate within Lahore. TDCP's Sales and Tour Promotion Wing would also utilize these

buses for various tour packages, he informed. Amir Mir said that in the future, additional buses would be introduced under the World Bank project, offering tourists the opportunity to explore destinations like Murree, Patriata and other northern areas. He added that three buses were already operating in Lahore and the total count would reach at seven, providing tourists with an excellent opportunity to explore Lahore's captivating landscapes and historical sites. AC and non-AC buses would also operate in different cities during seasonal events, he said. Secretary Tourism Asif Bilal Lodhi expressed hope that these initiatives would open a new chapter for tourism in the province.

Police arrest six for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police on the directives of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations conducted raids in different areas and netted six accused of possessing illegal weapons. According to a police spokesman, Bani, Race Course, Taxila, Saddar Wah, and Rawat police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and arrested six namely Anwar, Muzamil, Waseem, Asif, Umair, and Jawad, and recovered five 30-bore pistols, a 32 bore pistol and ammunition. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process. Divisional Superintendents of Police said that strict action by the law was being taken against the lawbreakers and operations against aerial firing and illegal weapon.

Miyawaki Forest to be developed in 258 govt schools in south Punjab

MULTAN (APP): In a bold move to counter the looming threats of climate change and offer a verdant sanctuary for students, the Department of School Education South Punjab has unveiled plans to cultivate Miyawaki forests in 258 government schools. The pioneering endeavor, designed to tackle tree scarcity and forge a resilient ecosystem, enters its second phase with 258 selected schools slated to embrace the transformation. The inaugural planting of the Miyawaki forests is set to unfurl on August 16 (Wednesday) in a gala event at the Government High School Jamia Uloom New Multan. Notable dignitaries including the Secretary of School Education South Punjab, Rana Salim Ahmad Khan, and Secretary of Forests South Punjab, Sarfraz Ahmed, are poised to inaugurate the ambitious campaign. The concerted effort will usher in the growth of Miyawaki forests alongside the monsoon planting season, said official source. The innovative Miyawaki technique promises to usher in forests with a swiftness and density as it is 10 times faster and 30 times thicker, compared to natural forests. Secretary Rana Salim Ahmad Khan underscored the urgency of the initiative, revealing Pakistan's fifth-ranking status among nations bearing the brunt of climate change ramifications. Tackling this dilemma becomes the cornerstone of preserving both the present and the posterity. Secretary Khan further emphasized that metropolises and densely populated zones, often marred by pollution and a dearth of greenery, would get immense benefits from the Miyawaki Forests. Planting Miyawaki forest is a good idea. It will make cities better and give us cleaner air to breathe. The new forests give us hope for better future, he maintained.



PESHAWAR: Pharmacy Students are holding protest demonstration for their rights, at Peshawar press club.

S.Punjab secretariat puts region on new path of development: ACS

MULTAN (APP): Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Capt. Saqib Zafar, said that the South Punjab Secretariat has put the region on a new path of development. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of 36 officers of under training Pakistan Administrative Service at the Civil Service Academy who called at his office here on Tuesday. Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel, Secretary Services South Punjab Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen and Deputy Director Civil Service Academy Rehmat Wali Khan were also present in the meeting. He further said that now not even a single penny could be transferred from development funds allocated in the budget out of South Punjab. Likewise, an integrated mechanism has been developed for the timely resolution of public grievances. He said secretariat office system has been digitized and e-filing system been introduced for official correspondence. The under construction Secretariat will also be a reflection of corporate culture. ACS said that South Punjab plays a key role in the agricultural production of the country.

IGP orders to launch crackdown to eradicate drug menace in GB

GILGIT (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Gilgit-Baltistan Afzal Mahmood Butt on Tuesday issued orders to start crackdown against traffickers and drug addicts to stop the use and sale of drugs in Gilgit-Baltistan. According to a press release issued from the spokesman of Gilgit-Baltistan police office, IGP Gilgit-Baltistan has given strict instructions to the DIGs of all ranges and the SSPs of all districts including the DIG Special Branch to prevent drug dealers and traffickers. He issued order to take strict legal action against them. IGP GB said that to save the youth from this scourge, the region has to be free from drugs. He added use all your resources for this. The IGP urged immediate and strict implementation of these instructions. Afzal Mahmood Butt concluded by saying that anti-social elements target.



KARACHI: View of site after a fire broken out incident as the fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, located on LI Chundrigar road in Karachi.

TMA Hangu unveils app for easy access to municipal services

PESHAWAR (APP): National Governance Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Hangu launched an E-TMA app to make access to municipal services easy. The launching ceremony of the app was held at the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hangu, Fazal Akbar highlighted the role of the app in establishing a transparent and efficient governance system tailored to meet the needs of the people. This pioneering digital solution, developed in partnership with the Local Government, Elections, and Rural Development (LGERD) KP.

PHC seeks details of cases, inquiries against ex MNA, MPA

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Monday directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Anti-Corruption Department and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to provide details of the cases registered against former MNA Mehboob Shah and MPA Humayun. The bench comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Qazi Subhan asked the anti-corruption watchdogs to provide details of all the cases and inquiries against the petitioners. Earlier, the legal

Dr. Yasmeen post arrest bail plea, lawyers' arguments

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorist Court (ATC) heard post arrest bail plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr. Yasmeen Rashid in four different cases of May 09 incident. Judge Ijaz Ahmed of ATC heard case. Court summoned lawyers for arguments. Case number 23/1271 and 23/1280 in Gulberg Police Station are filed against accused. Case number 23/36 in Model Town Police Station and case number 23/108 in Server Road police station are also registered against accused Yasmin Rashid.

Commissioner visits DHQ to inspect facilities

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatha on Tuesday visited the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients there. He interacted with the patients and their attendants and inquired about the

Anti-polio drive begins in Khyber

PESHAWAR (Online): A seven-day anti-polio drive has kicked off in district Khyber of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the campaign, more than two hundred thousand children up to age of five will be administered anti-polio vaccine. A total of nine hundred and sixty-five teams have been formed for this purpose.



KARACHI: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to construction and repairing work of Natha Khan Bridge located on Shahrah-e-Faisal in Karachi.

Caretaker govt to ensure continuity in economic policies: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that the caretaker government would ensure continuity in the economic policies, besides further improving them.

He said that further enhancement of foreign investment under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was among the top priorities of the caretaker set-up. The prime minister

chaired a meeting in which he was given a detailed briefing over the economic situation, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister said that work on the public welfare projects would continue and the government would ensure provision of international quality facilities in the health and education sectors. He also directed for expediting ongoing reforms

in the power sector and strict implementation of measures for increasing tax revenues.

Prime Minister Kakar said that the caretaker government would concentrate on deregulation and responsible autonomy for further improvement of economy, and expressed the resolve to focus their energies on economic reforms during their tenure.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the State

Bank of Pakistan governor, secretaries of Finance Division and Power, and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman.

It was briefed over the steps taken for bringing further improvement and stability in the economy. A detailed briefing was also given over the reforms in the power sector.

The caretaker prime minister directed for submission of detailed reports regarding ongoing reforms in all sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chaired a meeting on economy.



KARACHI: Members of Peoples Unity of PIA Employees are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Karachi press club.

Kenyan delegation keen to explore opportunities in Pak

LAHORE (Online): Kenyan delegation head Geoffrey Gichira Mutura has said that Kenya is gateway to most of African economies including Rwanda and South Sudan.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Tuesday. LCCI Acting President presented the address of welcome while other members of the delegation, Rachael Waitihira Mwangi and Sajida Parveen Butt also spoke on the occasion.

Mutura said, "We came to Karachi to visit an

exhibition and have seen a lot of opportunities in Pakistan." LCCI Acting President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry hoped that participation of the delegation in the 1st International Food & Agriculture Exhibition organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan in Karachi would have been helpful. This expo would have given excellent rundown of the potential of Pakistan's agriculture & food sector which is not limited to growing and selling fruits & vegetables rather we are doing really well in the

fields like Halal meat, rice, seafood, confectionery items, spices, processed food items, cooking oil/ ghee, honey and tobacco etc. It is worth mentioning that Pakistan's food exports are well above US \$5 billion," he added.

He commended the role played by Mr. L.D. Khan Commercial Counsellor based in the High Commission of Pakistan in Nairobi who recommended the team to visit Pakistan to attend the expo and also have direct interactions with the business community in Karachi.

Railways spends Rs.1862m for rehabilitation of track between Kotri-Khanpur

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is spending Rs.1862.84 million for the rehabilitation of 518 kilometres of track between Kotri-Khanpur under the project of Immediate Track Safety Works (ITSW-I).

Despite financial constraints, the management of Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts into improvement in infrastructure including tracks, bridges, stations etc, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Under the project of rehabilitation of Karachi Port tracks, 24-kilometre tracks, 17 level crossings and seven bridges have been rehabilitated along with the replacement of

turnouts.

The official said that Railway Dry Ports at Lahore (Mughalpura), Badami Bagh and Azakhel have been upgraded.

He said under the Immediate Track Safety Works (ITS W-II & IMTS W-III), the railway track between Tando Adam-Khanpur covering 456 kilometres would be rehabilitated at a cost of Rs. 4830.437 million and Rs.4875.461 million respectively by replacing the US components of the track by ensuring the safety of train operation.

A PC-I amounting to Rs.4930.22 million for the rehabilitation of track machinery has been approved which would ensure quality of track maintenance work.

Khattak for inspection of industrial units, poultry sheds & kilns

MULTAN (APP): Commissioner Multan Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak, termed a zero-tolerance policy for the prevention of environmental pollution and ordered the environment department for the thorough inspection of industrial units, poultry sheds, and brick kilns.

He expressed these views while chairing the divisional environmental committee meeting here on Tuesday. He directed to include civil society and stakeholders in the campaign against smog.

Various cases

including new petrol pumps, cold storage, and warehouses were approved in the meeting. The commissioner ordered departments concerned to complete NOCs of petrol pumps in the timeline on merit.

He warned that strict action would be taken over violation of SOPs of infrastructure and master plan. He asked to accelerate the process of shifting brick kilns to zigzag technology across the division. He said that complete scrutiny of commercial building maps and parking areas would be made.



LARKANA: Farmers cleaning crop in a traditional way at their field near Larkana-Khairpur Road.

Global AI investments could hit \$200bn by 2025: Study

ISLAMABAD (APP): Global artificial intelligence investments are projected to hit \$200 billion by 2025 and could possibly have a bigger impact on gross domestic product, a study has revealed.

AI investments will possibly take a few years to have a major impact on the economy, rising from a relatively slow starting point, Goldman Sachs Economic Research said in a report.

But for AI to trigger large-scale transformation, businesses need to make "significant upfront investments in physical, digital and human capital to acquire and implement new technologies and reshape business processes", the US bank's economists Joseph Briggs and Devesh Kodnani wrote in the study.

"Those investments, which could amount to around \$200 billion globally by 2025, will probably happen before adoption and efficiency gains start driving major gains in productivity."

In the long term, AI-related investments could peak as high as 2.5 per cent to 4 per cent of gross domestic product in the US and 1.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent in other countries that lead in the technology, if the research's growth projections are fully realised, Goldman Sachs said.

Generative AI, in particular, has "enormous" economic potential and could boost global labour productivity by more than 1 percentage point annually during the decade following widespread usage.

Generative AI, in particular, has "enormous" economic potential and could boost global labour productivity by more than 1 percentage point annually during the decade following widespread usage.



ISLAMABAD: People are selecting shoes from shop at Weekly Margalla Bazaar of H-9 to buy, in Federal Capital.

Spokesperson says: PRA sets over Rs. 80b target of revenue collection from key sectors for FY

LAHORE (APP): With an overall target of Rs 240 billion, the Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) has set an ambitious over Rs 80 billion target of revenue collection from diverse key sectors including IT, Real Estate, and Hospitality for the current fiscal year against last year's collection of Rs. 12.6 billion.

According to a PRA Spokesperson, the Authority under the dynamic leadership of Chairperson Javed Badar was taking proactive measures to diversify revenue streams and strengthen fiscal resilience.

In this regard the focus lies on expanding tax compliance and realizing due arrears from different

sectors and prominent business houses operating in the province.

The spokesperson further said that real estate sector had been identified as a potential source of significant revenue as over 1400 societies were operating under the jurisdiction of Lahore Development Authority (LDA) and Rural Development Authority (RUDA) covering vast area, taxable at a rate of Rs 100 per square yard.

In the area of property developers and promoters an ambitious revenue target of Rs 48 billion has been fixed for the fiscal year 2023-24 as compared to a meager collection of Rs 0.478 billion in 2022-23.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor arranging and displaying fruits to attract the customers at weekly bazaar, Peshawar Morr.

FESCO reduces line losses up to 8.59% against target of 8.84%

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has reduced its line losses up to 8.59 percent against its target of 8.84 percent.

FESCO spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Tuesday that NEPA had set line loss target of 8.84% for FESCO but the company has surpassed this target by 0.25 percent due to its efficient team work under the supervision of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Bashir Ahmed.

He said that the FESCO had saved Rs.991 million by reducing its line losses during 2022-23 which was a great

achievement of this company among the performance of other power distribution companies.

It is also worth-mentioning here that losses of FESCO in the last five years were less than the targets given by the NEPA Authority, he added.

FESCO Chief Engineer Bashir Ahmed and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Mian Nazir Ahmed in the public hearing of the five-year informed the NEPA about multi-year tariff for the financial year 2023-24 to 2027-28 and said that the recovery of FESCO was 100%.

Belgium Envoy says: Implementation of GSP- Plus Conventions to help Pakistan for enhancing trade with EU

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, Charles DELOGNE on Tuesday said that the implementation of Generalized Schemes of Preferences (GSP- Plus) conventions, especially labour rights, human rights and environmental protection would help Pakistan to further improve its trade with the European Union.

The Ambassador said this while addressing the business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), said in a press release issued here. Abid Hussain, Trade Commissioner of the Belgium Embassy also accompanied him on the occasion.

The Envoy said that Belgium is the 5th largest trading partner of Pakistan in the EU and it is interested in further enhancing cooperation with Pakistan in various sectors including trade, scientific research and education sector.

He said that the IMF agreement was key to Pakistan as it has provided more flexibility to it and added that Pakistan should ensure its implementation to save its economy from more problems.

He said that PIA in negotiations with the EU to reopen its flights and the start of PIA flights would facilitate Pakistan's trade promotion with EU countries.

He said that Pakistani educated and skilled workers can directly apply to Belgium companies and his embassy is ready to facilitate them in signing employment contracts in case of their selection by Belgium companies.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawar, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan and Belgium enjoy cordial relations.

He said that PIA in negotiations with the EU to reopen its flights and the start of PIA flights would facilitate Pakistan's trade promotion with EU countries.

Gold rates up by Rs 1,100

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,100 and was sold at Rs.222,900 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs 221,800 on the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.943 to Rs.191,101 from Rs.190,158 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 Karat gold went up to Rs.175,176 from Rs174,311, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs 2750 and Rs 2357.68 respectively.

Int'l traders want to develop ties with agro-based SMEs

LAHORE (APP): The traders of China, Indonesia, Belgium and ASEAN (Association of South East Nations) have evinced keen interest in developing trade relations with local SMEs dealing in food and agriculture products.

It was disclosed by Farhan Aziz Khawaja, Chief Executive Officer of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) on Tuesday while commenting on SMEDA's participation in the 1st International Food and Agriculture Exhibition (FoodAg-2023) organized by the Trade Development Authority Pakistan (TDAP). The exhibition, he said, had provided a unique opportunity to SMEDA for meeting 500 international SMEs from 60 countries along with 15 regulatory and development bodies of the visiting countries. "We held exclusive meetings with delegates of ASEAN, Indonesia, China and Belgium for promoting SME to SME trade relations in food and agriculture sector," he added and appreciated the role of Pakistan's commercial counsellors in managing networking with international SMEs.



FAISALABAD: Bikers rush to the fuel station to refuel their tanks after they come to know about the price hike of petrol, once again in Country.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was recorded at the Port where three ships, Northern Jamboree, Theresa Schulte and Milha Qatar carrying Containers, Chemicals and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Engro Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Maersk Atlanta, Maersk Boston, Bow Titanium and Takreem with Containers, and Chemicals also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during the last 24 hours. PQA berths engaged by eight ships during the last 24 hours, out of them, four ships, Northern Jamboree, Pacific Julia, Centurion Signifer and Ruby are expected to sail on today afternoon.

A cargo volume of 147,620 tonnes comprising 127,288 tonnes imports cargo and 20,332 tonnes export cargo including containerized cargo carried in 2,220 Containers (1,024 TEUs imports and 1,196 TEUs export) was handled at the Port during last 24 hours. Three ships five ships are at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them, six ships, Takreem, Maersk Bostan, Maersk Atlanta, Imke Selmer, Hafnia Nile and Jipiro Neftis & another MSC Yukta X scheduled to load/offload Clay.

Provincial Additional Secretary visits DG Khan to review cotton's record

DG KHAN (APP): Provincial Additional Secretary Muhammad Shabir Ahmad Khan paid a visit to DG Khan, Kot Chhata, Dajal, Jampur, and Fazilpur to review the record of cotton arrival in ginning factories operating across the division.

After reviewing the condition of cotton in the field, he met the farmers and directed them to use improved kinds of pesticides against harmful

insects on the advice of the local agriculture experts.

According to him the cotton crop was at a critical stage within the next two weeks were important, particularly in terms of cotton management.

He said the agricultural extension staff would be involved in cotton pest scouting, surveillance, and timely control of pest attacks along with technical guidance for the farmers.

SMEDA establishes BSDC for women in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) established a "Business Skills Development Center (BSDC)" for women in Dera Ismail Khan to provide a safe and hassle-free business environment to local women.

The BSDC established here at Government Technical and Vocational College for Women. On this occasion, Commissioner Dera Zafarul Islam along with Assistant Commissioner Dera Farhan Ahmad visited the technical and

vocational college.

The head of department (HoD) briefed the visiting officers about the newly established BSDC. He said the center would be helpful in providing resources and services for business to the women. It would also accelerate their development by promoting business culture among women. The commissioner said by setting up BSDC in Dera Ismail Khan, the problems of women in terms of business infrastructure, business development support and local mobility will be alleviated.

Explosion in Russian Dagestan kills about 30, injuring over 100 including children

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: At least 27 people died including three children when an explosion occurred in a filling station in the city of the Republic of Dagestan Monday, prompting a response from 240 firefighters to contain the deadly blaze that injured over 100 others, Russian news agency Interfax reported.

"During the rescue operation in Makhachkala, the bodies of three more victims were found," the Russian Emergency Ministry said on Telegram. "According to the updated information, as a result of the fire at the petrol station 105 were injured, and of them, 30 died."

A witness quoted on Telegram by the Russian

daily Ivestia said the fire started in an area where cars were parked and spread to the petrol station.

Vladimir Putin urges Kim Jong Un to strengthen ties amid Liberation Day greetings

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin urged Moscow and Pyongyang to strengthen their ties in a message of congratulations to Kim Jong Un, the supreme leader of North Korea on the occasion of the nation's National Liberation Day on Tuesday.

Since the Kremlin sent soldiers to Ukraine resulting in widespread conflicts last year, North Korea and Russia, both increasingly isolated from the West and burdened by sanctions, have grown closer. "I am sure that we will continue to build up bilateral cooperation in all areas for the benefit of our peoples, in the interests of strengthening stability and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the Northeast Asian region as a whole," Putin said in a statement distributed by the Kremlin. According to Putin, it was during Korea's liberation from Japan and "harsh wartime" that groundwork was laid for close cooperation between Moscow and Pyongyang.



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife Kim Keon Hee arrive at a ceremony to celebrate the 78th anniversary of the Korean Liberation Day from Japanese colonial rule in 1945, in Seoul, South Korea.

Sunak blames 'criminals' for migrant deaths in Channel

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak blames the "criminal gangs" facilitating small boat Channel crossings for the "horrific" weekend deaths of at least six migrants, his spokesman said on Monday.

French authorities said one person could still be missing. The identity of the six was still being investigated, the local maritime authorities Premier said on Monday. "Possibly" one person remained unaccounted for, a spokeswoman said. All passengers were men, most of them from Afghanistan.

Six Afghan men died and dozens more required rescuing after a small vessel bound for the southeast English coast from France sank in the Channel in the early hours of Saturday.

"The blame for the tragedy we've seen in the

36 feared dead after landslide at Myanmar mine

Monitoring Desk
HPAKANT: At least 36 people were feared dead at a jade mine in northern Myanmar after being swept into a lake by a huge landslide, a rescue worker and local journalist said on Monday.

The accident happened on Sunday in the remote town of Hpakant, the centre of Myanmar's secretive jade industry, where scavengers risk their lives picking through unstable earth and rubble excavated by mining companies, searching for small pieces of the semi-precious stone.

More than 100 rescue workers were looking for survivors, a member of the rescue team said by phone, declining to be identified due to safety concerns. Eight people were injured and taken to hospital on Sunday.

"We haven't found a body yet, but we are still searching," he said.

Jamaat leader's death sparks protest in Bangladesh

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Thousands of furious protesters chanting anti-government slogans marched in Bangladesh on Monday hours after a leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami died of a heart attack aged 83.

Delwar Hossain Saye-dee, the Jamaat's vice president, died in a prison hospital on Monday evening, just over a decade since his conviction by a controversial war crimes court triggered the deadly political violence in the country's history.

Thousands of mourners and supporters of Delwar Saye-dee rallied outside the hospital after his death, chanting "Allahu akbar". "We won't let the blood of Saye-dee go in vain," supporters shouted, with many blaming the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Santiago Pena, Paraguay's new president, faces tricky balancing act

Monitoring Desk
ASUNCION: Paraguay's new president Santiago Pena takes office on Tuesday, a clean-cut economist for the conservative Colorado party who will need to juggle ties with Taiwan, pressure from farmers, rising crime and a U.S. probe into his political mentor.

Pena, 44, scored a strong win in April elections against a center-left opposition challenger, and helped the Colorado Party, the dominant political force for the last three-quarters of a century, secure a majority in both chambers of Congress.

But the political high-achiever must now maneuver a difficult path ahead. His party's diplomatic support for Taiwan has hurt local farmers' grains exports to China, which claims sovereignty over the self-governed is-

Advocates sue federal government for failing to ban imports of cocoa harvested by children

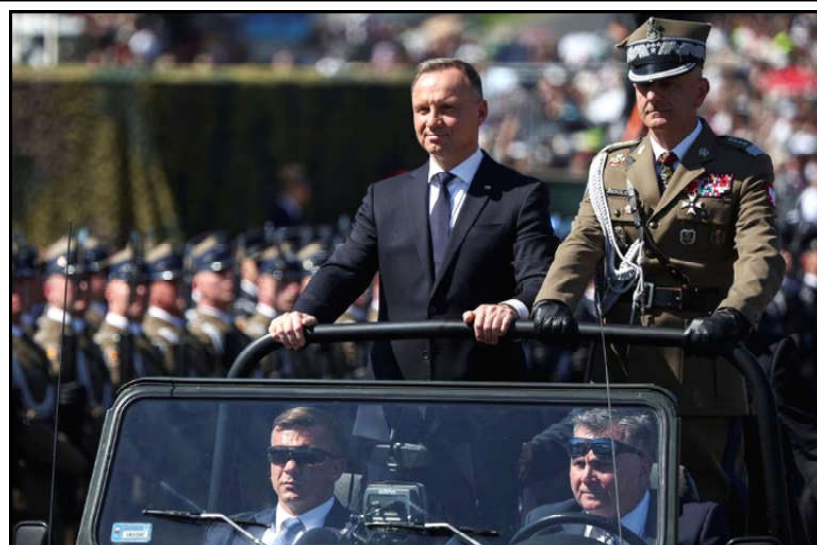
Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Child welfare advocates filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday asking a judge to force the Biden administration to block imports of cocoa harvested by children in West Africa that can end up in America's most popular chocolate desserts and candies.

The lawsuit, brought by International Rights Advocates, seeks to have the federal government enforce a 1930s era federal law that requires the government to ban products created by child labor from entering the U.S.

Ex-US president Trump indicted for racketeering over 2020 election interference

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump was indicted on Tuesday on charges of racketeering and a string of election crimes after a sprawling, two-year probe into his efforts to overturn his 2020 defeat to Joe Biden in the US state of Georgia.

The case — relying on laws typically used to bring down mobsters — is the fourth targeting the 77-year-old Republican this year and could lead to a watershed moment, the first televised trial of a former president in US history. Prosecutors in Atlanta charged Trump with 13 felony counts — com-



Polish President Andrzej Duda arrives for the military parade on Armed Forces Day, celebrated annually on August 15 to commemorate Poland's victory over the Soviet Union's Red Army in 1920, in Warsaw, Poland.

South Korea's Yoon calls for strong security cooperation with US, Japan ahead of Camp David summit

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korea's president called for deeper security cooperation with the U.S. and Japan to address North Korea's nuclear threat, saying Tuesday that his upcoming summit with the U.S. and Japanese leaders at Camp David will "set a new milestone in trilateral cooperation."

It will be the first time for the leaders of the three countries to gather specifically for a trilateral summit,

rather than on the sidelines of international meetings. This suggests they are serious about boosting their ties in the midst of complex regional challenges such as North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal and Washington's strategic rivalry with Beijing.

In their summit Friday at the U.S. presidential retreat in Maryland, President Joe Biden, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime

Minister Fumio Kishida are expected to announce plans for expanded military cooperation on ballistic missile defense and technology development, according to two senior Biden administration officials.

The summit "will set a new milestone in trilateral cooperation contributing to peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in the Indo-Pacific region," Yoon said in a televised speech in Seoul on Tuesday.

US, Japan, South Korea to announce deeper defense cooperation at Camp David summit

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States, Japan and South Korea are expected to announce plans for expanded military cooperation on ballistic missile defenses and technology development in the face of growing concern about North Korea's nuclear program when the countries' leaders gather at Camp David for a summit Friday, according to two senior Biden administration officials.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss planning for the summit, said the announcements

China, India agree to maintain peace, tranquillity on the ground in border areas

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China and India agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity on the ground in the border areas, China's defence ministry said in a joint statement on the 19th round of the China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting on Tuesday.

Both sides had a positive, constructive, and in-depth discussion on the resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC (line of actual control) in the Western Sector, the ministry said.



Taliban members celebrate on the second anniversary of the fall of Kabul on a street near the US embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Baghdad zoo animals suffer as mercury hits 50 degrees Celsius

Monitoring Desk
BAGHDAD: A pair of Siberian tigers pant incessantly beside a pond at their zoo enclosure in the scorching summer heat of the Iraqi capital.

Temperatures on Monday breached 50 degrees Celsius in Baghdad for the second day in a row — making life outdoors unbearable for both humans and animals.

The orange, striped felines from far-eastern Russia are more suited to living "where temperatures drop to as low as minus 20 degrees" than in one of the hottest cities in the world, said Wassim Sarih, the veterinarian at Baghdad's only zoo.

American tourists found sleeping off atop Eiffel Tower

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Two American tourists were found sleeping off a heavy night in the heights of Paris' Eiffel Tower on Monday, after dodging security the night before, the monument's operator said on Tuesday.

Security guards roused the men "in the early morning" as they were making their rounds before the French landmark's 9:00 am opening time, publicly-owned Eiffel Tower operator Sete said.

Advocates sue federal government for failing to ban imports of cocoa harvested by children

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Child welfare advocates filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday asking a judge to force the Biden administration to block imports of cocoa harvested by children in West Africa that can end up in America's most popular chocolate desserts and candies.

The lawsuit, brought by International Rights Advocates, seeks to have the federal government enforce a 1930s era federal law that requires the government to ban products created by child labor from entering the U.S.

Afghanistan's Taliban gov't marks two years since return to power

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban government marked on Tuesday the second anniversary of their takeover of the country with celebrations and a public holiday, issuing a defiant statement commemorating their surge back to power.

Flags of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan — the name given to the country by its new rulers — fluttered at security checkpoints across the capital, which fell on August 15, 2021, when the US-backed government collapsed and its leaders fled into exile.

In the two years since, Taliban authorities have imposed their strict interpretation of Islam, with women bearing the brunt of laws the United Nations has termed "gender apartheid".

A statement from the authorities early on Tuesday hailed a victory that was able to "pave the way for the establishment of the

Islamic system in Afghanistan".

"The conquest of Kabul proved once again that no one can control the proud nation of Afghanistan" and that "no invader will be allowed to threaten the independence and freedom" of the country, it said.

Quiet Kabul streets early today began to give way to convoys of Taliban members and a gathering at Massoud Square near the abandoned US embassy building.

Some of the men carried their weapons, while others snapped smiling selfies as anthems blared and young boys sold the movement's white flag inscribed with the Islamic declaration of faith.

In Herat in the west, a crowd of Taliban supporters chanted: "Death to the Europeans, death to the Westerners, long live the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, death to the Americans."



Supporters of Delwar Hossain Saye-dee, of the Jamaat-i-Islami, gather in front of the hospital after his death in Dhaka.

China opposes UN Security Council meeting on North Korea rights

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: China opposes a planned United Nations Security Council meeting on human rights abuses in North Korea because it will only "intensify confrontation and antagonism," a spokesperson for China's U.N. mission in New York said on Monday.

The United States, Albania and Japan requested the meeting, which will be held on Thursday. It will be the first formal public meeting of the 15-member council on the issue since 2017.

"China sees no added value for the council to have such a meeting and will be against it," said China's U.N. mission spokesperson, adding that the council's mandate was "maintenance of international peace and security,

not human rights."

"A council meeting on human rights in the DPRK falls outside the council's mandate, politicizes human rights issues, and only serves to intensify confrontation and antagonism," said the spokesperson, referring to the country's formal name - the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for an increase in missile production to help secure "overwhelming military power" and be ready for war, state media KCNA said on Monday, as South Korea and the United States gear up for annual military drills. It was not immediately clear if China would call a procedural vote on Thursday to try and block the Security Council meeting on rights abuses.

Poland showcases military might in a parade as war rages in neighboring Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland staged a military parade on Tuesday to showcase its state-of-the-art weapons and defense systems, as war rages across its southeastern border in neighboring Ukraine and ahead of parliamentary elections scheduled for Oct. 15.

Crowds gathered in scorching temperatures expected to reach 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) to see U.S.-made Abrams tanks, HIMARS mobile artillery systems and Patriot missile systems, as well as South Korean FA-50 fighter jets and K9 howitzers. Since Russia launched its invasion of

Ukraine in February 2022, Poland's right-wing government has spent more than \$16 billion on tanks, missile interceptor systems and fighter jets, many purchased across its southeastern border in neighboring Ukraine and ahead of parliamentary elections scheduled for Oct. 15.

Poland, a NATO member, supports Kyiv in its war against Russia.

The parade was held in Poland's capital on the anniversary of the 1920 Battle of Warsaw, in which Polish troops defeated Bolshevik forces advancing on Europe. The military upgrades have bolstered Poland's defense capabilities and some items replaced Soviet- and Russian-made equipment that Poland gave to Ukraine.

Militia clashes rock Libya's capital, leaving civilians trapped, health ministry says

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Clashes between rival militias in the Libyan capital have left residents trapped in their homes unable to escape the violence, the country's health ministry said Tuesday, in what appears to be the most intense fighting to rock Tripoli this year.

Fighting broke out between the 444 brigade and the Special Deterrence Force late Monday evening, according to local media. Tensions flared after the head of the 444 brigade was allegedly detained by the other force at an airport in Tripoli earlier Monday, media reported.

The Health Ministry urged the warring sides to allow ambulance and emergency teams to enter the affected areas, primarily in the south of the city, and for blood to be sent to nearby hospitals.

It remains unclear how

many casualties there are. Libya's Red Crescent did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

OPSGroup, an organization for the aviation industry, said late Monday that a large number of aircraft departed the capital due to the clashes. Inbound flights were diverting to the nearby city of Misrata, it said. The escalation follows months of relative peace after nearly a decade of civil war in Libya, where two rival sets of authorities are locked in a political stalemate. Longstanding divisions have sparked several incidents of violence in Tripoli in recent years, although most have been over in a matter of hours. In a statement Tuesday, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya said it was following with concern "the security incidents and developments" that began Monday.



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel search for victims at the site of a landslide after a temple collapsed due to heavy rains in Shimla.

Rules out political alliance IPP decides to expose PDM, PTI failed policies

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Isteqdam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) on Tuesday decided to expose previous rainbow coalition Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and their failed policies.

The IPP had started its election campaign with verve. In this regard, the IPP top brass had formulated the strategy.

Sources divulged that

IPP patron-in-chief Jahangir Khan Tareen and party chairman Abdul Aleem Khan hosted the luncheon to discuss matters related to the general elections.

IPP supremo also instructed the party workers to start campaigning in their respective constituencies.

During the meeting, it was decided to focus on the prices of the petroleum (POL) products and power.

The IPP patron-in-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting to review ongoing road infrastructure projects.



ISLAMABAD: An Afghan national with her hands and face painted rakes part with others in a demonstration against the Taliban government on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

Masood decorates Urooj Aftab with President's 'Pride of Performance' Award

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has decorated GRAMMY award winner Urooj Aftab with prestigious President's Pride of Performance award during a ceremony held in



connection with Independence Day in Washington DC.

Urooj Aftab is an internationally recognized Pakistani American vocalist, music composer and pro-

SC dismisses contempt of court plea against Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed contempt of court plea against former federal minister Ahsan Iqbal.

Ahsan Iqbal had said we have also respect like a military officer or judge.

The case came up for hearing before CJP Umar Ata Bandial here Tuesday.

The CJP remarked Ahsan Iqbal had said we have too respect like any army officer or judge. This sentence is not enough to run a case further.

The CJP remarked this is upto us to decide if the contempt of court has taken place or otherwise. The petitioner Mehmood Akhtar Naqvi Sahb, you informed, thanks.

3 terrorists of banned outfit held

SUKKUR (INP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested three terrorists of a banned outfit besides recovering hand grenades and detonators from their possession here on Tuesday.

According to the CTD spokesperson, a team of the department searched a Jaffarabad bound vehicle near Dargah Pir Musafair in Sukkur.

During search, three members of banned outfit including Akram Ali, Rashid Hussain and Muhammad Yousof were arrested. Three hand grenades, a timer, 20 detonators, nut bolt, ball bearings, 400 gram explosive chemical, 15 feet safety fuse wire were recovered and vehicle was taken into custody.

The CTD spokesperson said that the detainees were involved in assisting the terrorist and target killing of several people. Further investigation from them was underway.

US dollar strengthens further against rupee

KARACHI (INP): The value of the US dollar has surged against the Pakistani rupee in the interbank exchange, causing concerns for the local economy.

At the beginning of the business week, the US dollar recorded a notable gain of one rupee against the rupee, solidifying its upward trajectory.

The dollar rose by Rs3.60 in the interbank market on Tuesday morning, reaching a new high of Rs292.10.

The greenback also rose by Rs6 in the open market, reaching Rs302. The increase in the dollar came amid concerns about the country's economic outlook.

Currency experts and dealers reported that on the opening day of the business week, the US dollar continued its ascent, becoming more expensive by an additional rupee in the interbank market.

This development comes on the heels of a previous increase, where on the final day of the prior week,

NAB Balochistan organises Independence Day celebration

QUETTA (APP): Like proud nations, NAB Balochistan celebrated Independence Day with zeal and enthusiasm. NAB officers, officials and other staff participated therein ardently.

The children of NAB employees dressed up in colorful ceremonial clothes in accordance with the day put in their presence at the event. Director General NAB Mr. Zafar Iqbal Khan unfurled the flag in the presence of cheers and faces of the participants.

Soon after hoisting the flag, Mr. Zafar Iqbal Khan

mingled with the officers, staff and children. He individually shook hands with every officer, official and kid in connection with the Independence Day celebration. Groups photos with kids, officers and officials were taken separately for their solacement.

Subsequently, the Director General made a speech in commemoration of day. He put heartfelt felicitations for the day. He paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his companions of Pakistan movement. He

counted the benefits of independence by recalling plight of Muslims before the creation of Pakistan. He recalled the Quaid's quote "Work, Work and only Work" and advised the audience that the development of Pakistan is hidden in hard working. He advised to adapt the lives on the principals of "Self-Accountability is the Best Accountability".

The ceremony ended at comperation wherein Qari Abdul Hafeez made special prayers for the permanency and prosperity of the country.

Achakzai expresses concern rise in narcotics dens in Chaman

CHAMAN: The senior Vice President of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and former Provincial Minister, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has expressed deep concern over the increase in dens of narcotics as well as lack of health and education facilities in Chaman. He charged that the corruption has been rampant in the development schemes. He said that the development works have been carried out in a specific area. This and similar views were expressed by Abdul Khaliq Achakzai while addressing an emergent press conference in Chaman on Tuesday.

He said that the present decision of Election Commission is appropriate regarding the constituencies as he had been separated from his workers.

He demanded of the

concerned quarters to conduct inquiry into the corruption done in development projects of previous Chaman.

He said that tribes are settled in the area for centuries, but those who raised the slogan of "Bacha Khan" made an attempt to create hatred in Chaman by establishing grid station, sports complex and girls college in a specific area.

The senior leader of BAP on the occasion congratulated the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar and hoped that he would not leave any stone unturned in performing his responsibilities.

He said that a political party has done nothing for the area except nationalism and spreading hatred. Also present on the occasion were Attaullah Achakzai, Matiullah Achakzai and other office bearers of BAP.

Samsam Bukhari quits PTI

LAHORE (INP): Former Punjab minister Samsam Bukhari on Tuesday announced to part ways with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) after condemning May 9 violence.

Samsam Bukhari made this announcement after meeting Isteqdam-e-Pakistan Party chairman Jahangir Khan Tareen in Lahore. The meeting was also attended by senior leaders of the party including Aun Chaudhry, Noman Langrial and others.

The former provincial minister is likely to join IPP in the coming days. Bukhari in his statement said like every patriotic Pakistani he also condemns May 9 violence, triggered after the arrest of the former prime minister in Al-Qadir Trust case. He also urged the need for joint efforts for the betterment of the country. Earlier, Special Assistant to Prime Minister of Interior, Attaullah Tarar shared an alleged leaked audio conversation.

Raza Rabbani says: Delayed elections not to be in favour of country, people

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani said on Tuesday that despite passage of six days after dissolution of National Assembly, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has not yet announced about elections.

The Senator said, "Time passes rapidly over the 90 days' constitutional deadline for elections but regretfully the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has yet to issue a comprehensive statement on the election."

"The ECP should inform about the time limit required for fixing boundaries of constituencies after approval of the digital population census results," Raza Rabbani maintained.

He emphasized, "The election commission should not treat the issue as a routine matter." "The delay in holding elections within the period allowed by the constitution, will bring serious consequences for the federation," he cautioned. Senator Raza Rabbani had earlier also warned that delay in elections would prove to be "dangerous" for the federation. The PPP Senator had commented after the CCI unanimously approved the 7th Population and Housing Census, making it almost certain that the general elections would not be held within the constitutional period and during the current year as the election commission will be needed time for fresh delimitation of the constituencies.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo

Hurriyat leaders say: India's status in Kashmir is nothing but an aggressor

SRINAGAR (INP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders and organizations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have said that India's status in Kashmir is nothing but an aggressor, so it has no right to celebrate its Independence Day in the territory. According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC leaders Khadim Hussain and Syed Sibte Shabbir Qummi in a joint statement issued in Srinagar said that India had snatched the freedom of Kashmiri Muslims at gunpoint.

The leaders said that India was taking their lands, houses, business centers to make Kashmiri Muslims strangers in their own homeland.

APHC leader from Jammu and Kashmir Social Peace Forum, Advocate Devinder Singh Bahl in a statement said that Kashmiri people celebrate India's Independence Day as a black day every year, and every national day of India as a black day. He said that on August 5, 2019, the fascist Modi government violated the rights of the Kashmiri people to turn the Muslim majority of the occupied territory into a minority. Hurriyat leaders Muhammad Yasin Attai, Maulana Musab Nadvi and Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Pir Panjal Freedom Movement and Jammu and Kashmir People.



HUB: Journalists are holding protest demonstration against killing of Jan Muhammad Mehar Senior Journalist, at Hub Press Club.

NA speaker extends felicitations to Pakistan Civil Award nominees

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, on Tuesday, conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to the individuals nominated for the prestigious Pakistan Civil Awards in a gesture of appreciation and recognition.

These awards, which acknowledge remarkable contributions in diverse fields, including social, public, educational, scientific, heroic, artistic, literary, cultural, journalistic, and medical domains, reflect the nation's gratitude for their exceptional services.

A notable highlight of Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf's message was the

profound tribute paid to senior political leader Syed Qaim Ali Shah. Acknowledging Shah's profound political acumen and unmatched insights, he lauded him as a seasoned political and social luminary. "A significant historical figure, Syed Qaim Ali Shah stands as the sole surviving member of the 1973 Constitutional Committee, having the distinct honor of signing the Constitution. Given his extensive political, social, constitutional, and public contributions, the conferment of the esteemed Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian award, is seen as a commendable acknowledgment," he maintained.

Food Festival arranged to mark I. Day celebrations at Railway Station Qta

QUETTA: The special Food Festival was organized at the Railway Station Quetta on Monday night.

The Festival which marked the celebrations of Independence Day was organized in collaboration with the Balochistan Food Authority and district administration.

Different stalls with variety of foods were set up in the Festival by the famous food points and outlets of the city and district administration that attracted a large number of people.

However, the stall of BFA remained the center of

special attention of the people where they were informed about the proper and healthy diet and food.

The exhibitory tests were also conducted at the BFA stall to check quality of food. In addition to this, music programme was also arranged that enthralled the participants.

The Commissioner Quetta, Sohailur Rehman Baloch and Secretary Information, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat among those who visited the food festival and enjoyed the festivity there.

They also inspected the stalls and expressed pleasure over interest of the people in the Festival.



QUETTA: Pakistan Mili Tehreek Chairman, Syed Ghulam Rabbani addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta Press Club.

PDM's hopes dashed to ground after appointment of a caretaker PM: Rashid

RAWALPINDI (INP): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that the hopes and aspirations of the 13-party opposition alliance, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), were dashed to the ground after the appointment of a caretaker prime minister.

In a message on social media, Rashid said that the PDM parties were ashamed of each other and did not even have the courage to congratulate each other on the appointment of the caretaker PM. He said that the PDM parties were asking each other what had happened and how it had happened.

Rashid also criticized the way the 16-month-old PDM government de-

parted, saying that they were humiliated and not even considered worthy of being consulted.

He asked in which country of the world Section 144 was imposed on Independence Day. He said that electricity was cut off in those areas where the headquarters of all the military organizations were located. People were arrested and locked up in police stations, he added. The AML chief said that the institutions should make it clear where women and children were kept after they were taken away from their homes. He warned that the seeds of hatred which were being sown in Pakistan would not yield any positive results. The consequences might be dire, he said.

Maryam chairs party meeting to interview candidates for in KP

ISLAMABAD (INP): An organisational meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Youth Wing was held Tuesday under the chairmanship of Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz to interview candidates for the posts of Youth Coordinators in seven districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Interviews of candidates from Bannu, Hazara, Dera Ismail Khan, Peshawar, Mardan, Malakand and Kohat divisions were conducted.

The Youth Organising Committees will work under the supervision of the Provincial Youth Organising Committee.

Earlier, the Youth Organising Committee of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was formed. PML-N Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz Sharif was appointed as the chairperson while Bilal Azhar Kayani as the secretary of the committee.

JIT grills Bushra Bibi for 20 minutes in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Bushra Bibi, who is the former first lady and wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, Tuesday appeared before a joint investigation team (JIT) in connection with the Toshakhana case.

The former first lady reached the DIG Office in Islamabad accompanied by the PIT's legal team where she was interrogated by the investigation team probing the Toshakhana case.

The development comes after Bushra Bibi met Imran Khan in Attock jail earlier today, the sources said, adding that their meeting lasted for about two hours. She had left for the DIG office after her meeting with Khan, the sources added. The session court had directed Bushra Bibi to join the investigation team.

Speaking to media persons after the appearance before the JIT, PTI legal team's Quratul Ain said that Bushra Bibi underwent interrogation for about 20 minutes. The JIT asked 20 questions from the former first lady and she answered all of the questions, Quratul Ain said.

Fawad Ch files new written apology in contempt of EC case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has filed new written apology in Election Commission (EC) in contempt of EC case.

The contempt of EC case came up for hearing before 5 members bench of EC presided over by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Tuesday.

Fawad Chaudhry and his counsel Faisal Chaudhry appeared in the

court.

Fawad Chaudhry took the plea during the hearing of the case that "you said in order my language was not correct. I am filing my written apology again after correcting my language."

He filed new written apology in the EC.

The CEC while adjourning the hearing of the case till August 24 remarked we order on next hearing.



QUETTA: Secretary Social Welfare Imran Khan presiding over 20th meeting of Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund