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Member APNS & CPNE

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Caretaker govt to ensure transparent, impartial election process: PM Kakar

Caretaker govt to fulfill constitutional requirement of assisting electoral process

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Tuesday reiterated that the interim government would ensure holding of the upcoming general elections in the most transparent and impartial manner, accepted to all.

Talking to media after visiting the Mazar-e-Quaid to pay tribute and offer Fataha, the prime minister said that the caretaker government would function in the limited time-frame only

to ensure the election process. They would play their part in that regard by holding transparent and impartial polls, so that Pakistan could move through its constitutional transitional period, he added.

On the occasion, the prime minister was accompanied by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqir and the members of his cabinet. It was the

maiden visit of the caretaker prime minister to Karachi after assuming his office.

The prime minister said that he along with his few cabinet members came here to pay homage to Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah and reaffirm to work for the progress and prosperity of the country by highlighting the social contract under which a separate state came into being.

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki talking with a patient during his visit to Bolan Medical Complex Hospital

Ali Mardan expresses anger over cleanliness, lack of medicine in BMC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed dismay over the poor state of cleanliness and non-availability of the medicines in Bolan Medical Complex Hospital, Quetta.

He issued standing directives to the concerned authorities to improve the cleanliness situation and healthcare facilities for the patients in hospital.

He also directed to establish more counters in Out patient departments of the hospital.

The caretaker Chief Minister was on surprise visit to the BMC Hospital on Tuesday morning. During the visit, he visited different sections of the hos-

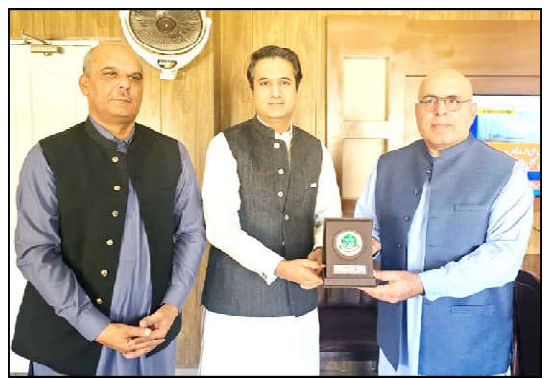
pital including OPDs and inspected the facilities being provided to the patients there.

Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister asserted that absence of the doctors and other medical staff would not be tolerated in the hospitals.

He said that there is no political pressure on him, which otherwise affects functioning and performance of the institutions.

He also urged the doctors and medical staff to behave kindly with the patients approaching them for treatment.

Meanwhile, the caretaker Chief Minister was briefed by the Medical Superintendent of BMC Hospital about its overall performance.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Hamza Shafiqat presenting a shield to Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai. DGPR Kamran Asad is also present

Jan Achakzai

Govt. would provide better working environment to employees of Information Dept

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achakzai visited the office of Secretary Information here on Tuesday.

The Secretary Information, Hamza Shafiqat and Director General Public Relations, Kamran Asad welcomed the caretaker Minister.

During the course of meeting, the Minister Information was briefed by the Secretary Information about the department's related matters. On the occasion, there was also detailed discussion about the issues and challenges being faced by the department.

Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker Information Minister said that performance of employees of every institution directly relates with the facilities and necessities provided to them. The provision of conducive working environment would bear good results, adding he believed.

He assured that the present caretaker government would provide every possible facilities to provide better working environment remaining in its framework.

Jan Achakzai exhorted the department's officers and staff to perform their duties with sincerity and honesty.

PM assures all-out efforts for addressing Balochistan issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar Tuesday assured of making all-out efforts, on part of the government, for the resolution of issues of Balochistan province.

The prime minister was talking to a six-member delegation from Balochistan province led by Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai, a former member of the National Assembly, that called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The delegation felicitated the caretaker prime minister on assuming his office and apprised him of the issues faced by the province.

Electricity tariff likely to go up Rs 2.07 per unit

ISLAMABAD (Online): Preparations are underway to drop electricity bombshell on the consumers.

The electricity tariff is likely to scale up by Rs 2.07 for power distribution companies.

CPPA GA has filed application in NEPRA seeking hike in power tariff under monthly fuel charges adjustment.

In the event of approval, an additional burden of Rs 35 billion will be shifted to the consumers.

NEPRA will hear the plea of Central Power Purchasing Agency on August 30.

Humaira Ahmed refusal to serve as Principal Secretary to President of Pak

ISLAMABAD (Online): The President Dr. Arif Alvi had returned the services of his principal secretary Waqar Ahmed yesterday and demanded that Humaira Ahmed be appointed as Secretary.

However Humaira Ahmed, officer of 22 grade has refused to serve as Principal Secretary of President of Pakistan.

Humaira Ahmed is currently working as Secretary of Narcotics Division.



KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar talking to media after visiting Mazar-e-Quaid

No addition burden to be put on public exchequer: Caretaker CM vows to decrease unnecessary expenditures to bring down budget deficit

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has categorically stated that the caretaker government would decrease the unnecessary expenditures to the minimum level in order to bring down the budget deficit.

He pledged that additional burden would not be put on the public exchequer and the spending on the foreign trips, protocol and other heads would be lessened.

In addition to this, the caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar would be requested for recovery of the arrears of around Rs. 87 billion payable against the federation on different accounts so as to prepare

a clear procedure for acquiring the arrears, which otherwise are outstanding for long.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking during briefing conducted on the development and financial matters of the province here on Tuesday. The briefing was conducted by the Planning and Development and Finance departments.

Also present on the occasion were the Chief Secretary, Shakil Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Hafiz Abdul Basit and Secretary Finance, Zahid Saleem.

During the briefing, the caretaker Chief Minister briefed about the ongoing development projects included in the PSDP, CPEC projects, foreign funded

projects as well as the projects of Gwadar and rehabilitation of the flood affected areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki said that it is responsibility of the caretaker government to conduct the free and fair elections in peaceful environment. For this, financial discipline has the basic importance, he maintained.

He directed to complete the ongoing development projects within stipulated time. He said that unnecessary delay in completion of the projects increases their costs.

He on the occasion praised the Secretary Finance and his team for the ongoing reform programme in the Finance department.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing participants of Women Police Conference

Governor calls for ensuring women participation in all sectors in Balochistan

Suggests establishing female police station at each division to solve issues of women

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need to ensure participation of women in all sectors in the province. However, he noted with pleasure that over 700 women including 15 officers are serving in the police force.

The Governor was addressing the women police conference held under the auspices of UN Women in collaboration with the German Embassy and Balochistan police here at a local hotel on Tuesday.

The former Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Rahila Hameed Durrani, former Senator, Mrs. Roshan Khursheed Bharucha, senior police officers, women police officers and personnel were also present.

The Governor said that the beauty and colour of the society is associated with both men and women, and their combined efforts can guarantee the society free of every kind of exploration. He proposed to set up separate female police stations at the level of division in the province.

The Governor said that it is a good initiative to raise voice for elimination of gender discrimination and for rights and powers of the women.

He said that today's conscious women are not ready to remain deaf and dumb and just confined to the four walls in the name of parental system.

He observed that generally our women economically depend on the men, this is why they are dependent on the men in all affairs of the life.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister Prince Ali Ahmedzai, Malik Shehryar and other meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Six soldiers martyred, 4 terrorists killed in SW encounter: ISPR

PESHAWAR (APP): Six troops were martyred and four terrorists killed during exchange of firing in South Waziristan tribal district on Tuesday.

According to ISPR, fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists in general area Asman Manza, South Waziristan District.

"Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly four terrorists were sent to hell, while two terrorists were injured. However, during intense exchange of fire, six brave soldiers fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat," the ISPR said.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists

found in the area. Armed forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Online adds: Funeral prayers of shuhada who embraced shahadat today while fighting valiantly against terrorists during intense exchange of fire between Army troops and terrorists in the general area Asman Manza, South Waziristan District were offered at Wana.

Shuhada will be laid to rest with full military honours in their respective hometowns. Corps Commander Peshawar and other senior serving officers attended the funeral prayers.

Battagram cable car:

All eight rescued in hours-long operation

Two wires of the motor-driven conveyor carrying school children snapped, leaving them stranded mid-air



BATTAGRAM (INP): All eight stranded persons, including schoolchildren and a teacher, were successfully rescued by Pakistan Army troops in hours-long operation after two wires of a cable car snapped in Battagram's Allai tehsil on Tuesday morning, leaving them stranded over 600 feet mid-air.

Military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said in a statement that the GOC SSG himself supervised the operation.

The Ministry of Interior said the rescued persons are identified as Irfan s/o Amrez, Niaz s/o Umarzeb, Rizwan s/o Abdul Qayyum, Gulfaraz s/o Hakeemdat, Sher Nawaz s/o Shah Nazar, Abrar s/o Abdul Ghani, Attaulah s/o Kifayatullah and Usama s/o Muhammad Sharif.

Gwadar port to export 30 containers this month

GWADAR (INP): Thirty containers carrying pharmaceutical raw material will be exported to China from Gwadar Port this month.

The material imported from South America and Africa will be exported by the Chinese Hangeng Agriculture group after being processed at the company's industrial park in Gwadar.

Talking to Gwadar Pro, the company's CEO Andy Liao said that previously they were exporting 30 containers of pharmaceutical raw material to China, now adding these there will

be a total export of 60 containers every month.

"We participate actively to engage with BRI and CPEC. Our plan is to increase the export to 150 containers per month by the end of this year," he added.

The agricultural Group specialized in planting aloe vera, processing and exporting of agriculture products as well as animal husbandry has already established its processing unit in Gwadar South Free Zone and an under-construction factory in the North Free Zone.



ISLAMABAD: Director General, FIA Mohsin Hassan Butt called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Pakistan Rangers apprehend six Indian nationals inside Pakistani territory

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan Rangers troops deployed along international border with India apprehended six Indian nationals inside Pakistani territory from July 29 to August 3, 2023.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a news release on Tuesday said these smugglers and criminals were trying to smuggle narcotics, weapons and ammunition into Pakistan.

"It is surprising that these smugglers could cross the heavily fenced border under perpetual surveillance of BSF (Indian Bor-

der Security Force). It shows likely complicity of BSF troops in narco and weapons smuggling. In addition, it is also surprising that Indian BSF troops have so far failed to report six missing citizens," the ISPR said.

The four apprehended smugglers were identified as Gurmeej son of Guldeep Singh, Shinder Singh son of Bhora Singh, Juginder Singh son of Thakur Singh and Vishal son of Jagga belong to Ferozpur, Rattan Pal Singh son of Mahinder Singh belongs to Jalandhar and Garvender Singh son of Mukhtiar Singh belongs to Ludhiana.

Federal Minister announces to organize National level literary conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah has said that National level literary conference on linguistics and folk literature would be organized soon, aiming to promote literature and folk literary heritage.

Talking to APP, Federal Minister Syed Jamal Shah said that the conference would offer a platform for regional literary academies from across the country and academicians to present and discuss the languages, cultures, and litera-

ture. The minister said that he has issued directions to the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) and the National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) to initiate work on organizing national-level literary conferences.

Syed Jamal Shah emphasized the need of educating children with local literature and storytelling to arise their interest in reading to enhance their intellectual caliber as juvenile literature played a crucial part in education providing both

knowledge and entertainment. Talking about cultural narrative, he said that the cultural narrative should be based on our rich cultural heritage, adding that the country's valuable heritage should be our identity.

Jamal Shah stressed for educating youth about folk heritage, culture, and art, adding that Pakistan's culture, art, and society are heavily influenced by its diverse historical background, starting from the ancient Mohenj-o-Daro to the more recent Mughal era.



Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi met with the delegation of daily wage teachers in Islamabad

India using brute force to suppress Kashmiris' voice for freedom

ISLAMABAD (INP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders and parties have denounced the persistent use of military and police force to suppress the people's genuine voice for their inalienable right to self-determination.

APHC leader Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Noor Muhammad Fayaz, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir, Jammu Kashmir National Front, Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement Chairman Jameel Ahmad, Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement Chairman Altaf Ahmed Butt and Jammu and Kashmir Pirpanchal

Movement in their separate statements deplored that nearly one million Indian occupation forces were patrolling the roads and streets of IIOJK had utterly failed to block the legitimate right to self-determination demand a peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute as guaranteed by the United Nations resolutions. The statements, while expressing deep concern over the military and police siege in Kashmir, said that the overwhelming public support for the genuine demand for plebiscite and freedom despite the deprivation of their fundamental rights had frustrated one million.

UKSHA team calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) Chief Executive Officer Professor Dame Jenny Harries along with her team called on the Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health Itfikhah Ali Shallwani, Additional Secretary Kamran Rehman and DG Health.

The focus of the partnership between the M/o NHR&C and UKSHA is to promote efficient choices, especially in the light of the lessons learned from COVID-19 were discussed.

Mutual learning and capacity-building of the healthcare workforce in Pakistan through sharing and implementation of systems with the support of UKSHA is a priority.

China Cultural Counselor calls on Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Cultural Counselor, China Embassy, Zhang Heqing Tuesday called on Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah here at Heritage and Culture Division. The counselor felicitated Jamal Shah on assuming charge as Federal Minister. During the meeting, they discussed mutual interest issues particularly cultural exchange programs.

Zhang extended a special invitation to the minister for attending ongoing Gandhara exhibition being held in China. The minister assured to attend the exhibition during his visit to China. The counselor also congratulated renowned artist Jamal Shah on releasing his first ever Pak China joint feature film 'Ba'tie Girl'. The minister said that the two countries should collaborate in all fields of art as there lie huge scope, adding that it would further strengthen people to people ties between the two friendly nations.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan being briefed by CEO DRP.

Pink Ribbon, HEC honour universities leading breast cancer awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pink Ribbon Pakistan, in collaboration with the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) at Higher Education Commission (HEC), hosted an Awards Ceremony at the HEC Headquarters on Tuesday to honour universities leading breast cancer awareness.

The event was aimed to announce the winners of the PINKtober Youth Awareness Programme for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

It also celebrated the achievement of two million youth ambassadors from across Pakistan who have been educated on breast cancer awareness and prevention.

A total of 63 awards were presented to universities and colleges in recognition of their exceptional participation in the annual PINKtober campaign.

Pink Ribbon Pakistan organizes this campaign every October to raise Breast Cancer Awareness. Over 200 educational institutions have contributed through fundraisers, seminars, walks, competitions, and panel discussions under this initiative.

First position awards for the years 2019 to 2022 were conferred upon Kinnaird College for Women University, Government Graduate College for Women Baghbanpura, Mirpur University of Science and Technology, The University of Lahore, Government College University Faisalabad, and Government Graduate College for Women Shadbagh.

Government College University Lahore, Institute of Business Administration Sukkur, Government Degree College for Women Kot Khwaja Saeed, WAH Medical College, Pa-

kistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Habib University, and Fatima Jinnah Dental College secured the second position in the University and College categories, respectively.

In his address, Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, as a chief guest, praised the proactive involvement of students in addressing the critical issue of breast cancer.

He highlighted the collaboration between academic institutions and HEC in the Pink Ribbon Youth Awareness Programme, underlining the importance of educating young adults on health awareness, particularly in the face of rapidly spreading breast cancer.

Dr. Ahmed urged universities to undertake research projects to understand the reasons behind the alarming prevalence of breast cancer in Pakistan.



Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting to review progress on CPEC Projects in Islamabad

Minister says: Govt working tirelessly to upgrade facilities for Hujjaj, maximum relief in fee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday said that the government is committed to providing all possible facilities to Pakistani pilgrims and to giving maximum concession to make the pilgrimage an exemplary one this time.

Pakistan authorities will discuss an increase in the country's quota for the Hajj pilgrimage during the Saudi Hajj Minister Dr Tawfiq Al-Rabiah's four-day visit, he said while talking to a Private news chan-

nel. Minister said the visit of Saudi minister is historic and was of great importance for Pakistan, adding, multiple issues related to facilities for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims and expansion of the Route to Makkah project to other Pakistani cities will be discussed.

"We will also discuss the increase in Hajj quota according to the population of Pakistan under the new census and if they (the Saudi delegation) agree, then our Hajj quota will be the highest in the world based

on the new census," he added.

Replying to a question, the minister said that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) will also be signed during the visit to enhance future Hajj arrangements.

About the Pakistan and Saudi Arabia bilateral relations, he said Road to Makkah means the immigration of the Hujjaj which will be done from Pakistan.

And they will face no difficulties upon their arrival in Saudi Arabia, he added.

Hearing of contempt of EC case against Imran adjourned

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has adjourned hearing of contempt of EC case against Chairman PTI and PTI leader Asad Umar till September 5.

A 3-member commission of EC presided over by member Sindh Nisar Durrani took up for hearing contempt of EC case against PTI chairman and Asad Umar on Tuesday.

Shoab Shaheen counsel for chairman PTI ap-

peared before commission. He said they have challenged this case in Lahore High Court (LHC). Chairman PTI is in jail, therefore, exemption from attendance be granted.

He said he has not been allowed to meet Chairman PTI so far. When I meet my client then I will be in a position to file reply. DG law said if commission has to indict then he can be called here through roobkar.

Interior minister grieved over martyrdom of six soldiers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of six soldiers in exchange of gunfire with militants in North Waziristan on Tuesday.

He prayed for the departed souls while appreciating the valour of brave soldiers, said the statement.

Brave soldiers killed four terrorists in the ambush, the minister said in a statement.



ISLAMABAD: Christians hold the holy cross and a banner reading 'Justice should be given to the Christian community victims of Jaranwala tragedy' during a protest to condemn the attack on churches.

DC's team targets price hike, begging, encroachments

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a determined drive to uphold civic order and combat social issues, Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon on Tuesday spearheaded a sweeping initiative to control price hike, encroachments and begging.

Under the guidance of DC, Assistant Commissioners have started operation to curb price hike, remove encroachments and tackle the persistent issue of professional beggary within their areas.

In a resolute display of authority, ACs have meticulously conducted an extensive investigation across (124) locations to combat the surging tide of price hikes. This unrelenting pursuit of fairness resulted in the imposition of fines totaling (14000) for cases of unjustifiable price inflation, accompanied by the conse-

quential sealing of one shop and the apprehension of two individuals.

Similarly, the dedicated efforts yielded the apprehension of (54) professional beggars, promptly escorted to police custody, and further encompassed the clamping down on illegal clinics and illicit shisha cafes.

Furthermore, a crackdown on encroachments has been orchestrated with unwavering commitment. This comprehensive operation led to the apprehension of five individuals found in violation of encroachment regulations.

Notably, this pursuit also saw the confiscation of more than (8) kg of environmentally hazardous polythene bags, firmly underscoring the commitment to preserving the local ecosystem.

30 new Covid cases reported in last week

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Tuesday said that 30 new coronavirus cases were reported during the last week across the country.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.39 per cent while two patients were in critical condition.

No death was reported from the coronavirus last week while 7,676 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, the official of the Ministry for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination said that the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19.

DC introduces One-Stop Service Hub initiative for admin ease

ISLAMABAD (APP): Responding to the directives of Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon, residents of Islamabad now have the opportunity to access a range of essential services with utmost convenience. In order to facilitate the citizens today, from 3 pm to 5 pm, the Excise personnel will be stationed at the Kitchener Park parking lot, offering a comprehensive suite of services that include vehicle registration, transfers, and token tax payments.



ISLAMABAD: Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Danila Ganich holding National Flags posing for a photo graph along with Pakistani Children at Pakistan Monument in order to commemorate National Flag Day of Russia.

Four-day training of delimitation committees to start from Sept 1

ISLAMABAD (APP): The extensive four-day training for the five recently constituted delimitation committees, aimed at fixing the limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in response to changes in the 2023 population census data, will commence on September 1.

According to Delimitation Schedule notified by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the training would be wrapped up on September 4. The committees will receive districts' maps and necessary data from the federal capital and provinces until August 31.

Allocation of district quotas for national and provincial assembly seats to delimitation committees is scheduled from September 5 to 7.

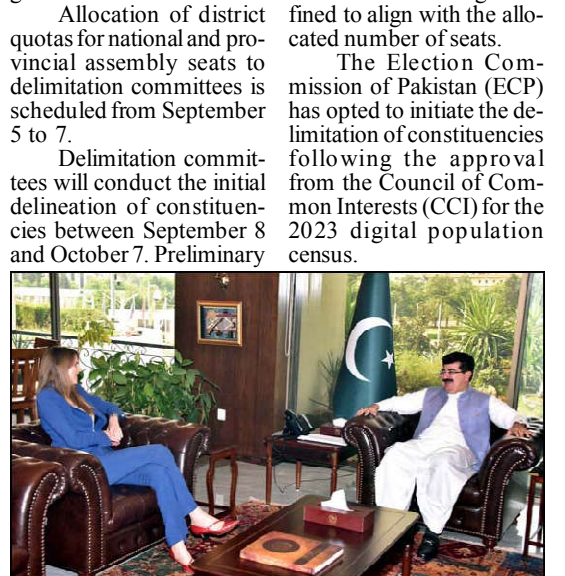
Delimitation committees will conduct the initial delineation of constituencies between September 8 and October 7. Preliminary

proposals will be made public on October 9. Representations on preliminary proposals can be filed between October 10 and November 8. The commission will address/hear these representations from November 10 to December 9. The final delimitation will be published on December 14.

The Delimitation of Constituencies Act from 1974 mandates the redrawing of constituencies for National and Provincial Assembly elections after each census.

With the release of the 2023 census report, constituencies are being redefined to align with the allocated number of seats.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has opted to initiate the delimitation of constituencies following the approval from the Council of Common Interests (CCI) for the 2023 digital population census.



ISLAMABAD: August 22 ac" British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriot calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

ATC issues call up notices to Imran on different dates in 5 cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has issued call up notice to chairman PTI on different dates in 5 cases.

Call up notice in two cases registered in police station Ramna has been issued on September 25. In cases registered in police station CTD and Sangjani call up notice has been issued on October 12 and in the case registered in police station Golra Sharif, call up notice has been issued on October 5.

Five cases registered under terrorism act against

chairman PTI came up for hearing before ATC Tuesday.

The counsels for chairman PTI including Jan Muhammad, Sardar Masroof and Naeem Panjtoha appeared in the court.

The defence counsel Jan Muhammad said it is not easy to bring chairman PTI from jail daily.

Judge Abul Hasnat remarked "I know it bringing him from jail daily is not appropriate too. The attendance of the co-accused in cases has to be marked.

IHC dismisses ICA against release of Afridi & Shandana

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday maintained the objections of Registrar Office on an intra court appeal (ICA) seeking to dismiss the verdict against the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders Shehryar Khan Afridi and Shandana Gulzar under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO).

A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the verdict in the ICA filed by the District Magistrate Islamabad challenging the verdict of single member bench.

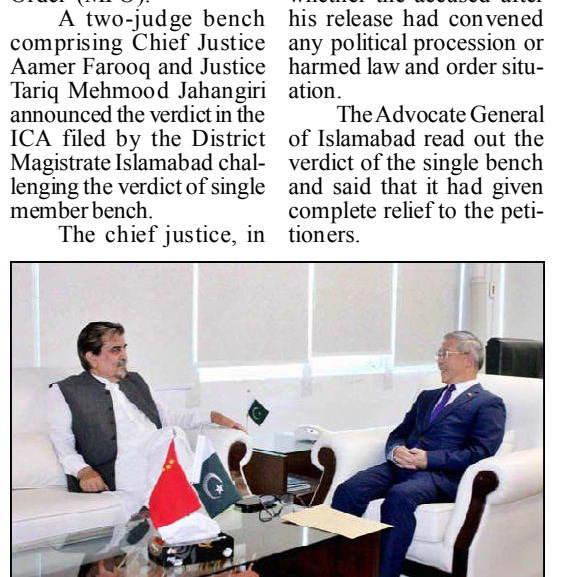
The chief justice, in

the order, noted that the Registrar Office had raised the objection that the single member bench had not issued its detailed order so far.

The single-member bench, in its interim order, had also directed to release Shehryar Afridi with some conditions.

The court asked whether the accused after his release had convened any political procession or harmed law and order situation.

The Advocate General of Islamabad read out the verdict of the single bench and said that it had given complete relief to the petitioners.



ISLAMABAD: The Cultural Counselor, Embassy of China, Mr. Zhang Heqing called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah at Heritage and Culture Division.

I-8 Markaz commercial cameras to integrate with Safe City Islamabad Project

ISLAMABAD (INP): The cameras of I-8 Markaz would be integrated with Safe City Islamabad project to maintain high vigilance in the area by ensuring continuous access to surveillance feeds from shops, streets, and other key locations within the centre.

According to official reports, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, has issued specific directives for this endeavour. As part of this process, the CPO Safe City/Traffic has extended an invitation

to the business community in I-8 Markaz in a meeting to join hands with the Safe City Islamabad project.

The primary objective of this meeting was to facilitate the integration of privately-installed cameras within I-8 Markaz with the Safe City Command and Control Center.

This integration would empower the Islamabad Capital Police with continuous access to surveillance feeds from shops, streets, and other key locations within the centre, utilizing private camera systems.

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Wednesday August 23, 2023

'No' means 'yes'

With the caretakers settling in, one would have expected that the fever that has lately wracked Pakistani politics would finally start receding. Instead, it appears that we may be in for a fresh bout of febrile uncertainty, thanks to continuing power struggles at the highest levels of the state.

The president on Sunday caused a major scandal when he posted on X (formerly Twitter) that he had never assented to two controversial bills seeking to amend the Army Act and the Official Secrets Act. Just a day earlier, these amendments had been [announced][2] as having been enacted into law.

The president's startling disclosure triggered a furore, with analysts and commentators presenting vastly different views on its implications. As the interim government tried to deflect blame, the country faced international ridicule over the farcical manner in which it has been run as of late.

It is clear that something had been amiss at the presidency. This publication was repeatedly stonewalled by the Aiwan-i-Sadr in recent days whenever it attempted to get confirmation on which laws among the dozens passed by the 15th National Assembly in its last days had actually been given President Arif Alvi's assent. It is unclear who was seeking to withhold this information from the public; the president's own statement appears to suggest that he, too, was being kept in the dark.

However, it has also greatly confused many why President Alvi thought it necessary to apologise for the two laws as if their implementation was inevitable. Had he accepted them to be fait accompli? Why? Several legal experts have argued that the two bills can no longer be deemed to have been enacted, considering the president never gave them his assent. Why, then, did Mr Alvi take such an ambiguous position on the matter through his post?

There must be an independent inquiry into this matter. If any person or persons sought to ensure that these two bills were enacted regardless of what the president actually thought about them, they must be found and prosecuted. The latest is that the President's Secretariat has called for his secretary to be replaced. This is not enough. All responsible must face exemplary punishment for subverting the legislative process. If President Alvi truly believes he was deceived, he has a responsibility to restore the sanctity of his office.

Meanwhile, the legal status of the two laws continues to be debated. While the caretaker government and several PML-N leaders have rushed to defend their enactment, the ongoing controversy boils down to the question of how the Constitution is to be correctly interpreted on the matter. While this question is resolved, the two laws, in their amended form, must not be enforced till the judiciary has had the final say.



Arifa Noor

In this rollercoaster ride called life in Pakistan, each exhausting drop after the contraption slows down brings the hope that this nail-biting moment would be the last one.

After this, we can finally get off and be allowed some rest. But each time, we are proven wrong — all of us, in this country we call home (if there is no second passport or a secret bank account abroad as a backup plan).

With this bit of illogical hope in mind, some of us thought the caretaker setup would give us a break and spare our nerves, even for a bit. But then, never do those who lord over us consider our feelings.

And so it was this past week when the efforts to collect brilliant minds for our caretaker cabinet coin-

cided with an attack on a minority community, the death of a child who had been abused and mistreated, and more arrests.

In Punjab, our cruelty to the vulnerable is shameful, and the line the province draws is on the basis of religion. The terrible acts against the Ahmadi community continue unabated and in between, we also managed to destroy the lives of a Christian community. Their homes, their churches, nothing was spared.

Anyone reading this will take objection to the vague terms in which I refer to the perpetrators, blaming simply hate rather than the individuals who carried out these acts. But what else should one call it, for the hate is far more widespread than we realise.

We have incited it for decades in society, for generations, so much so that when such a crime takes place, the details reveal how many more are involved than we realise.

For one, the paralysis afflicting law-enforcement personnel who not just watch the crisis building up but also don't stop the rampaging crowds: how

much of it is due to fear and how much because those in uniform may agree with the attackers?

Or observe the aftermath of such incidents — only in the case of the right victims, the ones it is safe to sympathise with — when the leadership sent out to soothe the nerves is religious. Rarely ever does a mainstream politician turn up at such places. And it has been no different in Jaranwala. Ever wonder where the multiple politicians from Faisalabad are?

And why we don't even ask when they will show up? Because those who are aiming to win an election, rarely ever turn up to wipe the tears of vulnerable non-Muslim citizens, for it would cost them the votes of the majority which has been fed on hate and a version of religion we seem to cling to.

So occasionally, we will find images of our mainstream politicians with leaders who promote sectarianism but never with the victims of crimes such as Jaranwala. And no one has a clue how we can address this, regardless of

how many times we spout Jinnah's Aug 11 speech.

But then, if this be our only wound. For the week past also brought us the news of the death of a child working in a local influential's home, along with the video of her writhing in pain on the ground.

Rarely is it possible for a soundless film to communicate such horror, but this one did. But more was in store; the postmortem revealed physical and sexual abuse.

And if anyone wants to console themselves by thinking this was simply the ugly feudal culture now restricted to the rural corners of Pakistan, the child who had had her bones broken while working in a judge's home is still undergoing treatment. Urban, rural, feudal, or professional, it seems there is little respect for those less fortunate or less privileged.

All these incidents show that violence continues to be the dominant way in which we manage society. The legal system is an alien one that has been imposed on this traditional one and continues

to function as an accessory after the fact. That it doesn't help provide justice is simply adding to its irrelevance.

Not just for the vulnerable ones but also for the more privileged among us.

Imaan Hazir and Ali Wazir were arrested in the dead of night. And while we know little about Wazir's arrest, Imaan and her mother live-tweeted the event, so to say.

Doors were broken down and Imaan dragged off in her night clothes, and we know this not just because of her mother's tweet but also because we saw the video of her court appearance the next day. No one has any doubts why she was arrested but the law has little to do with it and neither will her release, when it happens.

As I was writing this, news came that she had been handed over to CTD for three days. Few have been surprised by this or will wonder what she may have done to deserve this.

After all, if the law were enough, Khadija Shah and others would have been released by now; thanks to Pervez

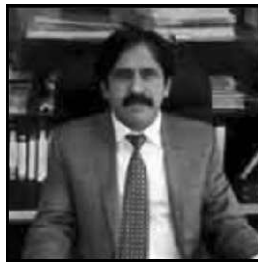
Musharraf, women should have an automatic right to bail. But they haven't and for similar reasons, one can't have high hopes for the quick release of Ali Wazir. His incarceration, the last time around, also was a lengthy one. And the way the law was managed to ensure his continued captivity has since been used to hold on to so many others.

Others who earlier didn't protest for Ali Wazir are now finding out how easily such traps can be used for them also, for their privilege was also not as great as they thought it was.

Not as unprivileged as the minorities forced to live among us or the poverty-stricken as the children who work in homes, but unprivileged compared to the powerful ones. There is always a power relationship involved, and our law can provide no protection against the violence of the powerful.

And till this is addressed, I wonder if there is any reason or meaning to what we write or say. It just seems so pointless. -- Courtesy Dawn

The SIFC wild card



Hassan Baig

Since Pakistan's economy is in deep trouble, the government has taken various steps to help improve it. But so far, most measures have proved to be a total waste except for one initiative: the decision to form the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) headed by the prime minister of Pakistan. The chief of army staff (COAS) is also a member and will support the initiative for the purposes of continuity and stability.

At present, a caretaker setup is in place as Pakistan prepares for elections. While there are speculations about the period of the caretaker government, the importance of the SIFC cannot be denied even under such a setup. The SIFC can be a game changer if it is managed rightly, and it can also go the other way if

not taken seriously. So by all means, it is a wild card in the hands of policymakers to help improve the economy by putting it on the sustainable path towards development and growth.

The SIFC seems to be an extension of the former National Development Council (NDC) announced four years back in June 2019, whereby the then army chief was made a member of the council to make it a success. But the NDC could not achieve much because of multiple reasons, including the non-seriousness shown by the then government. Now the outgoing government of former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif formed the SIFC to attract foreign investment, especially from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the fields of agriculture, mining, energy, IT and defence.

The SIFC's apex committee has already decided to set up a special purpose vehicle (SPV) company to run its affairs on professional lines. The question is whether the much-hyped SIFC will be able to attract foreign direct investment or prove to be another hoax in

the making. It all depends on the government. One also wonders why setups like the NDC or the SIFC are formed in the presence of the Board of Investment (BoI) working under the prime minister.

Such an exercise leads to the duplication of institutions, which is common in Pakistan and has always been a cause of disturbance among institutional working. The SIFC has swiftly started working on its well-defined goals, attracting investments from the GCC countries, as we saw the Abu Dhabi Ports Company (ADPC) acquiring berths of Karachi Port Terminals on a 25-year lease. The outsourcing of three priority airports of Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi is also under consideration. The SIFC has also recently identified the potential of the Diamer-Basha Dam to attract about \$14 billion in investment.

The Diamer-Basha Dam project has a lot of potential to attract investment, and work has already been started to bifurcate it into two components: water and power. There are chances of investment in the power component by the GCC countries, and work

is already underway to raise investment for this project under the SIFC.

This is also true for the corporate farming potential in the field of agriculture, which is being considered to attract investment from China under CPEC as well as from the GCC countries. The armed forces have already taken an initiative to go all-out for corporate farming by irrigating barren government lands. The SIFC would be interested in offering such an investment opportunity to potential investors in the field of agriculture.

The SIFC with a full-fledged secretariat would be in a position to chalk out the detailed investment potential, especially in the fields of mining and minerals for which activation of institutions like the Pakistan Minerals Development Corporation is a must. Pakistan has the potential of at least \$500 billion investment in the mining sector.

Thousands of billions of dollars could be earned in revenue through such investments in this sector. This all depends on facilitation through one-window operations as envisaged by the SIFC to explore that potential in this important

sector of the economy. Projects like the Thar coal power project, Reko Diq mine project, Saindak gold project have the huge potential to offer and attract potential investors to invest in this vital sector to revive our ailing economy.

The energy and defence sectors also have potential for investment for the revival of the economy, as rightly identified by the SIFC. The energy sector has already saturated itself as far as power plants are concerned. Now, the need is to go all-out for renewable green energy options. The traditional hydel power by building more dams like Diamer-Basha can be a point of investment.

The next is solar and wind power; this area can also attract potential investors if the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) could rationalize tariffs in this regard. There is an immediate need to explore this potential as such energy options will be a welcome step in the right direction, given the fact that ours is a climate-hit country facing climate challenges that are destroying our economy. The defence sector is

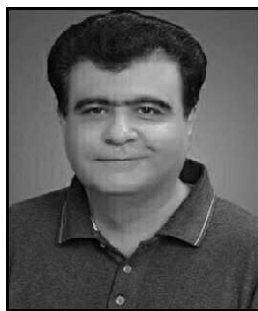
one of our prime sectors with a potential to attract investment. Defence expos have been a regular feature in this regard. Another thing to consider is the country's privatization plans. The privatization list includes heavy industry to attract investment.

It is equally important to help build the Pakistani people's trust in our political system. In case our political system cannot deliver and the existing social contract in the form of the constitution is not respected, all may go to waste.

The policy of disrespect and disruptions has to be shunned for the higher objective of making this nation great and proud. The confidence of the people of Pakistan and potential investors has to be restored at all cost. All investors should be provided fool-proof security not only of their life and liberty but also their investment by providing sovereign guarantees.

The one-window operation as suggested by the SIFC in its vision and mission statement is the ultimate solution to attracting investment. But that has to be implemented in letter and spirit. -- Courtesy TheNews

Charter or barter?



Dr Niaz Murtaza

It is observed that the two parties that signed a compact for the Charter of Democracy in 2006 have seemingly now 'signed' one for the barter of democracy with unelected forces in order to regain power through controversial polls.

The PPP and PML-N have odd ties with democratic evolution. The harm they have done to it far exceeds the good. But, reflecting on our limited democratic gains, the good they did while in power in the 1970s and then from 2008 to 2018 far exceeds that by all other civilian and khaki regimes combined in 65 years. It includes the 1973 Constitution; the 2010 devolution; holding the only smooth transfer of power between two fairly elected regimes via our fairest polls; accommodation after polls in letting the PTI and BNP rule KP and Balochistan, even though with some dicey effort the PML-N may have ruled both; major electoral reforms in 2010 and 2017 empowering an interim caretaker system to thwart rigging by incumbents; more freedom of rights than under most of our other regimes, etc.

One can make a much longer list of their wrongs even in these eras. But that won't erase the pluses above or the fact that they are much more than those by all our other regimes, for example, the more limited pluses of PTI's KP local bodies and 2002 reserved assembly seats

laws. Democratic evolution doesn't mean immediate good governance. Their actual governance and delivery even then were very poor. Still, the limited evolution is critical as lasting good governance came globally only after prolonged democratic evolution.

But the PPP and PML-N have undone much of that now and returned to their 1990s form. The fair polls norm ended in 2018 under the PTI. But the two parties undid the neutral interim system via poor nominations for key posts and, it is feared, will collude with other actors to hold far more dubious polls. Their record on political accommodation and human rights was even worse than the PTI's. Devolution and the Constitution have survived but are regularly flouted by not just the establishment but also these two parties, the PTI, the ECP and other institutions. Hence, it is hard to see a quick path back to civilian sway and democratic evolution. Even civilian sway may only allow illiberal quasi-democracy as the PTI and PML-N both rule autocratically.

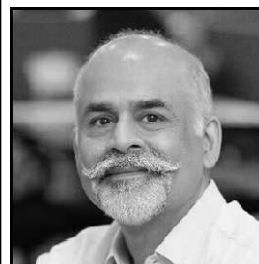
So, a clueless nation is back to square one, left to ponder why democratic evolution is so elusive for it. But Af-Pak, closest and long linked to autocratic Central Asia and Middle East, lags behind, partially due to the links. Some see promising social change that may serve democracy; for example, the expanding urban, youth and middle-class numbers and the use of social media. But this is a futile hope as the trends are actually strengthening the status quo and vacuum of nationalist, ethnic or religious populist groups. Demographic and technological trends don't result in progress directly but only if harnessed by positive change agents, of which there are limited

signs.

All our bases of power — economic, political, social, legal, informational and military — are monopolised by elite factions who compete for bigger pieces of state power. The most intense recent political struggles have been between elite groups: the military, the courts, traditional elitist parties and new populist parties representing new elites. Even worse, the biggest challenge to the status quo comes from TTP extremism followed by Baloch groups who have real complaints but unluckily use militant strategies instead of peaceful ones.

Beyond them, the worthier left challenge is still embryonic due to state repression and people's attraction to reactionary rather than rational the-mes. Democratic groups break the suffocating hold of elites on all six power bases by building strong social, informational and political power. The left still has a long way to go to capture even those power bases due to constant repression. Thus, we may be in for a long and ruinous era of k(h)akistocracy. It's unclear if we will return to elected rule soon. The PDM and ECP have wrongly delayed polls to draw new delimitations. The Constitution mandates those under new census results if they change provincial seats in the National Assembly, which the last census hasn't. Many are singing praises of the interim cabinet and egging on the establishment to prolong its influence to 'save Pakistan'. But teams deliver if they share a common vision and work history under a natural, strong leader. It is naive to expect a disparate team of even top experts to deliver with no clear ideology or shared vision. Our destiny lies in quickly holding fair polls to return to elected rule despite all its flaws. -- Courtesy Dawn

Truck face twins



Shahzad Sharjeel

They have the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, we have the Bhutto-Zardari clan. They had a foreign-origin first lady, we could have had one too, but she was hounded out. They have Rahul, we have Bilawal. Both are young compared to their septuagenarian competitors who have been variously and dismissively calling them pappu (prepubescent lad), baby, etc.

The higher judiciary in both countries plays a significant political role. Legislators in both places have an embarrassing number of criminal cases against them, ranging from goat theft to murder. The list of similarities is endless, but where we see a clear divergence emerging is how election campaigns and canvassing are done. The tech side of it has been somewhat replicated by the PTI, but where legwork is concerned, we clearly lag — rallies led from the cool environs of SUVs and briyani-fed sit-ins do not count.

Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra from one end of India to the other and his truck rides in Indian Punjab and Haryana and between Washington and New York are cases in point. Both endeavours were at least partially aimed at dispelling criticism that the top party leadership is disconnected from the street and the reality of life for citizens at home and the diaspora abroad.

Our political elites' outings are restricted to wading through ankle-deep rainwater in knee-high boots or staged showings at shelters for the home-

less and orphanages, which the epitome of their public empathy is, 'wo aam logon mein ghul mil gaye' (they mingled with the common folk). Imran Khan is in jail, but it is a matter of time before he is allowed to go abroad on health grounds. Neither the referees in robes nor the coaches in uniform would want him permanently 'out' as sparing partners are needed even for fixed matches.

Some people may come to Bilawal's defence, citing the history of violence against his family and continuing security threats as reasons behind his lack of street credentials. But the argument doesn't hold as Rahul's grandmother and father lost their lives to assassins' bullets and a suicide bomb; the former while in office, the latter as former prime minister. His last speech in parliament and subsequent statements may have sounded rebellious, but Bilawal should know that one cannot ditch the baggage without renouncing the fortune.

Any politician who can connect with even 10 per cent of the electorate is a force to reckon with, believes Sanjaya Baru, veteran journalist and author of Accidental Prime Minister. Mr Baru, who has witnessed power politics firsthand as media adviser to then prime minister Manmohan Singh, feels that Bharat Jodo Yatra will play an important part in Congress's resurgence and Rahul's coming into his own as party leader.

Like Pakistan, the present dispensation in India is trying to knock the opposition leader out of the fray. Rahul has managed to hang on to his Lok Sabha seat through the supreme court's suspension of a lower court order to unseat him on libel charges for making false accusations against PM Modi.

Among the plethora of charges against him, Imran Khan can face multiple cases for breaching the Official Secrets Act. Legislation in this regard was passed with undue haste by parliament. Many see the legislation as PTI-specific.

Not that Imran has not been cavalier in his handling of classified information, ranging from the cipher concerning a purported US conspiracy for regime change in Pakistan to an alleged statement by a former army chief regarding the fuel gauges of tanks. The PDM alliance's unseemly haste in pushing through a slew of legislation has hurt the cause of democratic norms as much as PTI's gleeful de--clar-a-tions did of being on the same page with the establishment.

Jawaharlal Nehru, during his premiership, told Acharya Kripalani, the Congress president at the time, that if he wanted to know what went on behind closed doors in government meetings, he could join his cabinet as a minister without portfolio, as the Official Secrets Act prevented him from sharing classified information with anyone outside the cabinet. It is difficult to say how much Prime Minister Modi shares with the RSS but his frequent huddles with it along with BJP of-ficeholders are well known.

The Indians have had their accidental prime ministers like Manmohan Singh and Rajiv Gandhi. We have had our share of accidental and dental presidents. Let us hope that the Pakistani voters are allowed to elect their next prime minister and do so carefully, and that there is nothing accidental about it before and after. It is, however, unrealistic to hope that the next dispensation will have no truck with tanks. Bilawal's belligerent albeit accurate depiction of Modi could make him an early applicant to be the next same 'pageboy'. -- Courtesy Dawn

All possible resources to be used to address Karachi issues: PM

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday assured that the government would utilise all possible resources to address the issues faced by the Karachi city.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with a delegation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement which called on him during his daylong visit here.

The delegation members congratulated the prime minister on assuming the office and expressed good wishes for him.

In the meeting, they discussed the country's overall situation, including economy, interfaith harmony as well as other matters.

The MQM delegation

draw the prime minister's attention towards the issues of delimitation in Karachi as well as the shortage of water.

The delegation comprised Dr Farooq Sattar, Syed Aminul Haq and Khawaja Izharul Hassan.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori also attended the meeting. On the occasion, the prime minister was accompanied by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqir and the members of his cabinet.

It was the maiden visit of the caretaker prime minister to Karachi after assuming his office.

The prime minister said that he along with his few cabinet members came

here to pay homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and reaffirm to work for the progress and prosperity of the country by highlighting the social contract under which a separate state came into being.

Referring to an address of the Founder of the Nation on August 11, 1947 before the Constituent Assembly, he said it focused on the rights of the minorities and equality among individuals.

Prime Minister Kakar expressed the optimism that the people of the country would excel in different fields on the basis of their talents and it was the future of the country.



KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar laying floral wreath at the Mausoleum of Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in Karachi.

CM Naqvi expresses annoyance over poor arrangements at HFH

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday directed the administration of the Holy Family Hospital (HFH) to improve the management of the hospital within a week else strict action would be taken against them.

During a visit to HFH, the CM in detail inspected various sections of the hospital and found bloody bed sheets in wards, long queues at reception, shortage of ventilators, while air conditioners were also shut down in several wards. He interacted with

the patients and their attendants and inquired about the medical facilities provided to them.

On the occasion, the patients complained to the CM that medicines were not available in the hospital and they were forced to buy medicines and carry out medical tests from outside the hospital.

The attendants of patients also complained that security guards asked for bribes for entry into the hospital while medical staff delayed the patient's treatment.

Naqvi inspected the Emergency, children and Dengue wards of the

hospital and also visited the shelter home and reviewed the accommodation and food facilities. He directed the hospital's management to improve the efficiency of the available resources as quality and timely treatment was the right of the patients.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Dr Jamal Nasir, Information Minister Amir Mir, Vice-Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University Dr Muhammad Umer and Medical Superintendent Dr Ejaz Butt were present on the occasion.

KP governor orders for emergency measures to rescue children

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali Tuesday directed the Chief Secretary and Commissioner Hazara Division for taking emergency measures for the rescue of the children trapped in a chairlift at Batagram.

The governor in his directive said all available resources should be used for the safe evacuation of the children.

Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri also telephoned the governor

and inquired about the health of trapped children, besides rescue efforts.

The governor said all the relevant organizations and district administration were jointly taking part in the rescue operation. A helicopter was also being used for the purpose.

The elders of Batagram thanked the governor for promptly initiating of the rescue operation.

The governor expressed the hope that the rescue operation would be completed soon.

No negligence to be tolerated in dengue surveillance: DC

FAISALABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abullah Nayyar Sheikh has directed dengue surveillance teams to perform their duties honestly and dedication as no negligence will be tolerated in the surveillance of dengue larvae.

Presiding over a meeting of the District Emergency Response Committee here on Tuesday, he said that dengue was a chronic issue which required permanent and thorough surveillance.



FAISALABAD: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi talking with the transgender community at Circuit House.

Younis Dagha says: E-registration system should be introduced for convenience of citizens

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Minister of Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development Muhammad Younis Dagha on Tuesday directed officials concerned that e-registration system should be introduced to facilitate the masses.

Younis Dagha said this while presiding over the meeting held at the office of the Sindh Board of Revenue here.

He directed the concerned officers to remove the defects from the record of Board of Revenue and also improve services. For this purpose an e-registration system should be introduced to

facilitate the citizens, he added. Younis Dagha advised the officers that providing the best services to the citizens should be their priority and all efforts should be made for this purpose.

In the meeting, the officers of the Sindh Revenue department gave a detailed briefing to the minister about their respective fields.

Senior Member Board of Revenue Baqaulah Unar, Member RS&EP Waseem Shamshad, Secretary Land Revenue, Member Gothabad Scheme, IG Registration and other senior officers attended the meeting.

CM Sindh takes notice of missing girl from mansion

SUKKUR (APP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqir on Tuesday took notice of a 20-year-old girl, Sana from Qambar, who was sent to the mansion of a Pir of Ranipur, reportedly gone missing.

Chief Minister Sindh has directed the Divisional Commissioner and DIG Sukkur to investigate the incident and ensure safe recovery of the missing girl.

Earlier, Deedar Gurhmani, resident of Qambar, while talking to the media, said one and a half years ago, he had sent his 20-year-old daughter Sana to the mansion (haveli) of Pir of Ranipur Syed Sohail Ahmed Shah in Khairpur for the trust and protection until his problems were resolved.

However, he said, about a month ago, Syed Sohail Ahmed Shah phoned him, informing his daughter had gone missing from the mansion. He said he travelled to Ranipur to inquire from the Pir Sohail as to how his daughter went missing from the mansion.

President tweet: Hamza urges transparent investigation

LAHORE (Online): PML-N President and Former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Hamza Shehbaz Sharif said that a tweet of President of Pakistan has created crisis. Transparent investigation should be conducted regarding this matter. He said in a statement that letter of President Secretary has also come out. Comprehensive and transparent investigation should be conducted by considering the seriousness of the matter. Hamza Shehbaz said that the problem is not of a party but of the orders issued by the office of President of Pakistan.



KARACHI: Interim Sindh Health Minister, Dr. Saad Niaz presides over the meeting to discuss scope of support in the province Sindh through the Sindh Health Departments collaboration with PPHI, held in Karachi.

PDMA Punjab DG visits Atari, reviews flood situation in Sutlej River

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Director General Imran Qureshi, along with Sahiwal Division Commissioner Shoaib Iqbal Syed, visited Atari and reviewed the flood situation in the Sutlej River. RPO Mehboob Rasheed, Deputy Commissioner Okara Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan Hanif, District Police Officer Captain Retd Mansoor Aman and District Emergency Officer Chaudhry Zafar Iqbal were also present on this occasion. Director General

Imran Qureshi visited the flood relief camp established at Atari, and checked the medicine stock available at the health counter, livestock counter and rescue counter.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan Hanif while giving a detailed briefing about the rescue operation and flood relief camp said that there are more than 2000 flood victims men, women and children in the flood relief camp Atari where all the facilities are being provided to them with respect and dignity.

Peshawar, KP plain areas in grip of severe heat

PESHAWAR (APP): As earlier predicted by the provincial meteorological center, the plain areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including the provincial metropolis Peshawar have been in the grip of severe hot and humid weather.

The dense humidity and sun heat has badly affected daily routine life, forcing people to remain indoors to remain safe from heat stroke.

The Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan districts were among the hottest places in the province as the other day the highest temperature of 43 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bannu followed by Dera Ismail Khan with 42 degree Celsius. Humidity remained at 69 percent in Bannu. However, the real feel of temperature in both districts was 50 degree Celsius and the situation remained miserable for the locals. In Peshawar, the temperature remained at 38 degree Celsius while the humidity ratio was 75 percent but the real feel of the temperature was about 48 degree Celsius. Coupled with humidity the severe hot weather seemed unbearable for the Peshawarites. For the last many days, Peshawar has been in the grip of severe heat while on Tuesday too.

One-window operation being launched for complaints of overseas: Ombudsman

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi on Tuesday said that one-window operation was being launched to redress complaints of overseas Pakistanis speedily whereas a comprehensive policy would be evolved soon to take action against online apps fraud.

Talking to the media at the Circle House here, he said the federal ombudsman had powers to hear and redress public complaints against 180 departments. It was resolving 60,000 complaints per annum but now this number was being increased and this year it was expected to redress about 200,000 complaints.

He said that earlier the ombudsman had initiated "Informal Resolution of Dispute" programme which had provided tangible results in resolving public grievances speedily. Now, one-window operation was being launched under which all departments would be bound to resolve

complaints of overseas Pakistanis, including their immigration issues, he added.

He said that a wing of ombudsmen secretariat was working at international airports already to redress custom related issues whereas other wings were working to resolve complaints relating to the issued of minor children, education, etc.

Responding to a question, a comprehensive policy was also being evolved to take action against those elements who were looting people through online apps, he said.

He said the federal ombudsman had established its 19 regional offices across the country and now necessary steps were being taken to raise awareness among the general public so that maximum people could approach the regional office of ombudsman secretariat for redressal of their complaints.



KARACHI: UN agency UNDP representative Samule Rizk in meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

LHC stops ECP from taking final decision in contempt case against Imran

LAHORE (Online): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday stopped the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) from taking a final decision in a contempt case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan.

However, the court allowed the commission to continue its proceedings in the matter.

Justice Muhammad Waheed Khan passed the orders while hearing a petition filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan challenging contempt proceedings initiated by the ECP against him. The court also issued notices to the ECP and other respondents for the next

date of hearing, besides directing to fix the matter before a full bench. The court observed that identical petitions were being heard by the full bench, therefore, the petition should also be fixed before the bench.

The PTI chairman, through the petition, had assailed constitutional vires of Section 10 of the Election Act 2017, which grant the chief election commissioner (CEC) the authority to punish any person for contempt of the ECP. He pleaded with the court to strike down the section as it was in contradiction to the Constitution and also quash proceedings initiated against him.

Karachi Police chief, others meet IGP Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar on Tuesday said the Special Branch should further strengthen the coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

Addressing a meeting with Additional IGP Karachi Javed Alam Odho, Additional IGP Special Branch Khadim Hussain Rindh and Additional IGP - Training Abdul Qadir Qayyum, the Sindh Police chief said the mechanism should be strengthened against

elements hostile to the country/society.

Talking about training centers, he said the training centers were the first school of professional life of the police.

He asked the Additional IGP - Training to promote positive attitude and thinking among the personnel under training from the overall training.

On the occasion, Additional IGP - Karachi Javed Alam Odho gave a briefing on the law and order situation in the city.



LAHORE: Girls student visiting stall during an event "A day with Pakistan Navy" organized by Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore.

Students spend day with Pak Navy

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC) Lahore organised an event titled "A day with Pakistan Navy" for the students of various colleges of Lahore to enlighten them on functioning of Pakistan Navy, its organisation and defence capabilities.

A total of 200 students from Government College University, Fazaia Degree College, Garrison College for Boys and Bahria College Lahore along with faculty members

attended the event, said a Pakistan Navy media release on Tuesday. Commander Central Punjab Rear Admiral Javaid Iqbal interacted with students and faculty members and apprised them that Pakistan Navy has all the capabilities to protect maritime frontiers of the country. He also highlighted the importance of maritime sector for developing countries and how stronger Naval Forces could facilitate economic development of their nation.



KARACHI: Members of Christian Community are holding protest demonstration against attacked churches in Jaranwala incident and demanding for Justice, held at Karachi press club.

People's evacuation in progress as water level increases in River Sutlej

VEHARI (APP): Amidst the rising water levels at Head Islam in River Sutlej, the local administration is actively involved in relocating people from the low-lying areas of Vehari to safer places.

The operational teams of Rescue-1122, Police and some other department are working to transport people of flood prone areas to secure places.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Aasif Hussain Shah has established 20 flood relief camps, along with setting up three tent settlements. So far, rescue teams have successfully evacuated people from various areas including Bhattiyan, Jamlira, Farooqabad, Qutbpur, Mehraabad, Lekha, 39 K Bajangalat, Baqi Shah, Basti Gazar, Mauza Murad Ali.

Minister proposes 'Business Park' initiative to enhance trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr Gohar Ejaz on Tuesday proposed a "Business Park" initiative to enhance trade for sustainable economic growth in the country.

In a bid to consolidate Pakistan's global trade connections, the Federal Minister has unveiled his intention to establish Business Parks in major cities, said a press release issued here.

These parks or Facilitation Centres for traders would be designed to serve as hubs for foreign

traders, enhancing trade relationships and driving economic growth.

He said this during a meeting held on Tuesday at his office in Islamabad, where he met with prominent exporters and trader Fawad Mukhtar, CEO of Fatima Fertilizer.

Anwaar Ahmad Ghani, CEO of Ghani Glass Ltd, Mian M Ahsan US apparel and denim, Shahid Soorti CEO of Soorti Textile, Fawad Javid, Din Textile, Faisal Afridi, Haier Appliances, to discuss his vision.

The minister

reiterated his determination to explore every avenue possible to realize Pakistan's export potential.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz observed that the proposed Business Parks would be poised as vital stepping stones in realizing Pakistan's economic growth and prosperity on the global stage.

With a focus on immediate solutions, the establishment of buying houses or the utilization of rental buildings managed by the local business community also came under discussion.

These measures would aim at addressing the pressing need for the facilitation of foreign traders.

Expressing his resolute commitment to increasing the country's exports, Dr Ejaz emphasized the necessity to adopt a strategic approach. The minister proposed targeting specific countries according to their respective sectors, thus maximizing the impact of Pakistan's export efforts.

This tailored strategy, he believes, will yield more favorable results.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with the women those who got Laurels of Honour Awards organized by Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Governor House.



LAHORE: Grand Traders Alliance leader, Umar Javed Butt along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Lahore press club.

SM Tanveer inaugurates Hafizabad Chamber Providing interest-free loans to businessmen started for promotion of industry

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister of Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer Tuesday inaugurated the office of Hafizabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the industries department spokesman told media here Tuesday.

Talking to media after addressing the inaugural ceremony, the minister said that under the leadership of the Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister, the problems of industrialists and traders were being solved across the province. "The work of providing interest-free loans to industrialists and businessmen has been started for the promotion of the industry. The draft of the first skills policy of the province has been approved under which 500,000 youths would be trained every year," he added.

He added that master plans were being prepared

for the provision of relief to the people and development and promotion of various sectors. "A mega master plan is also being prepared for the improvement of agriculture and industry sectors," he mentioned.

SM Tanveer said that work was being done for the development of the agriculture sector. "Modern agricultural machinery, drones and other technologies are being procured. Steps are being taken for the promotion of agriculture, paying special attention to the Cholistan region of Punjab," he added.

SM Tanveer said that steps were being taken for the profit of fish farming landowners. For the first time, the rate of cotton has been set at 8500 per maund. Modern technology and satellite system are being used for the promotion and improvement of cotton crop and the water supply.



PESHAWAR: A person busy in repairing vehicle radiator fan at his roadside setup in Shoba Bazaar.

Belt and Road trade conference to be held during China-Arab expo

YINCHUAN (APP): The Belt and Road Trade and Investment Promotion conference will take place during the sixth China-Arab States Expo, which will run from Sept. 21 to 24 in Yinchuan, the capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, said local authorities Tuesday.

Starting on Sept. 21, the two-day conference will be committed to creating conditions for exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Arab enterprises, focussing on deepening economic and trade cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, said the region's government.

The conference includes four parallel forums, namely, the Multinationals' Economic and Trade Cooperation Meeting in Ningxia, the Cross-border e-commerce and

Development Summit, the Investment Promotion Conference for Overseas Industrial Parks of Countries Jointly Pursuing Belt and Road Initiatives, the China-Saudi Arabia (Jazan) Industrial Park, and the Matchmaking Meeting of Trade and Investment in Specialty Industries.

First held in 2013, the China-Arab States Expo has become a significant platform for China and Arab states to promote pragmatic cooperation and advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Over the past ten years, the China-Arab States Expo has attracted over 400,000 participants and 6,000 enterprises from 112 countries and regions, signing more than 1,200 cooperation projects in modern agriculture, high technologies, and biomedicine.

Qatari Charge d' Affaires calls on Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Charge d' Affaires of Qatar Essa Mohammad Al-Dasem Al-Kubaisi Tuesday visited Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) headquarters and held a meeting with Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in areas of customs and tax to further boost trade relations between the two brotherly countries, said a news release issued here.

It was agreed that mutual collaboration would be strengthened by sharing best practices and expertise of the two countries in these fields.

This exchange of knowledge would help optimize processes, enhance efficiency and facilitate smooth bilateral trade, it added.

Streamlining the procedures and reducing trade barriers were identified as essential factors in achieving this goal.

They also discussed several other matters including the possibility of exploring more potential areas for future cooperation between the two countries.

PSX loses 30 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday shed 30.06 points, a slight negative change of 0.06 per cent, closing at 47,417.90 points against 47,447.96 points the previous trading day.

A total of 185,753,898 shares were traded during the day as compared to 211,230,785 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 6.223 billion against Rs 7.076 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 316 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 141 of them recorded gains and 152 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 23 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 25,867,346 shares at Rs 1.29 per share; Nishat Power with 16,043,161 shares at Rs.23.55 per share and Oil and Gas Dev with 13,626,842 shares at Rs.99.51 per share.

Bhanero Tex witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 49.00 per share price, closing at Rs 999.00, whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum with an Rs 23.93 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,627.16.

Minister reviews situation after dissolution of PIDB

LAHORE (INP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer chaired a meeting to review industrial projects implemented by Punjab Industrial Development Board (PIDB) and the situation after the dissolution of the board in 1997, here at TEVTA Secretariat on Tuesday.

The minister was briefed that PIDB had set up 14 industrial projects including 5 sugar mills, 3 textile mills and 6 rice mills. All industrial projects undertaken by the board had been privatized, 18 cases were pending in various courts regarding recovery of dues. The cell

is functioning under an administrator after the dissolution of the board to settle litigation and recovery of dues, the meeting told. Provincial Minister SM Tanveer said that expenditure of millions of rupees from the government treasury every year since 1997 to recover the dues of Rs 100 million was deplorable. In a difficult economic situation, the country could not afford to waste resources. Matters should be settled amicably with the stakeholders, he added.

SM Tanveer said that Punjab Industries and Commerce Department had resolved years-old cases of industrialists.



SIALKOT: A skilled worker stitching export quality gloves at his work place.

Zong 4G innovates beyond traditional bundles

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, the leading telecommunication network in Pakistan, has launched a revolutionary package that redefined customer-centric offers.

As part of the initiative, customers can use an astounding 100GB of high-speed data along with 1000 Off-net minutes for effortless contact with loved ones outside the Zong network and 10,000 On-net minutes for nonstop communication with other Zong subscribers, said a news release.

Moreover, this is the first offer to give amazing discounts and deals on Golootlo and Waada!

KP Govt prioritized various potential sectors for investment

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry has said that various sectors including mining, energy, Information technology (IT) and tourism have been identified as prioritized sectors for investment in the province.

Speaking at a meeting with the business community of the province here at Civil Secretariat on Tuesday, he said that the provincial government will take investment in these sectors to SIFC (Special Investment Facilitation Council), saying investors in these sectors would be provided full facilities.

Besides, FPCCI Coordinator for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sartaj Ahmad Khan and representatives of various chambers, administrative secretaries, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)

and Managing Directors (MDs) of the subsidiaries of the industries and finance departments attended the meeting.

The chief secretary said that Chinese investors are establishing a steel mill in the Rashakai Special Economic Zone. He said that local pharmaceutical safety match the industry and stressed the need for their value-addition.

He said that Pak-Afghan trade, which was once US\$ 1.5 billion is decreased to 600 million dollars and is in favour of Afghanistan and asked the business community to present proposals to make it in favour of our country. He said that hurdles in this regard would be taken with the federal government.

In response to the demands of the chambers, he assured the allocation of land at every district level for establishment of Gems Export City and District.

Women being given equal opportunities to advance in every field of life: Baligh

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the Laurels of Honour Awards 2023 ceremony organized by Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Governor House Lahore today as a special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that no society can progress without the active participation of women in various spheres of life. He added that it is commendable that women are making their mark in

every walk of life, including the business sector. He said that women are being given equal opportunities to advance in every field of life. Governor Punjab said that empowerment of women is very important for gender equality. He said that women are excelling in professional careers along with playing a significant role as home makers. Governor Punjab said that it is praise worthy that the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Lahore Division) is playing a vital role in honing the entrepreneurial skills of women and ensuring their

representation in sectors such as banking, accounts, pharmaceuticals, textiles, food and agriculture, fashion, sports, jewellery, Environment, corporate sector and Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs). President of Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Shehla Javed Akram and others also addressed the ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman distributed Laurels of Honour Awards 2023 to women who have shown remarkable performance in business and various fields Among them.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, MSC Marina, Lana, Chem Saiph, Ullswater and Fuwairit, carrying Container, Palm oil, LPG and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, SSGC Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile another general cargo ship 'Jigiga' also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on Tuesday.

Eight ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, MSC Marina and Lana sailed out to sea on Tuesday morning, while two more ships, Chem Saiph and TTC Viduyt are expected to sail on same day afternoon. A cargo volume of 120,219 tonnes, comprising 79,178 tones imports Cargo and 41,041 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,036 Containers.

By partnering with Golootlo, a leading platform for discounts and deals, Zong 4G ensures that its subscribers can enjoy a seamless and enhanced shopping experience while saving money.

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Pak exports food products worth \$329 mln in July

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan exported food products worth \$329.156 million during the first month of current fiscal year (July), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics reported.

As compared to the exports of \$356.073 million during July 2022, the exports in July 2023 depicted decline of 7.56 percent, according to latest PBS data.

On month on month basis, the exports during July 2023 decreased by 8.81 percent compared to the exports of \$360.961 million in June 2023.

The food products that contributed in the negative growth of trade included rice, the exports of which declined by 15.78 percent, from \$360.961 million last July to \$117.101 million in July 2023.

Likewise, the exports of vegetables declined by 67.20 percent by going down from \$44.396 million

last year to \$14.564 million this year and tobacco the exports of which decrease by 58.35 percent, from \$4.917 million to \$2.048 million.

The food items that witnessed positive growth included fish and fish preparations, the exports of which increased by 2.2 percent by going up from \$18.572 million to \$18.980 million whereas the exports of fruits increased by 4.61 percent, from \$34.171 million to \$35.746 million.

Similarly, the exports of spices increased by 20.53 percent by going up from \$5.482 million to \$6.607 million, oil seeds, nuts and kenarals by 173.56 percent, from \$1.099 million to \$3.007 million, meat and meat preparations by 37.22 percent, from \$25.409 million to \$34.866 million whereas the exports of all other food items increased by Rs 11.80 million by going up from \$82.979 million to \$92.771 million.



PESHAWAR: A vendor selling corn cobs at Lahori Gate.

Cotton growers advised to save crop from pink worm

FAISALABAD (APP): The agriculture expert on Tuesday advised the cotton growers to follow the strategy evolved by the experts of the agriculture department for getting bumper crops.

The cotton is the cash crop of the country and it has key importance in the agriculture economy, said Khalid Mahmood, Deputy Director Agriculture Extension while addressing farmers at Chak 515-GB, Tandlianwala.

He said that the attack of pink worm on the cotton crop is very dangerous which not only cut per acre produce but also damage the quality.

He advised the farmers to select the best quality pesticides after consulting with experts and make pest scouting after an 8-days gap to save the crop.

He said that Radiant 100 ml or delegate 50-60.

Pakistani businessmen explore opportunities at China South-Asia Expo

KUNMING (APP): Malik Hamza, a Pakistani exhibitor, showcased his exquisite brass handicrafts to visitors at the seventh China-South Asia Expo. To his joy, he found out that a potential customer was referred to him by a satisfied previous client.

"The art craft is handmade in Pakistan, requiring approximately one week to complete each piece," Hamza said.

The five-day expo, which kicked off on Aug. 16 and ended on Aug. 20 in Kunming, the capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, attracted over 30,000 exhibitors as well as representatives and guests from 85 countries and regions and international organizations, China's state-run Xinhua reported.

At a booth showcasing Pakistani jade in the South Asia Pavilion, Khan Muhammad Nasir, a

Pakistani representative, engaged in lively discussions with Chinese visitors about product variations and distinctive features.

To enhance the presentation of his offerings, Muhammad Nasir acquired the services of a Chinese translator to assist at the booth. "The morning has brought good business, and we anticipate even more visitors over the weekend," Muhammad Nasir said.

He also mentioned the convenience of logistics, explaining that for visitors who are interested in products that are not easy to carry, the shop can readily pack such products and deliver them to desired locations.

On the other side of the South Asia Pavilion, in front of the booth of Sri Lankan jeweller Mohamed Rikas,



Senator Saifullah Abro, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Power presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.

North Korea plans satellite launch as Seoul, US hold drills

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea is planning to launch another satellite just three months after its first attempt to put a military eye in the sky failed, prompting condemnation from Tokyo and Seoul on Tuesday and demands to call it off.

The launch is set to take place between August 24 and 31, Pyongyang told Japan's coast guard Tuesday, with Tokyo mobilising ships and its PAC-3 missile defence system in case it lands in their territory.

Seoul said the launch would be "an illegal act" because it violates UN sanctions prohibiting the North from tests using ballistic technology, which is used for both space launches and missiles.

"North Korea's so-called 'satellite launch' is a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions... No matter what excuses North Korea tries to make, it cannot justify this illegal act," South Korea's Unification Ministry said in a statement.

The foreign ministry

said Seoul would "respond sternly to the North's illicit provocation with close trilateral Korea-US-Japan cooperation".

Pyongyang's announcement came days after

ter leaders from Washington, Seoul and Tokyo met at Camp David in the United States, with North Korea's growing nuclear threats a key item on the agenda.

Japan, South Korea criticise North Korea satellite launch plan

Monitoring Desk

TOKYO: North Korea told Japan on Tuesday that it would launch a satellite between Aug. 24-31, its second such attempt this year, prompting criticism from Japan and South Korea that any such actions would be "extremely regrettable".

North Korea told Japan's Coast Guard on Tuesday that the launch would fly over the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and the Pacific, areas that Japan said are outside its exclusive economic zone.

The announcement came just days after the leaders of the United States, Japan and South Korea held their first standalone summit to project unity in the face of China's growing power and North Korea's nuclear threats.

North Korea launched a satellite on May 31 that ended up plunging into the sea. The new Chollima-1 launcher failed because of instability in the engine and fuel system, state news agency KCNA reported.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called on North Korea to halt any planned launches and said Japan was preparing its PAC-3 missile defence system and gathering information.



Indonesia, Boeing sign deal for sale of F-15 fighter jets.

Kyiv says EU transport subsidies to help Ukrainian grain export

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The European Commission's decision to compensate for the costs of delivering Ukrainian grain to European seaports will improve the ability to export Ukrainian food without interruption, a senior Ukrainian official said on Tuesday.

Ukraine is a major grain grower and exporter and normally ships millions of metric tons of food from its deep-water Black Sea ports of Odesa and Mykolaiv. However, it has had to rely on river ports and railways after Russia pulled out last month of an U.N.-brokered deal to secure global grain supplies while top exporters Ukraine and Russia remain at war.

Ukraine has said it can supply grain to seaports of Germany, Italy, Latvia,

Lithuania, Croatia, Slovenia and the Netherlands for further export to final destinations across the world. "It is impossible to guarantee global food security without Ukrainian grain," Taras Vysotskiy, the first deputy Ukrainian agriculture minister said in a statement.

He said that due to the blocked Black Sea ports, transporting Ukrainian grain to distant European ports had become very expensive for farmers.

"The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and the Government have appealed to the European Commission to compensate Ukrainian farmers for the cost of logistics for 30 euro (\$32.55) per tonne," he said.

Such subsidies will be paid only for deliveries to distant European ports, he noted.

Erdogan blames UN peacekeepers after Cyprus assault

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday accused United Nations peacekeepers of instigating violence in which several members of the agency's mission were assaulted on Cyprus.

The United Nations said Turkish Cypriot forces on Friday attacked peacekeepers who were attempting to block construction of a road in the buffer zone separating the divided east Mediterranean island.

The confrontation occurred in an ethnically mixed village in the UN-patrolled area between the internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus in the south and the breakaway Turkish Cypriot statelet in the north.

The breakaway government is recognised internationally only by Turkey.

Palestinian woman opens Gaza's first cat café

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: Inspired by her passion for the furry animal, Naema Mea'bed opened the "MEOW Cat Cafe" in the Gaza Strip this week, hoping to bring cat lovers some joy, while boosting awareness over pet raising, which has become increasingly popular in the region. The cafe, the first of its kind in Gaza, is entirely cat-themed, with mirrors and flower vases, as well as posters of the 14 resident cats that are available for guests, adults or children, to play with. On Sunday, a long queue of hopeful customers formed, spurring Mea'bed to set up more tables and seats for families who had brought their children along for the feline experience, costing \$1.30 per half hour. Parents are able to sit and observe their children play with the cats through a glass partition as they sip their coffee.



President Ebrahim Raisi listens to Chief of Aviation Industries of Armed Forces Gen. Afshin Khajehfard, as Defense Minister Gen. Mohammad Reza Gharazi and Ashtiani listen, during a ceremony unveiling a drone called the Mohajer-10.

Poland's leader says Russia's moving tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus, shifting regional security

Monitoring Desk

WARSAW: Poland's President Andrzej Duda said Tuesday that Russia already is in the process of shifting some short-range nuclear weapons to neighboring Belarus, a move that Duda said will shift the security architecture of the region and the entire NATO military alliance.

Both Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko said last month that Moscow already had shipped some

of its tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus after announcing the plan in March. The U.S. and NATO haven't confirmed the move. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg denounced Moscow's rhetoric as "dangerous and reckless," but said in July that the alliance hadn't seen any change in Russia's nuclear posture.

Tactical nuclear weapons are intended for use on the battlefield and have a short range and a low yield compared with much more

powerful nuclear warheads fitted to long-range missiles. Russia said it would maintain control over those it sends to Belarus.

Duda made his comments at a joint news conference with visiting Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

"I was telling President (Sousa) about the implementation of the declarations by Vladimir Putin that Russia's tactical nuclear weapons will be moved to the territory of Belarus," Duda said.

Russian strikes kill eight 'fighters' in Syria

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: Eight fighters died on Monday in Russian air strikes targeting a rebel base in Syria's northwest, the last major bastion of armed opposition to President Bashar al-Assad's rule, a war monitor said.

Moscow's intervention since 2015 has helped Damascus claw back much of the territory it had lost to rebel forces early in the 12-year civil war, and Russian forces have repeatedly struck the Idlib area.

Early on Monday, "Russian warplanes carried out air strikes on the western outskirts of Idlib city,

targeting a military base belonging to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)... killing at least eight fighters," said Rami Abdelrahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Several other fighters were wounded in the strikes, with some in critical condition, said the Britain-based monitor which relies on a wide network of sources inside Syria.

Militant group HTS, led by Syria's former Al Qaeda affiliate, controls swathes of Idlib province, as well as parts of the adjacent Latakia, Hama, and Aleppo provinces.

Turk Cypriots accuse U.N. of bias in road construction dispute

Monitoring Desk

NICOSIA: Turkish Cypriots on Tuesday accused the United Nations of bias in a dispute over a road construction project that led to the most serious incidents of tension in years on the ethnically divided island last week.

Scuffles broke out on Friday between U.N. peacekeepers and Turkish Cypriot security personnel when peacekeepers attempted to prevent construction work in an area the U.N. mission in Cyprus.



China's Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao gestures as South Africa's Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel shows him the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition's campus, before the start of the South Africa.

Ethiopia says it will investigate alleged migrant killings with Saudi Arabia

Monitoring Desk

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia will promptly investigate the incident in tandem with Saudi Authorities, the foreign ministry statement said, emphasizing the strong relations between the two governments. "It is highly advised to exercise utmost restraint from making unnecessary speculations until the investigation is complete," the statement said.

In a 73-page report released on Monday, Human Rights Watch accused Saudi guards posted along the Yemen border of "widespread and systematic" attacks on migrants, who use remote mountain tracks to cross the frontier by foot.

Saudi Arabian officials did not respond to a request for comment about the investigation. A Saudi official said on Monday that the allegations made in the report published by Human Rights Watch (HRW) were "unfounded".

"The Government of Ethiopia will promptly investigate the incident in tandem with Saudi Authorities," the foreign ministry statement said, emphasizing the strong relations between the two governments. "It is highly advised to exercise utmost restraint from making unnecessary speculations until the investigation is complete," the statement said.

Firefighters in Greece battle blazes fanned by gale force winds

Monitoring Desk

ATHENS: Hundreds of firefighters struggled to contain wildfires fanned by gale force winds in several parts of Greece on Monday as authorities warned most regions faced a high risk of new blazes.

More than 200 firefighters backed by 17 aircraft were battling a wildfire burning for the third day near the northern port city of Alexandroupolis, where 13 communities were evacuated as a precaution since the fire broke out on Saturday, the fire brigade said.

Hitler's birth house to be redesigned

Monitoring Desk

VIENNA: The redesign of Adolf Hitler's birth house will go ahead as planned, starting on October 2, Austria's interior ministry said on Monday, after a documentary aired new claims about the late Nazi dictator's wishes for it.

Following years of legal wrangling, the government decided to turn the house in the northern Austrian town of Braunau, where Hitler was born in 1889, into a police station with a human rights training centre.

Iran unveils drone resembling America's MQ-9 Reaper & says it could potentially reach Israel

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's Defense Ministry unveiled a drone on Tuesday resembling America's armed MQ-9 Reaper, claiming that the aircraft is capable of staying airborne for 24 hours and has the range to reach the country's arch-enemy Israel.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency published a photograph of the drone, called the Mohajer-10, on display at a conference marking Defense Industry Day with what appeared to be smoke-machine fog underneath it.

"Mohajer" means "immigrant" in Farsi and has been a drone line manufactured by the Islamic Republic since 1985.

IRNA said the drone is able to fly up to 24,000 feet with a speed of 210 kph (130 mph), carrying a bomb payload of up to 300 kilograms

(660 pounds). It also said the drone could carry electronic surveillance equipment and a camera. Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, a protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also viewed the drone on Tuesday.

"Today, we can firmly introduce Iran as an advanced and technologic nation to the world," Raisi said in comments aired on state television. He reiterated Iran's stance about friendly relations with "all countries in the world," adding that Iran's armed forces will cut off any hand that will reach out in an attempt to invade Iran, state TV reported.

The Associated Press could not immediately verify the claims about the drone's capabilities, though an arm of state television shared a video of it taking off from a runway.

China lodges complaint over US-Japan-S. Korea statement

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China said on Monday it had lodged complaints over a statement released at a first-of-its-kind summit of the leaders of the United States, South Korea and Japan in which they criticised Beijing's "aggressive behaviour".

US President Joe Biden hosted the summit — described as launching a "new chapter" of close, three-way security cooperation — at the Camp David presidential retreat.

The three leaders said in a joint statement on Friday they opposed the "dangerous and aggressive behaviour" of China in maritime disputes in the East and South China Sea.

Beijing hit back on Monday, saying the leaders had "smeared and attacked China on Taiwan-related and maritime issues, grossly interfered in China's internal affairs and deliberately sowed discord between China and its neighbours".

It also expressed "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition and has lodged solemn representations with relevant parties", foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a regular news briefing.

Camp David marks the first time the leaders of the United States, Japan and South Korea have met for a standalone summit, rather than on the sidelines of a larger event.

"If relevant countries really care about peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, they should abide by the One-China principle, stop condoning and supporting separatists advocating for Taiwan independence and their activities, and take concrete actions to safeguard regional peace and stability," Wang said on Monday.

"The Taiwan question is purely China's internal affair. Solving the Taiwan question is China's own business", he added.

Turkey says UN lost neutrality after world body condemns Cyprus roadwork, assault on peacekeepers

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: Turkey's foreign minister accused the United Nations of abandoning its neutrality on Tuesday, a day after the U.N. Security Council criticized construction work by Turkish Cypriots inside the buffer zone dividing Cyprus and condemned their assault on U.N. peacekeepers.

In a statement issued Monday, the Security Council described the construction of a road as a violation of the status quo that is contrary to council resolutions. The statement came at the end of emergency closed consultations by the council's 15 members.

Angry Turkish Cypriots last week punched and kicked a group of international peacekeepers that blocked crews working on a road that would encroach on the island's U.N.-controlled buffer zone. The road is designed to connect the village of Arsos, in the Turkish Cypriot north, with the

multi-ethnic village of Pyla, which is inside the buffer zone and abuts the Greek Cypriot south.

"We believe that with this move, the United Nations has lost its neutrality," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told reporters during a joint news conference with his Bulgarian counterpart.

Fidan maintained that Greek Cypriots had been allowed to go ahead with similar road construction projects.

"The road built by Greek Cypriots towards the Greek population in Pyla was never subjected to obstruction and condemnation by the United Nations," he said. He accused the U.N. of acting "like a hawk" to block the Turkish Cypriots' project.

Earlier, the Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a statement rejecting the U.N. Security Council's condemnation, which is said to be "divorced from the realities on the ground."

High heat can serve up food insecurity within days, says study

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: Amid record-high temperatures globally, a study on Monday reveals that a few days of searing heat can be enough to prevent billions of people already living hand-to-mouth on daily wages from putting food on the table.

A week of extreme temperatures in India, for example, means an additional eight million people will likely experience serious food insecurity, according to findings published in the journal Nature Human Behaviour.

Spread across 150 countries examined — especially in tropical and subtropical zones — that same heatwave translates into millions of men, women and children at risk of hunger, even if overall food precarity is increased by less than one per cent, they found.

The World Bank estimates that nearly 30pc of the global population suf-

fered moderate or severe food insecurity in 2022.

Analysis of heat impact on food availability is usually limited to decreases in crop yields, with the effects felt over months or years.

The new study, however, reveals that the impact can be immediate when it is tied to income.

"If it gets hot today, there might be food insecurity within just a few days because people can't work, which means they can't earn income and afford to buy food," lead author Carolin Kroeger of Oxford University. Such outcomes are typically greatest in jobs where pay is closely tied to productivity, such as agricultural harvests or piece-rate work. Female brick carriers in West Bengal, for example, are paid by the number of bricks they carry a day. When the hot weather forces them to carry fewer bricks, they experience income losses as high as 50pc.

Italy detains migrant rescue ship 'over port dispute'

Monitoring Desk

ROME: Italian authorities have detained a migrant rescue ship for 20 days after it disobeyed an order about where to disembark its passengers, the charity which operates the vessel said on Monday.

The 14-metre ex-lifeboat Aurora picked up 72 people in distress in the central Mediterranean on Friday, and was told by Italian authorities to take them to the Sicilian port of Trapani, said German non-governmental organisation Sea-Watch. But the crew warned the port was "unreachable" as they were low on fuel and running out of water in high temperatures.

They asked instead to go to the Italian island of Lampedusa, which they said was "four times closer", but were refused — and even told to go to Tunisia, Sea-Watch said.

In the end, "due to the extreme situation on board" in which one person was

found unconscious, the Aurora was allowed to dock at Lampedusa on Saturday afternoon, it said.

"The ship, however, is now detained for 20 days based on the Italian government decree on sea rescue, and Sea-Watch will be fined between 2,500 and 10,000 euros (\$2,725 and \$10,900)," the charity said in a statement.

The decree was passed by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's right-wing government, which took office in October vowing to curb the number of migrants arriving on Italy's shores. The decree limits charity ships to one sea rescue at a time and requires them to disembark their passengers at a specific port — often on the other side of Italy. Located just around 145 kilometres off the coast of Tunisia, tiny Lampedusa is the landing point for many migrants crossing on small boats from North Africa into Europe.



People protesting in the southern Syrian city of Suweida.

Interim government fixes Diyat amount at Rs 67,57,902 for FY24

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the recommendation of the finance ministry, the Interim Federal Cabinet on Tuesday fixed the amount of Diyat, which is equal to 30,630 grams of silver, at Rs 67,57,902 for the year 2023-24.

In Islamic law Diyat is the financial compensation paid to the victim or heirs of a victim in the cases of murder, bodily harm or property damage by mistake.

The meeting of the cabinet was held here under the chairmanship of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq.

During the meeting, the prime minister informed the meeting about his previous day's visit to Jaranwala.

He said extremism and

religious agitation will never be allowed in the country and protection of minorities in Pakistan was the foremost duty of the state.

He expressed his resolve to punish all those involved in the incident of Jaranwala.

The meeting recommended to organize a national level inter-faith harmony conference next week.

Scholars of different religions and schools of thought would be invited to it.

The conference will prove to be an important milestone for the promotion of inter-faith harmony in Pakistan.

Earlier addressing the cabinet, the prime minister said the caretaker government's prime man-

date was to assist and monitor the electoral process which was the constitutional requirement.

He said keeping in mind the prime mandate, the caretaker government would monitor its day-to-day activities to the best of its abilities.

"We are here as a constitutional continuation for a limited period of time and we are not here to design the government model or structure," the prime minister said while addressing the cabinet meeting here.

He maintained that as a continuation of the previous government, the caretaker setup was generally supposed to carry on with the general policy until and unless there were any violations of rules or business.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Old Age Home, Aafiyat, Multan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Religious tolerance key to peace, stability: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has said that religious tolerance and Inter-Faith Harmony are key for global peace and stability.

He expressed these views in his message on "International Day Commemorating The Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief".

The Speaker in a statement, said that acts of violence based on religious belief and faith are condemnable. He also stressed the need for tolerance and forbearance as the prevalent norm in societies.

The speaker has also condemned the incidents of Desecration of Holy Quran which are cause of deep concern and pain the Muslims in Pakistan and around the world. He also said that Islamic teachings stress Ideology and the notion of Religious Tolerance and Inter-Faith Harmony.

While highlighting the increasing incidents of hatred and animosity against Indian Muslims by the fas-

cist Modi government, he said that global stakeholders need to take cognisance of the plight of Indian Muslims. He also said that the world should also take notice of severe violence against innocent Palestinians by Israeli forces.

Furthermore, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has said that Kashmiris have been facing the suppression and aggression of Indian state machinery in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. He said that acts of violence on the basis of religious belief are the real cause of instability in the world.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has said that the constitution of Pakistan guarantees the provision of fundamental rights to all irrespective of religious belief and faith. He also said that the implementation of the constitution in Letter & Spirit would ensure a pluralist society in Pakistan. He also said that the world should also take notice of severe violence against innocent Palestinians by Israeli forces.

President stresses special measures for welfare of elderly, poor

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday stressed the government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and civil society to work together for the welfare of poor people and elderly in the society.

Talking to a delegation of Old Age Home, Aafiyat Multan here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, he said Islam gave utmost importance to respect the senior citizens.

He said the parents

should arrange quality education and training for their children according to teachings of Islam.

The president said fulfilling the basic rights of the parents must be among the top responsibilities of their children.

"Actions are needed to provide all the basic facilities and necessities of life to the homeless and the elderly", Alvi said.

He urged the philanthropists, welfare organiza-

tions and other sections of the society to make special efforts to take care of the elderly.

He said measures were also needed at the legal and social level for the well being of the senior citizens.

He appreciated the role of 'Iare Zemin Par Trust' and 'Aafiyat' for taking care of the elderly.

Later, the president also hosted a lunch for senior citizens.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Caretaker CM directs to expedite work on Quetta Development Package removing all hurdles

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the Director Quetta Development Package and other concerned high ups to expedite the pace of work on the Package removing all hurdles in the way of its smooth completion.

He asserted that no negligence would be tolerated in early completion of the road and other projects under the Quetta Development Package.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of his surprise visit to different under construction roads under the Quetta

Development Package here in the metropolis on Tuesday.

Mr. Domki visited under construction Sariab road, Sabzal road, link Badini road, Radio Pakistan tower and western bypass.

Also present on the occasion were the Additional Chief Secretary Development, Hafiz Abdul Basit, Project Director Quetta Package and Commissioner Quetta, Sohailur Rehman Baloch, Member National Highway Authority and other concerned high ups.

Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister said that Quetta development Package is an important project related to

the beautification of city and strengthening the communication system. Therefore, it is very necessary to complete it at the earliest.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that there's a need to dispel the impression that this package has become source of botheration instead of blessing for the people.

On the occasion directed to remove hurdles in way of completion of the roads besides bridges being constructed on them.

He said that he would personally visit the projects after every 10 days to monitor progress of the work so as to provide relief to the people.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

British, Iranian envoys call on Senate Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): British High Commissioner (BHC) Jane Marriott and Iranian Ambassador Dr Reza Amir Moghaddam on Tuesday held separate meetings with Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and exchanged mutual interest and exploration of avenues for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and the respective countries.

During the meeting between the Senate chairman and British envoy, issues of paramount importance such as trade, investment, parliamentary cooperation, and public relations between the two nations came under discussion.

The Senate chairman highlighted the need to am-

plify partnerships between Pakistan and the United Kingdom across various sectors, particularly in the realms of health, education, and technology. He emphasized on fostering collaboration through the mobilization of existing parliamentary friendship groups.

Sanjrani underscored the abundant investment opportunities that Pakistan offers within a favourable economic environment. He highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to promote investment and extend incentives to potential investors. He underscored that Gwadar was being emerged as a burgeoning economic hub and encouraged British investors to explore investment prospects in the region.

Domki visits E-Khidmat Markaz of S&IT Dept.

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki paid surprise visit to the E-Khidmat Markaz located at Spinny road here on Tuesday.

He went round of different sections of the E-Khidmat Markaz being run by the Science and Information Technology Department, Government of Balochistan.

The caretaker Chief Minister was briefed about the overall functioning of the center.

He said that E-Khidmat Markaz is an important project in view of the ever changing world and modern technology.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki announced that the E-Khidmat Markaz would be expanded to other districts of the province as well.

Prompt result sharing ECP launches efficient Result Compilation System

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was informed on Tuesday that a Result Compilation System has been created to swiftly transmit provisional results from the presiding officer to the returning officer using a mobile app. During a session presided over by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, an ECP representative conveyed that the recently introduced Result Compilation System will empower Returning Officers to swiftly compile provisional results while ensuring accurate vote statistics.

Khilji directs DCs to collect date of Afghan refugees for transparent elections

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Loralai Division Muhammad Gul Khajli on Tuesday directed that all deputy commissioners (DCs) of division, with the support of the Commissioner Afghan Refugees (CAR) and in collaboration with UNHCR and social organizations, find out the number of registered and unregistered Afghan refugees for transparent elections. He gave this instruction when he chaired meeting to collect date of Afghan refugees in living respective districts in order to conduct free, fair and transparent general elections.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Loralai Subban Salim Dasthi, and representatives of various intelligence agencies while Deputy Commissioner

District Duki Mehran Baloch, Deputy Commissioner Barkhan Abdul Hameed Zehri, Deputy Commissioner Musakhel Azeem Jan Dummer and Commissioner Afghan Refugees participated through video link.

In the meeting, the number of Afghan refugees in Loralai Division before the elections, registration and strategy for collecting their data were discussed. Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Loralai Division Muhammad Gul Khajli said that a large number of Afghan refugees were living in Katwi, Ghazgai, Zakariz, Sepidar camps in Loralai district.

He said that the first priority of the present caretaker government was to hold a free, fair and transparent election.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed about construction project of Link Badini Road under Quetta Development Package.

MERC rescue over 2500 precious lives

By Rafiullah Mandokhail
ZHOB: 'Since the establishment of Medical Emergency Response Centers along the national highway connecting Balochistan with Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, so far responded to around 1500 road accidents and rescued over 2500 precious lives,' this number has been revealed by an official at the MERC in northern Balochistan.

'MERC provides medical assistance in road accidents or RTAs, poisoning, drowning, burn injuries, snake bite cases and heat wave cases,' the official added.

The Balochistan government under the administration of the Public Primary Health Initiative

(PPHI) has established specialized emergency service centers on major highways in the province in 2019, which provide emergency healthcare to the people in their catchment areas.

All the MERC centers are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, trained emergency staff, medical supplies and advanced lifesaving ambulances.

Along the national highway N-50, two centers MERC Badinzai in Zhob - from Sawara bridge Musafirpur to District headquarter civil hospital and MERC Mani Khwa in Sherani district - from Kataw Dabara Dhana Sarto DHQ hospital have been playing an active role in this remote and mountainous area of Balochistan.

Assistant Commissioner Kalat Jahanzeb Baloch, Assistant Commissioner Mungchar Muhammad Hanif Noorzai, DSP Manzoor Ahmed Mengal, and all other government department officials were present on the occasion.

Open court held to solve legal issues of public in Kalat

QUETTA (APP): On special directive of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki, an open court (Khuli-Khechar) was organized by the district administration of Kalat to address legal issues of the public for facilitating them.

The open court started at the district council hall, Kalat under supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kalat Fida Baloch.

Assistant Commissioner Kalat Jahanzeb Baloch, Assistant Commissioner Mungchar Muhammad Hanif Noorzai, DSP Manzoor Ahmed Mengal, and all other government department officials were present on the occasion.

COPHC chairman brands Gwadar as CPEC's pivotal axis

GWADAR (INP): The China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Chairman, Yu Bo, has termed Gwadar port as pivotal axis of CPEC.

He made these remarks during his median meeting held at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) while shedding light on the transformative progress of Gwadar under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He showcased avenues for Pakistani investors to engage formally with Chinese companies for joint ventures in Gwadar.

"The first stage of

Gwadar's port and city development, along with the Gwadar Free Zone, has been completed, marking a substantial achievement. We have been transforming Gwadar from a modest village into a thriving modern city, replete with cutting-edge technology," he added, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.

Yu highlighted China's substantial investments in Gwadar's growth, spanning construction, airport infrastructure, and healthcare facilities.

The Gwadar Free Zone, which came under the auspices of the Free

Zone Company in 2018, he said, has already established a vibrant phase one, spanning 25 hectares adjacent to the port. Notably, this area has attracted six companies.

The North Free Zone, covering a sprawling 900 hectares, is positioned for industrial and warehousing purposes, and Yu emphasized its role in processing raw materials for subsequent export.

Yu revealed significance of Gwadar port's operational status, its cargo handling capacity, and plans for the Gwadar International Airport's full-scale operation.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over the meeting of Finance Department.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

Condemns incident of firing in SW Caretaker CM grieved over martyrdom of 6 jawans

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has strongly condemned the incident of firing by terrorists in South Waziristan.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the caretaker Chief Minister expressed grief and sorrow over martyrdom of six jawans of Pak Army in the exchange of fire with terrorists.

He also prayed for the departed souls of the martyrs and patience for the bereaved families.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that the Pak

Army jawans eliminated four terrorists while fighting against them bravely.

He said that we are proud of our security forces, who have always foiled the nefarious designs of the terrorists and miscreants.

The caretaker Chief Minister also said that the moral of nation can't be downed through such cowardly acts of terrorism.

He said that the entire nation is standing by its security institutions, and the menace of terrorism would be wiped out with support of the masses.

Asghar for resolving basic issues of masses

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial President of Awami National Party (ANP), Asghar Khan Achakzai has stated that education, health, drinking water and protection of life and property is every human being's basic right and the state can't be exempted from resolving these very basic issues.

He vowed to continue peaceful struggle for the rights of all oppressed nationalities whether the party is in power or not.

He said that the journey of peace, development and prosperity would also remain continued in future.

Asghar Khan Achakzai was addressing the ceremony of joining at residence of Abdullah Jan Aka in Kili Haji Rangeen, Muhallah Haji Abdul Samad, Chaman on Tuesday.

Haji Abdullah Jan, Haji Abdul Qadir, Khair Muhammad, Musa, Mohibullah and others announced to join ANP along with their companions.

The ANP's provincial president welcomed and congratulated those joined the party. He said that it is a good omen that a large number of elders are joining the party in large number.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Zubair Jamali in a meeting with Additional Chief Secretary, Home and Tribal Affairs Saleh Muhammad Nassar.

Condolence Reference: Mama Salam Baloch remembered for his struggles

QUETTA (APP): The Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) held a condolence reference in memory of Mama Salam Baloch to pay tributes his struggles for the workers. The reference was held at Quetta Press Club on Tuesday which was attended by a large number of workers, trade unions, journalists and people from different walks of life.

The participants paid tribute to the late workers leader and highlighted his struggles for the rights of

the workers. Addressing the condolence meeting, Central Chairman (PWF), Raza Khan said that Mama Salam Baloch was always raised voice for the rights of the workers and stood along with them at every forum.

"He remained committed to the rights of the poor working class till his last breath and history will never forget his struggle for the well-being of the workers across the country" he said.