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Surrender not an option:

PM Kakar vows to continue fight against terrorists

Praises sacrifices of martyrs for nation; says wars are not fought by individuals, but nations; Strongly abhorred terrorist acts and suicide attacks.

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Wednesday categorically said that Pakistan would never surrender to radicalization, extremism and intolerance but rather would fight without falling prey to war fatigue.

"Those who think we will fall prey to war fatigue should clear their misunderstanding.

This war is not fought by individuals... This war is fought by nation... Surrendering is not an option. We will fight no matter what," he said during a press conference during his visit here.

Referring to the martyrdom of soldiers in South Waziristan on Tuesday, he said that Pakistan was not a power that would return

5,000 kilometers away from here.

"This is our home. We are here. We will run our home in our own way," he said.

The prime minister said those trying to undermine the morale of the Pakistani nation should clear their misunderstanding as Pakistan would never forget the sacrifices of its martyrs.

He said Pakistan was not fighting this war on alms but rather spending our own taxpayers' money.

He said the Pakistani soldiers were not rendering sacrifices in return for the salaries.

"Their service is not in return for salaries, rather respect and dignity is their salary. Salary is just meant to suffice their needs. The

nation pays them in the form of respect," he remarked.

Prime Minister Kakar said that those who were trying to create chaos in the name of religion were actually miscalculating and misreading.

"This is a clear message. They can fight for a limited time, but not for long. They are miscalculating and misreading whom they are faced with. We are not afraid of suicide attackers," he said.

Referring to the rescue operation of trapped eight passengers of a cable car in Battagram, the prime minister said the country's infrastructure was becoming a threat to human lives.

"We were overwhelm-

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Communication Ashraf Tarar meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Kha Domki

President invites CEC to fix date for general elections

In letter to CEC, Alvi cites constitutional requirement for president to decide date for elections within 90 days of NA dissolution; ECP decides to consult all political parties, including PTI, for elections schedule

ISLAMABAD (APP): 2023, therefore under Article 48 (5) of the Constitution, he (as the president) was obliged to appoint a date not later than 90 days from the date of dissolution for the holding of general election of National Assembly.

Dr Arif Alvi, in a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner, said since the National Assembly was dissolved on August 9,

"Forgoing in view, the Chief Election Commission,"

Continued on page 2

Green bus service to be started on more routes as well: Domki

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has appreciated the previous provincial government for launching the green bus service project and stated that this bus service would be started on more routes in Quetta.



The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to the passengers during his travel on a Green bus on Wednesday.

Also accompanied with him were the caretaker Information Minister, Jan Achakzai, Principal Secretary, Lal Jan Jaffar and other concerned high ups.

The passengers riding the Green bus were happily surprised to see the caretaker Chief Minister among them.

They appreciated the initiative of the provincial government about starting the Green bus service in Quetta. They also expressed the desire to expand the route of Green bus on more routes in the metropolis.

Ali Mardan Domki on the occasion said that the launching of Green bus service was an excellent initiative of the previous government.

Negotiation between caretaker govt and IMF will take place next month

ISLAMABAD (Online): Virtual conversation took place in this regard last evening.

Finance Ministry authorities have started giving circular debt repayment plan.

IMF has asked for more details on government plan in this regard.

Dr Shamsad will brief on loan repayment scheme.

China, UAE envoys call on foreign minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates Hamad Alzaabi and Chinese Charge d' Affaires Pang Chunxue on Wednesday separately called on Caretaker Foreign Minister Jaalil Abbas Jilani here.

In the meeting with the UAE envoy, the two sides discussed bilateral, regional as well as multilateral issues of mutual interest and the potential of enhancing trade and investment ties between the two countries, a Foreign Office statement said.

During the meeting with Chinese Charge d' Affaires, the two countries reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China.

Three bullet riddled bodies found in Mand area of Kech

QUETTA: The bullet riddled and handcuffed bodies of three persons were found in Mand area of Kech on Wednesday.

According to the reports reaching here, the bodies were recovered from the road side in Mula chat area.

The bodies were removed to the civil hospital Mand for identification and necessary action. Later, they were identified as Dr. Hamid Buledi, his son Behroz and his nephew namely Abdul Basit. The reports suggested that all the three persons were shot dead by unknown persons. They had gone to the Iranian province of Balochistan about one and half year back.

Blast leaves one injured in Lehri

QUETTA (APP): A blast in ancestral town of Interim Chief Minister Balochistan Ali Mardan Domki left one person injured, police said on Wednesday.

They said that a land mine planted by unknown miscreants exploded in Kach area of Lehri Tehsil of Sibi when a motorbike hit the landmine. The injured identified as Sikandar Talani was shifted to district headquarters' hospital.



KARACHI: Flanked by Governor Sindh and Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing a press conference.

Caretaker Federal Minister Communication tells caretaker CM: Completion of Quetta-Karachi, Quetta-Zhob and Quetta-Jacobabad highways topmost priority

Work on construction of Pinjra pull to be started in September this year

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Federal Minister for Communications, Ashraf Tarar has stated that the completion of different highways connecting Quetta to various parts of the country i.e. Karachi, Zhob and Jacobabad is topmost priority of the interim government. The Federal Minister Communications said that all the projects of highways including Quetta-Karachi, Quetta-Zhob and Quetta-Jacobabad would be put on fast track for early completion.

The work on construction of Pinjra pull (bridge) would be started in September this year while the pace of work on the ongoing western bypass project has been accelerated.

This and similar other

details were shared by the caretaker Federal Minister while speaking to the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki who called on him here at the CM's secretariat on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, the matters about reconstruction as well as repair and expansion of the roads and highways were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker Federal Minister said that he is visiting Balochistan on directives of the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar.

He said that it is directive of the Prime Minister to complete the projects of highways on priority basis.

The Federal Minister informed that the PC-I of

dualization of Quetta-Jacobabad road has been approved. He said that the National Highway Authority (NHA) would spend major portion of its resources in Balochistan.

The caretaker Chief Minister on the occasion noted with pleasure that the federal government has started paying attention on the province on directives of caretaker Prime Minister. He said that the immediate rehabilitation of the bridges located on the Quetta-Karachi highway is very important as the people are facing severe problems due to the damaged bridges.

The Federal Minister directed the Member NHA to take steps on emergent basis for rehabilitation of the damaged bridges.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti chairing a briefing session, at Ministry of Narcotics Control in Islamabad.

Interior Minister says Nation united against terrorism, extremism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday said that the entire nation was united against the menace of terrorism and extremism.

National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) Inspector General Tahir Ray briefed the minister on his visit to the authority's headquarters.

The minister reviewing the National Action Plan said that the terrorism

would be completely eliminated from the society and Pakistan would be made peaceful country for all.

He said Pakistan's narrative against terrorism and extremism provided complete guideline which needed to be promoted further.

He said NACTA would make effective and workable policy to counter terrorism and the policy would be shared with all other departments for effective coordination.

'No political friends, enemies'; says Solangi

Says caretaker govt has no role in fixing election date

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday reiterated that the interim dispensation had 'No political friends and no political enemies'.

While talking to a private television talk show, he said all political parties had

the freedom to present their viewpoint.

"Criticism is their democratic right, we cannot take this right from them. We are not in favour or against any political party," Murtaza Solangi said.

The minister said the



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Senator Saeed Ahmed Hashmi at his residence

Toshakhana case:

Prima facie trial court decision in the case was wrong: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) declared that decision in Toshakhana case is prima facie wrong.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial remarked trial court order in Toshakhana case is not correct. The matter is in high court therefore, we are not interfering in it today.

The SC while directing Islamabad High Court (IHC) to hear appeal tomorrow remarked "we will hear the case again at 1 p.m.

Appeal plea filed by chairman PTI against a decision of district election commission Islamabad and IHC in Toshakhana criminal case came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over

by CJP Umar Ata Bandial Wednesday.

The other two members of bench are Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail.

At the inception of hearing Latif Khosa counsel for chairman PTI started his arguments.

The CJP remarked there are three petitions before us.

The counsel for chairman PTI explained that the petitioner has filed appeal pleas against different decisions.

Latif Khosa said Imran Khan was elected Member of National Assembly (MNA) from Mianwali in 2018. He was charged with

Continued on page 2



Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir interacting with officers and troops deployed in Sherwani area near Asman Manza in South Waziristan District

Terrorists & affiliates to be hunted down till their surrender to State: COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP):

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday said the terrorists, their affiliates and abettors, who were working on hostile agenda to destabilise the country, would be hunted down until their surrender to the State of Pakistan.

The Army Chief was interacting with the officers and troops deployed in Sherwani area near Asman Manza in South Waziristan District where six brave soldiers had embraced Shahadat (martyrdom) on Tuesday while fighting gallantly against terrorists, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release

said. The COAS appreciated the unflinching resolve of army officers and troops in fighting the menace of terrorism.

"Shuhada (martyrs) are our pride and their sacrifices will not go in vain till the return of complete peace and stability in Pakistan," he added.

General Asim Munir was given a detailed briefing on the prevailing security situation, including the ongoing intelligence and counter-terrorism operations.

Earlier on his arrival, the COAS was received by the Commander Peshawar Corps.

Plants sapling of Quetta pine at Governor House: Governor calls for maximum participation of people in tree plantation campaign

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed the need to create awareness among the general public about tree plantation as it is crucial for overcoming the environmental pollution.



He also directed to ensure maximum participation of people and concerned departments in the tree plantation campaign.

The Governor was speaking on occasion of beginning of the Monsoon tree plantation campaign here at the Governor House on Wednesday.

The Governor planted a plant of Quetta Pine to mark inauguration of the tree plantation campaign. Also present on the occasion was Secretary Forests, Noor Muhammad Pirani.

He said that it is need of the hour to create awareness about importance and utility of the trees for overcoming the environmental pollution.

CJP Bandial trying to 'save' Imran, claims Nawaz

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Nawaz Sharif, the supreme leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), has said that a former chief justice and his "cronies" within the Supreme Court played an active role in his arrest, disqualification, and dismantling of his government. Moreover, he alleged that the present chief justice, Justice Umar Ata Bandial is providing protection to an individual implicated in embezzling billions of ru-

pees.

"The chief justice is well aware that this person [Imran Khan] has wreaked havoc on Pakistan's economy, ethics, and culture. He has propagated violence and repeatedly violated the Constitution," said Nawaz while speaking to journalists outside his Avenfield residence in London on Wednesday.

He said that the chief justice was putting his own future at stake by safeguarding the PTI chief.

Ashrafi for collective action to promote breastfeeding, dispel misconceptions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Wednesday said breastfeeding provided a wide array of health benefits for both infants and mothers religiously and scientifically.

Addressing an advocacy and awareness seminar – World Breastfeeding Week 2023 here at a local hotel, he emphasized that it was a collective responsibility to promote breastfeeding urging religious scholars to actively participate in encouraging this healthy practice and dispelling misconceptions related to it in society.

Ashrafi said breast milk was uniquely designed to

cater to the nutritional needs of infants as it contains the ideal balance of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals necessary for the baby's growth and development. "Colostrum, the initial milk produced after childbirth, is rich in antibodies that offer immune system support," he added.

He said Islam promoted the nourishment and protection of children, adding that the breast milk was packed with essential nutrients, antibodies, and enzymes that strengthen a child's immune system, reduce the risk of infections, and aid in proper physical and cognitive development.

He said breastfeeding was not only beneficial for the child but also for the

mother as it helps reduce the risk of postpartum haemorrhage and aids in uterine contraction, aiding the mother's recovery after childbirth. "Additionally, it contributes to weight loss and helps reduce the risk of certain diseases, such as breast and ovarian cancers," he emphasized.

Ashrafi said Islam promoted responsible family planning, and breastfeeding could act as a form of natural contraception known as the Lactational Amenorrhea Method (LAM), as breastfeeding delays the return of menstrual cycles, providing a natural spacing of pregnancies.

He called for strict consequences for those who neglect their responsibility

to breastfeed their children without valid reasons. "If a mother withholds breastfeeding from her child without genuine justification, she should face appropriate penalties," he asserted.

He suggested that medical professionals advising against breastfeeding should have their licenses revoked.

Ashrafi assured that the religious scholars always aligned themselves with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination on this matter and called for the formation of committees at both the national and provincial levels to address breastfeeding-related concerns.



KARACHI: A delegation of Pakistan People's Party called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Kha Domki listening problems of people of different districts

Hafeez's brilliant batting leads Chargers to victory

LAUDERHILL, Florida (INP): Fidel Edwards picked up fantastic bowling figures of 3/5 as the Texas Chargers took down the New Jersey Triton's by 8 wickets in the US Masters T10 League. The Chargers restricted the Triton's to 57/9 before chasing down their total in just 4 overs.

Mohammad Hafeez put the Chargers in the driver's seat with three sixes and a four, however, he was bowled out by Liam Plunkett in the second over.

Thereafter, Ben Dunk ensured that the momentum stayed on Texas Chargers' side with two fours and a six in the next over.

Dunk brought the equation down to 10 runs off 43 balls before departing in the third over, after which, Mukhtar Ahmed and Thisara Perera took the Chargers over the line with 6 overs to spare.

Earlier in the day, the Texas Chargers won the toss and put the New Jersey Triton's into bat. Fidel

Edwards got the Chargers off to a fantastic start after dismissing Naman Ojha and Yusuf Pathan in successive deliveries in the first over. Thereafter, Ehsan Adil also joined the party, dismissing Jesse Ryder and Chris Barnwell in the fourth over. The Triton's were reeling at 17/4.

Peter Trego and Danza Hyatt tried to get their innings going with a few boundaries, but even they fell in quick succession, leaving the Triton's at 41/6.

'No political friends....'

Continued from page 1

caretaker government had no intention to interfere in any activity under the constitution and law of the country.

He said, "If the constitution, law, and courts take any action against someone, the government cannot stop the process."

"The Election Commission of Pakistan is a constitutional body which had the responsibility to conduct free, transparent, and impartial elections."

"We will abide by our oath, we cannot think of violating it at any stage", Murtaza Solangi said.

The government had no news of hopelessness and there should not be suspicion of breach of promise, he added.

"The Election Commission has released the full schedule on its website," Murtaza Solangi said.

"Under the Election Act, political parties will

have to give 54 days for the election campaign."

The minister said Pakistan was a democratic country, people enjoyed freedom of expression.

Murtaza Solangi said, "It is the responsibility of the government to ensure good governance."

The minister said that inflation was a reality, and the government was aware of people's problems.

He said that no country could afford to buy expensive oil and sell it at cheaper rates.

He said, "The President of the State has a prominent position in the state system, he was also part of the Parliament under the constitution and the government respected his position." "We will stabilize the economy, and people's money will not be wasted. Each member of the 16-member cabinet is an expert in his field," Murtaza Solangi remarked.

To a question, he said the Prime Minister was continuously informed about the progress of the Battagram chairlift incident.

To another question, he said the Jordanwala incident was a result of intolerance and it was necessary to eradicate this curse from the society.

"Parents, educational institutions including seminars, media, courts, administration, and government have to play their role in promoting the culture of tolerance and inter-faith harmony," he opined.

Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said the date for the upcoming general election would be announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), which was constitutionally responsible to conduct the polls in the country.

Prima facie trial court decision in the....

Continued from page 1

concealing his and his wife assets in nomination papers.

Latif Khosa said member of parliament is bound to file details of his, his wife and children assets in EC till December 31 every year.

He held 6 MNAs sent reference against chairman PTI to speaker National Assembly (NA) wherein he was charged with filing false declaration of his assets.

Speaker sent this reference to EC.

Counsel for chairman PTI read out section 4 and 137 of election act on being inquired by Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi.

He said EC can take action within 120 days.

Justice Mazahir Naqvi inquired can one member of parliament send reference against the other member.

Latif Khosa replied no member can send reference. EC too can take action

within a stipulated time.

Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail inquired if your appeal is accepted, trial court has already announced its decision. Then case will go where.

Latif Khosa said we have challenged legal position also.

Justice Mazhar Naqvi remarked you have not challenged the legal position of complaint then what you are saying.

Latif Khosa said we have challenged legal position of complaint only.

Justice Jamal Mandokhail inquired your case is not pending in trial court. We will send case where after hearing it.

Latif Khosa said SC can nullify all this exercise. Munshi of Khawaja Haris was also kidnapped on the day of decision. The access to justice was stopped.

The CJP inquired did you attach summary of facts with the petition.

what do you say that the complaint should have gone to magistrate instead of additional session.

Justice Jamal Mandokhail remarked the present case is not this that could the reference against chairman PTI be sent or otherwise. You have come against the decision of IHC. Toshakhana central case has been decided. Was it challenged.

The CJP inquired you had challenged the matter of jurisdiction and you are saying yourself that the case is pending hearing in other court.

Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail inquired from Latif Khosa again will the decision of central case be not affected due to hearing of the case by SC. If your appeal is accepted then trial court has announced the decision. Then this case will go where.

Latif Khosa said the court will have to turn back the needless of clock to their first position.

CJP remarked the building which is constructed on wrong basis cannot fall every time.

Latif Khosa said EC decided to register complaint after disqualifying chairman PTI on October 21. Lahore High Court (LHC) was moved against it. The court maintained no criminal proceedings will be initiated till further orders.

The CJP inquired was contempt of court plea filed in LHC.

Chairlift operation: "Our heroes rose to the challenge" says PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that by carrying out a successful operation to rescue eight passengers trapped in a cable car, the heroes of the country rose to the challenge. "In the heart of Battagram, our heroes rose to the challenge," the prime minister wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

He said Pakistan's military, administration and local champions, hand in hand, defied danger to write a new chapter of valour.

He said through their teamwork, they rescued eight young souls, proving once more the strength of the nation's unity.

"Our nation's spirit shines brightest today. Proud of our heroes," the prime minister remarked.

IHC issues written order regarding hearing of appeal against Toshakhana case verdict

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday issued a written order regarding Tuesday's hearing of an appeal Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman against his conviction in the Toshakhana criminal case.

A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, in the order, said that the counsel for Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Amjad Perwaiz had prayed the court to grant two-week time to present the verified record of the case. However, the petitioner's

legal team opposed the request of ECP counsel.

The court said that it was granting two days to the ECP for production of the record keeping in view of the standard of justice, and instructed the Registrar Office to fix the case for hearing again on August 24.

The order said that Dr Babar Awan had also given an application for meeting with the PTI chief in jail. The Registrar Office had raised objections on the application and Babar Awan had stated that he would not go against the objections if he was given permission of meeting.



QUETTA: A delegation of Geological Survey of Pakistan Staff Association led by Naseer Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

President invites CEC to...

Continued from page 1

sioner is invited for a meeting with the President today or tomorrow to fix an appropriate date," the letter noted.

INP adds: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to consult all major political parties, including the PTI, about upcoming general elections and its date. The elections are expected early next year.

Sources said the ECP would consult all political parties separately regarding the elections schedule and its date.

During the consultation, the electoral watchdog will also talk about a road map of the upcoming general elections. Similarly, the commission will also consult over the issues of constituencies' delimitations and voter lists as well.

The process of consulting the political parties will be initiated in next few days, sources added.

The said the PML-N, the PPP, the PTI, the MQM, the JI, the ANP, the JUIF and all other major political parties will be taken onboard.

Meanwhile the mock

exercise of the new Result Compilation System (RCS) has also been conducted which satisfied the ECP.

Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja presided over a meeting of the commission in which a briefing on the RCS was given. During a briefing it was stated that the RCS allows the presiding officer to forward the results right away to returning officer via an app.

Similarly, the ROs will also be equipped to compile inconclusive results with the help of RCS. According to the election authority's Media Coordination and Outreach Wing, the regular mock exercises of RCS had been performed and its entire steps were inspected.

In recent years, the commission has come up with some systems in relation to dealing with election results, which include result transmission and management systems.

Moreover, the ECP revised the task pertaining to the National Assembly constituencies delimitation and four provincial assemblies following the first-ever digital census in 2023.

Four of notorious Buledi gang held

KARACHI (APP): The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) Karachi Police on Wednesday claimed to have busted four alleged members of a notorious dacoit gang known as Buledi gang and recovered arms and motorcycles from their possession.

Among the arrested dacoit gang members were Sajjan Khan Buledi, Kamran Ali Buledi, Gulam Yasin Buledi and Himmat Ali Buledi, according to SSP SIU Junaid Shekh.

The SIU received a tip-off that the gang was planning to kill their rival Gulab Chandio, a head-moneyed outlaw, who was accused of murdering two women of their family.

He said, "We will bring optimism and we will bring positive change. How? I assure you that we will do it together."

"We need to start by listening to each other. We will listen to you (traders) you listen to the state and the government," he added.

The prime minister stated, "The blessings one gets are not for an individual but for shareholding — it is your choice whether you share in your family, home, neighbourhood, province, country or the subcontinent."

He further highlighted that tax evasion occurred because the "dispensation of money is not used correctly" and that "people rationalise that their money is not for flamboyant use by others". The premier added that this had "generated a vicious cycle in the

Government of Pakistan
Pakistan Public Works Department

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are hereby invited in sealed covers from approved Government contractors who have the relevant field of specialization and duly registered/renewed their enlistment for 2023-24 with Pakistan Engineering Council, in relevant category. The schedule for the purchase of bidding documents, and submission / opening of Bids shall be as quoted below:

- Submission of Application with documents quoted below up to: 08-09-2023 (Office Hours)
- Issuance of Bidding documents on: 11-09-2023 (Office Hours)
- Submission of Bids on: 12-09-2023 (till 12.00 PM)
- Opening of Bids on: 12-09-2023 (at 1.00 PM)

S. No	Name of works	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Cost of Tender
1	Construction of Girls Middle School at Khalaq Haji Abdul Basit, Quetta.	60610461.00	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
2	Establishment of Multi-purpose Hall at Balozai of District Pishin.	11479338.00	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
3	Establishment of Veterinary Clinic at District Pishin.	5967115.00	03% of Bid amount	5000.00

Note In case of any unavoidable situation the second schedule of submission / opening of Bids shall be as

- Submission of Bids on: 09-09-2023 (till 12.00 PM)
- Opening of Bids on: 19-09-2023 (at 1.00 PM)

Other terms and conditions may be seen on PPRA Web site (www.ppra.org.pk)

Executive Engineer
Central Civil Division-III
PAK PWD, Quetta

PID(Q)67/23



MACHH: View of site after deadly traffic accident in a horrific collision between a truck and a passenger bus near Abgum Maidani in Machh.

EXTENSION IN BID SUBMISSION

TSE # 232408346592 Electronic Bids Only

Reference to the procurement of **FOOD & REFRESHMENT SERVICES** advertised vide PRQ No. 309/07-08-2023 dated 08-08-2023 the date for submission of bids is extended to Monday 11th September, 2023 (11:00 am).

Other terms and conditions remain same.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Telephone Number: 081-9203079 Ext-338, 375
Fax Number: 081-9202575
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Reza Amiri says: Pak-Iran ties have potential to achieve high goals in era of geo-economics

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghaddam said that Pakistan and Iran's bilateral relations have a resounding future and they have a great potential to achieve high goals in era of geo-economics. Speaking at Islamabad Policy Research Institute's Distinguished Lecture Series, titled 'Diplomatic Reflections' under the theme of Iran-Pakistan Relations, Reza Amiri urged upon to tap all the sectors of talent.

Reza Amiri said that the need of the hour is to convert borders from security centric prism to one dealing with trade and commerce while stressing on the brotherly ties of cordiality based on religion and geography. He also pointed out that CPEC, and the development of Chabahar Port

in the south of Iran are interlinked in terms of commerce and development, and there is no element of conflict in it.

The envoy was candid as he said that both the countries do not have a territorial dispute and the disgruntled elements on the border areas must be tackled with a joint strategy while focusing on the potential of tourism, and border markets.

He also underscored the need for peace, especially in Afghanistan, and hinted that relationship with Pakistan is not in competition with any other country in the region.

Ambassador Reza Amiri remarked that a new World Order is emerging, and was assured that it is going to have multiple poles of power. He talked about

the SCO and BRICS as new realities, and said that the myth of military dominance is eroding. He noted that culture and politics are making inroads in state-centric relations, and there is no looking back in building a new paradigm of multilateralism. He forcefully negated the impression that fossil fuels are coming to an end, and the new technology will be free from oil and gas. Whereas, he added that the demand of fossil fuels is on the rise, and prices will also keep going up as there is demand for the utilities. He stressed for greater cooperation between 400 million people of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan in realising the ECO, and said that it is the gateway to Europe and beyond in terms of people to people contacts.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi press the button to announce result during Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) Result Declaration ceremony of HSSC Part I & II, 1st Annual Exam 2023.

Murtaza Solangi says: 'Interim govt believes in freedom of expression'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi Wednesday said that the interim government believes in freedom of expression and all political parties have equal rights to speak.

In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, he hoped that the Almighty Allah would enable them to lead and steer this nation during the interim period.

He said in this short period and polarized environment, the present government would try its best to differentiate between politics and law.

He said we will not support any specific political party, adding, state institutions are free to take decisions and interim government would ensure the holding of the upcoming general elections most transparently and impartially which will be accepted by all.

Replying to a question, he said the government believed in the supremacy of law and constitution and it has nothing to do with the arrest of any political party worker.

The interim government was determined to strengthen the national institutions and ensure the supremacy of the constitution for the proper functioning of democracy in the country, he added.

Javed Latif says: Constitutional adherence key for progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former federal minister Javed Latif on Wednesday said that the nation's progress hinged on respecting the constitution and observing principles of the rule of law.

Talking to media persons, he highlighted that there was time to function within the set limits of the constitution.

He observed that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, a leader who was once highly popular, maintained his favorability among the people.

He mentioned that if the elections were delayed, the PML-N would suffer significant losses.

Life was much more comfortable during Nawaz's era, where in 2017, a loaf of bread cost only Rs 2, and ghee was priced at 110 rupees per kg.

In the time of Nawaz Sharif's leadership, there was absolute peace, and the exchange rate stood at just 100 rupees per dollar.

ILO, Pakistan Workers' Federation join hands protection of workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Labor Organization's (ILO) held a Domestic Workers Convention on Tuesday to confirm the labour rights of Pakistan's 8.5 million domestic workers and recognize them as workers and essential service providers.

Supported by ILO, the consultation was organized by the Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF) in Quetta, Balochistan, said the handout issued.

Representatives of Government departments, at both federal and provincial levels, met along with employers' and workers' organizations, to discuss ways to promote the formalization of domestic workers and advocate for ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

This step will extend social security benefits and services to domestic workers and improve their working conditions across the country. "ILO is thankful to the PWF for their commitment to making this dialogue process a reality and carving a way forward for making Decent Work a reality for all domestic workers in Pakistan", said Geir Tonstol, Country Director of ILO Pakistan. "There is no social justice without decent work for domestic worker". "Takeaways from this discussion will serve as important input to both legislative and policy reforms that will ultimately support the ratification of Convention No. 189 by Pakistan and increase the protection of domestic workers across the country," he added.

"The vast majority of domestic workers in Balochistan are excluded from labor protection and are vulnerable to exploitation by employers, intermediaries.

ICTA tightens noose around beggars, held 11

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICTA) has tightened the noose around beggars and arrested 11, its spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabassum said on Wednesday. The assistant commissioners were taking action against alms-seekers across the city following deputy commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon's directions to purge the city of the menace of beggary. Likewise, the spokesman added the ACs were visiting markets to control profiteering and imposed a fine of Rs 20,600 on shopkeepers, besides sealing one shop and registering an FIR against the vendor for overcharging.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan presenting souvenir to Chief Executive Officer UK Health Security Agency.

PM launches monsoon tree plantation campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday launched the monsoon tree plantation campaign as part of the "Green Pakistan Programme 2023" by planting a sapling here. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister stressed to work with national spirit beyond politics to deal with the climate change issues.

He said effective measures were inevitable to protect against the negative impacts of climate change.

He maintained that despite the fact that its share in the global emission of greenhouse gases was

less than one percent, Pakistan had been the most affected by the climate change. He said Islam taught the rights of Almighty Allah, human beings and the plants, therefore, "We need to value these blessings".

The prime minister said pollution and other factors affecting the environment had negative impacts, such as floods, earthquakes or other natural disasters.

He called upon the leadership of political parties and civil society to make efforts for addressing the climate change issue on priority. The international community should also play its role to avert the

negative effects of climate change, the prime minister added. On the occasion, the prime minister was informed during a briefing that this year, a total of 11 million saplings would be planted across the country under the monsoon plantation campaign. "This year, 13.98 million saplings were planted across the country under the Spring Plantation Campaign." The prime minister was informed that the Ministry of Climate Change, in collaboration with the Provincial Forestry Department was taking steps to create awareness about the importance of plantation campaigns.

IHC accepts plea for hearing regarding termination civil judge

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday accepted a petition for hearing seeking to terminate the service of accused Somia Asim's husband civil judge Asim Hafeez in a girl torture case.

The court served notices to the federal government and Advocate General Islamabad for assistance in the said case.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the aforesaid case filed by the civil society network Islamabad. During the hearing, the chief justice said that although the matter of civil judge fell on

the administrative side, however, we would also see it as a judicial side as a details petition had been moved in that regard.

The chief justice said that the federation should view the matter pertaining to the torture against children and child labor.

He said that many cases including the Tayyab torture case had surfaced here in the history.

The state counsel prayed the court to issue directives for the provision of the copy of the petition so that they could make preparations.

Jamal Shah deposits a gift in Tosha Khana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah has deposited a valuable gift in Tosha Khana which was received by him during recent meeting with a foreign diplomat.

The gift was a precious ceramic sculpture of a Chinese horse, said a press release. Federal Minister Jamal Shah while deciding not to retain any foreign gifts, ordered to deposit the gift received by him to Tosha Khana recently. The federal minister does not wish to retain any of the gift items presented to him during meetings with diplomats or any foreign visit in the future.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah directed all the cultural and literary organizations of National Heritage and Culture Division to plan special programs to pay tribute to National heroes on Pakistan Defence Day to be observed on September 6.

Nilofar Bakhtiar unveils key plans for PSDP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The chairperson National Commission for the Status of Women (NCSW) Nilofar Bakhtiar on Wednesday, issued two important announcements regarding projects in the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), said official sources. According to the details, the first project, which has a budget of Rs 4.476 million is known as "Women on Wheel" and is part of the Prime Minister's Initiative for Women's Mobility.

The project's primary objectives include making affordable and efficient transportation services available to working

Fire erupts in Islamabad as four parked buses ignite

ISLAMABAD (APP): A startling incident unfolded as four buses parked at the NATO office on the back side of Sabzi Mandi police station Islamabad were engulfed in flames at 7:40 am on Tuesday and no loss of life fortunately occurred due to swift action by the police and fire brigade.

A police spokesman said that swift action by the local police and fire brigade managed to douse the fire, preventing any loss of life.

He said that three old defunct buses were completely damaged while one bus was partially burnt.

UN Resident Coordinator lauds PRCS humanitarian services

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Julien on Tuesday praised the efforts of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) volunteers during floods and other calamities.

The UN Resident Coordinator during a visit to the PRCS headquarters stressed the importance of collaboration with national and international humanitarian actors focusing on early preparedness and disaster risk reduction to bolster community resilience.

UKSHA team calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 on Wednesday to discuss strengthening collaboration.

The focus of the partnership between the Ministry and UKSHA was to promote efficient choices, especially in light of the lessons learned from COVID-19. Mutual learning and capacity-building of the healthcare workforce in Pakistan through the sharing and implementation of systems with the support of UKSHA is a priority.

The Global Health Security Agenda is the top-most priority of the Government of Pakistan. In this regard, Pakistan will soon host a GHSA Summit in which all top leaders and stakeholders from across the world will be invited,

said the Minister.

With the support of the UKSHA, Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) has been implemented in 134 districts of Pakistan and within the next 2-3 months, it will be implemented in all the districts of the country, the meeting was informed.

The UKSHA is also supporting the development and implementation of electronic lab systems to strengthen comprehensive surveillance in Pakistan.

It was highlighted that UKSHA provided significant support to the provinces in terms of improvement in the technical areas and core capacities as per the JEE recommendations from 2016 to 2023.

It was mentioned that the JEE Country Report 2023 is being finalized and the UKSHA has provided significant support in the process of conducting JEE in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar plants a sapling to launch monsoon tree plantation as part of the "Green Pakistan Programme 2023".

Rizwana torture case IHC admits for hearing petition seeking sacking of civil judge Asim Hafeez

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has admitted for hearing the petition seeking termination of civil judge Asim Hafeez from service in house maid Rizwana torture case. The court has issued notice to federal government and advocate general office for assistance.

Chief Justice (CJ) Aamer Farooq remarked federation should see about children torture and child labor matters.

The case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by CJ IHC Aamer Farooq Wednesday.

The CJ IHC remarked detailed petition has come

in this regard. Civil judge matter although is on administrative side but we will see it too on judicial side.

Citing to Tayyaba torture case the CJ IHC remarked earlier several incidents including Tayyaba torture case have come to open. State counsel requested the court to provide copy of petition in connection with preparations for notice.

The hearing of the case was adjourned for indefinite period.

Wife of Asim Hafeez is on judicial remand while civil judge Asim Hafeez has been made OSD by Lahore High Court.

Kashmiris' sacrifices not to go in vain: Wasi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers at an event in Maryland (US) have said that the unparalleled sacrifices rendered by the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir for freedom will not go in vain.

According to Kashmir Media Service, they were addressing at a reception hosted in the honour of Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi, a former member of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council at Kashmir House in Maryland.

Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi in his address said, Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir is facing the worst kind of persecution unleashed by 900,000 Indian military and paramilitary personnel.

He said civilians are being killed, maimed, blinded, incarcerated, tortured and humiliated by the Indian occupational forces personnel enjoying impunity under draconian laws.

"Modi administration is using all available military might to suppress the peaceful political resistance movement of Kashmir. It is vitally important that self-determination be granted to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to bring peace and stability to the region of South Asia," he said.

ISLAMABAD: Machinery being used for extension work of Park Road during development work in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Machinery being used for extension work of Park Road during development work in the Federal Capital.

Islamabad Police issues new safety guidelines for inter-district travelers

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have introduced a set of fresh safety guidelines for protecting passengers traveling inter-district and ensuring safe travel for them.

The SSP CTD, along with the Chief Traffic Officer and Zonal DPOs would ensure the implementation of these guidelines for the safety of travelers which have been introduced after a recent accident on a motorway leaving around 18 persons unidentified.

As a part of these measures, detailed information regarding passengers and their destinations will be systematically collected from the respective bus station managers.

A comprehensive daily log of passenger data will be maintained, aiding in the efficient tracking and management of travelers.

Stricter enforcement of parking regulations at bus stands will be implemented, ensuring orderliness and safety for all.

The allocation of specific areas within bus stands will be done to facilitate organized passenger boarding and disembarking.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The success ratio in class 12 remained 84%.

Chairman Education Board said that we have declared intermediate results in 42 days. We have also started E-marking for 2 years. We did E-marking of Islamiyat and computer science subjects this year.

We are giving results of 11th and 12th together for the first time.

86495 students have participated in 12th.

25770 students have participated in exams in pre-medical.

The success ratio remained 96.24 percent.

The minimum success ratio will be 40% next year.

The second annual exams of matric will be held on 13 September.

The second annual exams of Intermediate will start from October 10.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the burnt buses of NATCO as in morning suddenly with unknown reasons, fire caught dump busses near Fruit and Vegetables Market of I-11 in Federal Capital.

Intermediate result declared, Percentage of successful candidate stands at 84%

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Board of Education has announced results of intermediate examinations.

Caretaker Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhi announced results by pressing the button.

The success ratio in class 12 remained 84%.

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UN Resident Coordinator lauds PRCS humanitarian services

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Julien on Tuesday praised the efforts of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) volunteers during floods and other calamities.

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Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Thursday August 24, 2023

Persisting doubts

As the debate over the controversial amendments to the Army Act and Official Secrets Act and their current legal status continues, dark clouds are gathering over the Aiwan-i-Sadr.

On Monday, following President Arif Alvi's allegation a day earlier that he had been undermined by his staff, the presidency dismissed its top secretary. While the presidency itself did not really specify why the secretary was dismissed, the contents of a 'confidential' letter penned by the officer and leaked to the media suggested that the secretary at least considered the two events to be directly related. Considering the officer's proposal to take the matter to court to clear his name, the issue could turn very messy for the president if it continues to hang.

According to the leaked letter, the secretary says the president never gave him any 'written decision' to either assent to or return the bills to parliament, so he should not be held responsible for 'delaying' them. On the other hand, the president had previously claimed that he had asked for both bills to be returned within the stipulated time and was assured during follow-ups that they were.

Considering these contrasting versions, a high-level inquiry into the matter has become necessary. That it does not seem to have been initiated yet makes it all the more intriguing. It also ought to be noted that whatever his position may have been, the president seems not to have put his reasons for opposing the two bills in writing. This would suggest that his own hands are less than clean. His rather laid-back approach is also perplexing. So far, he has only posted a half-baked apology and fired a staff member without assigning any explicit reason.

The question is: what was the president thinking? Had he always wished to play his hand at the last minute, scuttling the laws only when his decision would be difficult to reverse? These two bills appeared to have had some very powerful sponsors backing them. Despite repeated opportunities, our parliamentarians ultimately found them rather difficult to resist despite their earlier protestations. Was the president's dillydallying followed by a public denial, therefore, a considered strategy to carefully outmanoeuvre those who would have done anything to see these bills enacted?

Alternatively, was it simply that he took a massive U-turn after facing criticism from his party for providing the state with a noose to hang its leaders with? Or, finally, was it that he genuinely opposed these bills and wanted them reviewed but was undermined by his subordinates, who may have been acting on somebody else's orders? It is critical that the nation gets to the bottom of this fiasco, and it is the president's responsibility to have the record set straight.



Zahid Hussain

Curiously, it was through X (formerly Twitter) that President Arif Alvi chose to deny that he had assented to the bills amending the Official Secrets Act and the Army Act, plunging the country into yet another constitutional crisis. The two disputed bills passed by parliament earlier this month were enacted after the president was deemed to have given his consent. But his tweet two days after the notification has opened a new Pandora's box.

While the president's delayed denial, and that too through social media, is inexplicable, it has nevertheless rendered the validity of these Acts controversial. The entire episode has further widened the cracks within the country's power structure, amplifying the

existing chaos. The president's statement blaming bureaucratic foul play has made the matter more complex.

It has also exposed the president's own predicament as he desperately tries to defend his position under fire. The demand for his resignation has certainly put pressure on him, with just a few weeks left for the end of his term in the top office. Meanwhile, the debate over the validity of the enacted laws has given a new twist to the ongoing political battle. The matter is now likely to go to the Supreme Court.

But the controversy surrounding the disputed Acts that provide sweeping powers to the security agencies is certainly not going to go away whatever the outcome of the legal battle. The way the two bills were pushed through parliament, just days before the dissolution of the National Assembly ignoring the voices of dissent, has raised questions about the intention behind the move.

It is apparent that the former ruling coalition deliberately passed the bills that provide sweeping powers to the security

agencies, undermining civil rights. The latest controversy over the legal status of the enacted laws has also brought into the question the political cost of strengthening the powers of the security apparatus. The PDM coalition's shameful capitulation will have long-term consequences for the democratic process. The draconian laws that are currently being used against its political opponent could come back to haunt it. It is a lesson of history that our political leaders conveniently ignore for short-term political gains.

While demanding the president's resignation over the assent controversy, the PDM parties have come together to defend the black laws. Interestingly, it's the PML-N whose leaders now — as opposed to when they were in the opposition where they were never tired of talking about civilian supremacy — are the biggest exponents of the laws strengthening the establishment's stranglehold.

While the debate over the legality of the two Acts rages on, the authorities have set up a special court

under the amended Official Secrets Act to try PTI leaders in the cipher case. Among the accused are former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. There are also several other PTI leaders and supporters who are likely to face trial under the Army Act.

What we are witnessing is arguably the most ruthless crackdown against a political party in recent times. Hundreds of PTI supporters are languishing in jail without trial; many of them are believed to have been held on trumped-up charges. Some PTI women supporters have been detained for over three months without being produced before a trial court and having been denied bail. All that has made a mockery of justice and the rule of law. The newly enacted amended laws enhancing the powers of the security agencies will make things worse.

All this is happening as the country prepares for elections, raising doubts about prospects of a democratic transition. What is most alarming is the intensification in crackdown on the political opposition

under the military-backed interim government whose impartiality is questionable. There is a strong perception of the interim administration being just an extension of the security establishment.

Moreover, the prevailing uncertainty over the election schedule has reinforced suspicions about the country moving towards a prolonged period of interim rule with all the powers to take policy decisions. The PML-N and most other PDM parties now favour delaying elections beyond the constitutional limit of 90 days. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has already announced that delimitation of the constituencies as required under the new census will take at least four months to complete before poll arrangements, requiring another three months, can begin.

It may be a valid point, yet there is no clear time frame given by the ECP for the polls. There is also a strong view that there is no need for fresh delimitation of constituencies. There appears a clear division within the former ruling coalition over the matter.

What is most intriguing is the ambiguous position taken by the PML-N leadership on the poll delay. The confusion also reflects the power tussle within the Sharif family and the party's diminishing electoral prospects in the face of PTI's strong challenge, despite the crack-down against it and efforts to dismantle the party. In its 16 months of rule, the PML-N-led coalition has little to show by way of performance, especially on the economic front; this has further eroded its support base.

The PML-N also seems to have lost a lot of political capital because of its opportunistic alignment with the security establishment.

Instead of debating the veracity or otherwise of the president's statement, the political parties should focus on mitigating the damage done to the democratic process because of these draconian laws. The ongoing political persecution will only worsen the situation. The only way out of this predicament is to hold fair and free elections within the stipulated time frame. -- Courtesy Dawn

Presidential indiscretion

How to combat terror financing



Dr Maqsood Ahmed

Pakistan has faced significant challenges in combating terrorism financing due to its complex geopolitical landscape, porous borders, and historical links to extremist groups. Terror financing involves the provision of funds or financial support to terrorist organizations and individuals involved in extremist activities. These funds are utilized to sustain the operational capabilities of such groups, including recruitment, training, and carrying out acts of terror. Terror financing poses a significant threat to global security as it allows terrorist organizations to maintain their infrastructure and expand their reach.

Pakistan shares borders with Afghanistan, a region plagued by decades of conflict and instability; the porous nature of the

border has made it challenging to monitor and regulate the movement of funds, weapons, and individuals associated with terrorism.

Pakistan's large informal economy provides ample opportunities for illicit financial activities, including money laundering and terrorism financing. Cash transactions and 'Hawala' networks, an alternative remittance system, further complicate efforts to track and trace suspicious financial flows.

Pakistan has witnessed the presence of non-state actors and extremist groups within its territory. The existence of these groups has posed challenges in dismantling their financial networks effectively. But the country has made significant strides in strengthening its legal framework to counter terrorism financing and enacted laws specifically targeting money laundering and terrorism financing, such as the Anti-Money Laundering Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act. These laws aim to criminalize terrorism financing activities and enhance penalties for offenders.

Pakistan has established its financial monitor-

ing unit (FMU) to serve as the central authority responsible for receiving, analyzing, and disseminating suspicious transaction reports. The FMU collaborates with international counterparts to share intelligence and investigate terrorism financing networks.

Recognizing the transnational nature of terrorism financing, Pakistan has actively engaged in international cooperation initiatives. It has worked closely with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an intergovernmental body combatting money laundering and terrorism financing, to implement recommended measures and improve its compliance with international standards.

Pakistan has also undertaken reforms to strengthen its financial sector's resilience against terrorism financing. Banks and financial institutions have implemented the robust know your customer (KYC) and customer due diligence (CDD) procedures to identify and report suspicious transactions promptly. The Pakistani government, in collaboration with civil society organizations, has launched awareness campaigns to

educate people about the dangers of terrorism financing. These initiatives aim to encourage citizens to report suspicious activities and discourage them from unknowingly contributing to terrorism financing.

Through legislative measures, international cooperation, financial-sector reforms and public awareness campaigns, Pakistan is striving to dismantle terrorism financing networks and improve its overall security situation. Addressing terrorism financing requires a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach. It is significant to continuously review and update the existing laws related to terrorism financing to ensure they are robust, comprehensive, and in line with international standards. Implementing strict penalties for offenders and streamlining the prosecution process is required to ensure swift and effective legal action.

Strengthening border security measures by employing advanced technology, such as biometric systems and surveillance equipment, to monitor and control the movement of individuals, funds, and goods across borders are also significant steps to be

taken in collaboration with neighboring countries to share intelligence and coordinate efforts.

It is also essential to invest in training and capacity-building programmes for financial intelligence units (FIUs) to enhance their ability to identify, analyze and act upon suspicious financial transactions and ensure effective coordination and information sharing among FIUs, law-enforcement agencies and financial institutions.

There is a need also to address the informal economy by promoting financial inclusion and encouraging the use of formal banking channels and regulating informal money transfer systems, such as 'Hawala', to minimize their potential for exploitation by terrorist financiers.

By strengthening collaboration with international partners, including intelligence agencies, financial institutions, and organizations like the FATF, sharing information, intelligence, and best practices to identify and dismantle cross-border terrorism financing networks, a robust mechanism may be devised and continue to enhance anti-money laundering

(AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) measures within the financial sector.

It is also important to establish effective communication channels and mechanisms for sharing intelligence among law-enforcement agencies, financial institutions, and FIUs, encourage timely reporting of suspicious activities and facilitate cooperation to track and disrupt terrorism financing flows.

Besides prioritizing the enactment and implementation of comprehensive legislation targeting terrorism financing, it is also recommended to strengthen penalties and legal mechanisms to expedite prosecutions and address any legislative gaps or weaknesses identified through regular evaluations.

It is important to note that short-term solutions should be implemented in parallel with long-term strategies to address the root cause of terrorism financing. A comprehensive approach that combines immediate actions with sustained efforts will help combat terrorism financing in Pakistan. -- Courtesy TheNews

A split world



Rafia Zakaria

For three long decades, the world appeared to be moving towards greater interconnectedness. Trade ties between countries increased and pointed towards improved political stability. If emerging powers needed the consumer markets of existing superpowers in order to survive, it suggested that neither could afford a protracted war. This status quo of an integrated world now appears to be dissolving before our very eyes.

This time, the alarm was sounded by IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva. She would know; not only does she have an inside view of the cumulative health of the world's struggling economies, her own experience, too, makes her particularly sensitive to early signs of want. Georgieva, who is 70 now, grew up behind the iron curtain in Sofia, Bulgaria. While neither of her parents belonged to the Communist Party, they were still caught up in the extremely restricted world that existed at that time under the shadow of the Soviet Union over East Europe. According to her, "things were cheap but not available". Her latest remarks came just after US President Biden announced a partial ban on American investment in China in sectors that could be used for military applications.

While the strained ties between the US and China is one indicator of a world moving farther apart, so too is the war in Ukraine. Recent US intelligence estimates, along

with expert analysis, suggest that Ukraine, whom the US and Nato have championed, is unlikely to recover all the territory that it had prior to the Russian invasion. The fact that this is true despite the billions of dollars in weaponry and training that the US has provided is likely to affect the future of American aid to the country. In the meantime, not only can Vladimir Putin declare this a victory, he is also unlikely to withdraw from the country until after the results of the US election of 2024 are known. If former US president Donald Trump is the Republican Party's nominee (as it appears he will likely be), then Putin has a 50 per cent chance of a friend in the White House and an opportunity to not only keep whatever bits of Ukraine he has captured but also to likely grab much more than that.

It is unlikely to happen but that result, while terrible for Ukraine, would suggest a less fragmented future for the world. The more likely outcome is pockets of the world finding themselves forced to choose loyalties between the US and China. This will be terrible for countries like Pakistan who would like good relations with both. Failure to listen and act on what Washington wants will expose it to the risk of losing access to funds that Pakistan and other developing economies need in order to function.

At the end, this is a reminder of the adage that beggars cannot be choosers. A lot of political debate in Pakistan suggests that the choice of allies is a product of ideological allegiances. Many think that turning away from the US suggests a greater commitment to decolonisation and au-

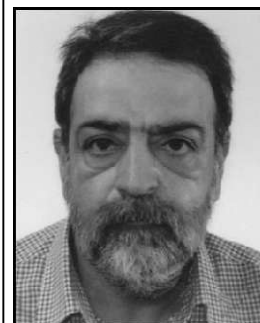
tonomy. However, the fact is that the global economy makes it nearly impossible for struggling economies with high levels of debt to make very many independent choices.

Aid makes countries like Pakistan dependent for as long as Western countries make it impossible for them to compete fairly in the global market. Independent decisions by struggling economies will only be possible if Western countries stop subsidising their industries to protect their own companies. When American wheat sells for less than Pakistani wheat because the American farmer is protected by subsidies and can sell below the market price, the premise that the world functions along the lines of free market capitalism is exposed as a lie.

The prospect of darker times to come seems almost unbearable in times that already appear dismal. And yet, that is just where the world appears to be headed. If the poor in US cities are taking to looting expensive stores and shoplifting complaints have risen exponentially, imagine the fate of the poor struggling Pakistani aghast at the insane rate of inflation in the country.

The split world is materialising before our eyes and it threatens to tear up lives, countries and much more. The perilous economic condition in which Pakistan finds itself is going to make it even more dependent on international financial institutions like the IMF as the already squeezed populace suffers ever greater privations. The most dangerous people are those with nothing left to lose, and it appears more and more that Pakistanis might end up in that category. -- Courtesy Dawn

Made for each other



Mahir Ali

Late last week, Joe Biden hosted the leaders of South Korea and Japan at Camp David to nudge them towards increased economic and "security" cooperation, as part of the US administration's aggressive pushback against Chinese ambitions. Living memories of Japan's brutal rule in Korea have stood in the way of bonhomie between the two staunch American allies. The push for closer coordination coincides with a US-endorsed resurgence in Japanese militarism, which plagued the region in the early 20th century.

A similar impetus is behind a parallel US push for a formal diplomatic deal between a repressive monarchy and a diminishing democracy in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia enjoys reasonably cordial relations with China. Its de facto ruler, Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), knows that this — not least the Beijing-sponsored rapprochement between Riyadh and Tehran — irritates Washington, and is leveraging it.

The Saudis are not shy of implying they could shift their source of military imports to China, even Russia, if America falls short. The conditions for a deal with Israel reportedly include a mutual defence pact, a civilian nuclear plan involving the enrichment of uranium, and Israeli 'concessions' to Palestinians that would preserve the possibility — rather, the fiction — of a two-state solution.

Many of Israel's traditional friends among the American commentariat have been critical of the regime's aggressive attempts to subjugate the judiciary, some even arguing that the US should curtail aid to Israel. A recent open letter from over 750 Israeli intellectuals to the American Jewish community urges it to stop supporting apartheid.

The judiciary's future and the brutal occupation of Palestinian territories tend to be viewed as distinct issues. Mass mobilisations in Israel in defence of its discriminatory democracy have largely ignored the redoubled efforts towards ethnic 'cleansing'. Israeli courts may have acted to restrict government excesses, but they are a part and parcel of the oppression since the 1940s, when the horrific Shoah segued into the Nakba.

Both words mean the same: catastrophe. The first, among the biggest crimes against humanity, ended in 1945. The second is ongoing, and it is almost inconceivable that the present regime would agree to ameliorate it, given its commitment to annexation of the West Bank by subterfuge. That, anyhow, is not something the Saudis demand as part of the price for a diplomatic deal.

Most Arab leaders have never cared much about the fate of the Palestinians, despite leveraging the occupation for political purposes. The Palestinian Authority falls into the same category, serving as a puppet dispensation for an administration that ignores it. No wonder it has lost the allegiance of most Palestinians. Back when the Abraham Accords were announced, the UAE claimed they had forestalled the annexation of the West Bank by the Netanyahu regime; under the current variant of the same disease, the transgressions have only gathered momentum.

None of this likely to faze MBS, whose mission to turn the nation named after his family into a sporting superpower is going gangbusters, with golf in the bag and men's football almost in the net. Underlying patterns of repression remain intact despite dramatic superficial changes. Ravages in the desert and concerts by scantily clad Western performers — alongside the latest Hollywood movies, professional wrestling tournaments and horse racing — are no longer verboten. But even mild dissent on social media can earn you a decades-long prison term.

This week's horrific revelations from Human Rights Watch about Saudi massacres of hundreds, and quite possibly thousands, of Ethiopian refugees on the Yemeni border — children, women and men — help flesh out a more complete picture of the regime's nature. All too many European nations have a ruthlessly inhuman attitude towards would-be immigrants, including ignoring mass drownings in the Mediterranean. But none of them has thus far resorted to mass killings by gunshots.

On various other levels, the Saudis have been dealing with Israel for several years, although the collaboration has undoubtedly been stepped up in the past decade or so. And perhaps Benjamin Netanyahu missed an opportunity by failing to frame his judicial 'reforms' as a means of conforming with the Middle Eastern norm — after all, right across the region, judges tend to take their instructions from the powers that be.

There are numerous hurdles to an Israeli-Saudi conjugal union. But if and when it occurs, it's less likely to be a shotgun wedding than a marriage made in heaven. -- Courtesy Dawn

Governor highlights sacrifices of tribal people, assures cooperation in addressing problems

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday highlighted the sacrifices of tribal people for country's sovereignty and said that peace is a prerequisite for the development and prosperity of an area.

He was talking to a 45-member delegation of tribal elders of Tehsil Shagai, South Waziristan. The delegation was led by a former member provincial assembly, Adnan Wazir and Chairman Tehsil Wana, Moulana Saleh.

The delegation apprised the KP Governor about their problems and said that Shagai was given tehsil status in 2012 but proper notification has not been issued yet. They urged the governor to play his role and said that it would help address the concerns of people living in that area.

They also highlighted issues including the establishment of the NADRA Office in the area, rehabilitation of infrastructure, blacktopping of roads in Mantoai and Santoi, construction of a hospital in Shagai area and completion of projects relating to water supply and sanitation. Speaking on the occasion, the governor assured his cooperation to resolve these problems and said that the development of tribal areas is among the topmost priorities of the government.

He said that the availability of all the needed basic amenities would be ensured to tribal people and added that funds would be released to local government representatives aiming for the initiation of developmental work at the grassroots level.

Haji Ghulam Ali said

that NADRA officials would be contacted to provide a mobile registration van for Shagai till the establishment of a proper NADRA office in that area. He also urged tribal elders to focus education of their children including girls and added that students of merged districts were being provided scholarships to get higher education and to play a due role in the development of their areas.

Later, the KP Governor also chaired a meeting to decide matters about land demarcation between Agriculture University Peshawar and the University of Engineering and Technology Mardan.

The meeting was also attended by the Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Professor Dr. Bakhat Jehan and Professor Dr. Imran Khan of Engineering University.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President, Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at PPP Media Cell Bilawal House in Karachi.

KP gov orders safety checks of all chairlifts

PESHAWAR (Online): Following a recent incident in which the lives of people including school children were jeopardized due to breakage of a chairlift wire in Battagram, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Wednesday decided to ensure the safety of chairlifts across the province.

In response to the incident where an open cable car in Battagram was left stranded due to a cable snap, leaving 8 people including school children suspended for over 15 hours, the government has issued a comprehensive set of guidelines to enhance safety measures.

Under the directive, deputy commissioners from all districts have been instructed to conduct thorough inspections of chairlifts. This inspection mandate covers chairlifts in both commercial and residential areas, as well as those operating in entertainment establishments.

Particular emphasis

has been placed on the swift examination of chairlifts located within entertainment venues. This scrutiny aims to guarantee strict adherence to safety protocols.

Special consideration will be given to chairlifts spanning over rivers and streams, necessitating a meticulous evaluation of their structural soundness.

The scope of the directive also encompasses an evaluation of the design, capacity, and safety features of all chairlifts within the province. With a paramount concern for public safety, the provincial government underscores the importance of adhering to established safety standards, especially during adverse weather conditions such as storms and lightning.

To ensure effective regulation of chairlift operations, acquiring a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the district administration has been made mandatory.



GILGIT: Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Sadia Danish and Minister Finance Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Ismail giving away flower bouquet to the newly elected member of GB Assembly Jamil Ahmad at Assembly Secretariat.

CS GB says: GB gov actively ensuring provision of nourishing meals to school students

GILGIT (APP): "The Gilgit-Baltistan Government is actively ensuring the provision of nourishing meals to primary school students across Gilgit-Baltistan as part of its School Khana Program," said Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Muihudeen Wani in an official statement to media here Wednesday. He said this initiative aims to offer highly nutritious, cost-effective, and locally sourced food to all individuals. "Currently, the program has been extended to 75 schools, resulting in a remarkable 25 percent increase in enrollment, a rise in attendance from 60 percent to 95 percent and significant enhancements in students' BMI" the Chief

Secretary said.

He added, today, a delegation from the World Food Program (WFP), led by Joyce Owigar, Head SO 2 and Yasir Ithasham, Program Policy Officer, met with me. He said it is with great pleasure that we announce the World Food Program's recognition of the diligent efforts made by the GB Government under its flagship project, the "School Khana Program."

He said this recognition has led to a collaborative agreement between the World Food Program and the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan to further expand and enhance this commendable initiative in GB.

Water level may rise in Sutlej, PDMA issues threat alert

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab on Wednesday issued another flood warning, possibility of further increase in water level in River Sutlej due to rains occurred in upper catchments during last 24 hours.

In a threat alert issued by the PDMA, Director General PDMA Imran Qureshi instructed to the administration of the districts adjacent to the Sutlej to remain alert. It has also been instructed to deploy sufficient staff round-the-clock for effective coordination and response, and collect and share latest information in line with national and provincial authorities.

10 dead, 1182 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 10 people were killed and 1182 injured in 1159 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Of whom, 567 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 615 people with minor injuries were treated on the spot by rescue medical teams. Analysis show that 582 drivers, 50 underage drivers, 149 pedestrians, and 461 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. Statistics show that 269 road accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 283 people placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 87 in Faisalabad with 81 victims and at third Multan with 83 road accidents and 83 victims.

Bid to smuggle arms foiled; two accused held

PESHAWAR (APP): The Gulberg police here on Wednesday foiled a bid to smuggle a huge quantity of arms to different districts of the province and arrested two-member of a gang of inter-district smugglers. According to police, DSP Cantt Haroon Jadoon and SHO Gulberg police Tariq Khan acting on a tip-off conducted a raid on Bara road and arrested two suspects riding in a car. During the checking of the vehicle, the police recovered unregistered 45 pistols of different bores.

The police arrested the accused from the spot and took the vehicle and arms into custody and started investigation.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh Maqbool Baqar called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Punjab Governor says: Jaranwala incident is very painful and reprehensible

LAHORE: A delegation led by Bishop of Lahore, Nadeem Kamran met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman heretoday at Governor House Lahore. Bishop Nadeem Kamran thanked the government, Prime Minister, and Governor Punjab for expressing solidarity with the Christian community.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Jaranwala incident is very painful and reprehensible.

He said that all minorities including the Christian community are

equal citizens of Pakistan. Governor Punjab said that the Constitution of Pakistan does not allow hurting religious sentiments or harming anyone's life or property. He said that there is a need to promote tolerance and empathy in society, adding that it is very important to inculcate positive thinking, tolerance, understanding other's point of view and high moral values among school children.

He further said that tolerance and respect for each other's point of view is very important for coexistence in a society. On this occasion, the

Governor Punjab said that he appreciates the Punjab government as some churches have been restored in a short time, and the rest of the churches will also be restored soon. The Governor of Punjab said that the role of the Christian community in the creation of Pakistan and after the creation of Pakistan, in every field including health, education, and defense is unforgettable. On this occasion, Bishop of Lahore, Nadeem Kamran, said that the way the state and the people stood by the Christian community is commendable.

Sehat Card Caretaker CM takes notice of suspension of free treatment

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has taken notice of the suspension of free treatment facilities under the Sehat Card scheme, and directed the concerned authorities to take steps on a priority basis for the restoration of free treatment facilities under the scheme, said an official handout issued here on Wednesday.

He further directed that arrangements should be made for immediate

payment of dues to the implementing partner i.e. State Life Insurance Company for the purpose.

On the directives of the Chief Minister, the quarters concerned approached the management of State Life Insurance Company and assured them that their dues would be cleared within a week.

As a result, the company has directed all empanelled hospitals to immediately resume the free treatment facilities under Sehat Card Scheme.

Constable martyred; citizen injured in Tank firing

PESHAWAR (APP): A police constable was shot dead while a citizen sustained the injuries when armed men fired at them near a private bank in the city area of district Tank on Wednesday.

Police said the incident occurred at the main gate of a bank, where armed men fired at a police constable identified as Riaz Uddin. The constable received fatal bullet wounds and died on the spot, while an unknown citizen was injured. The bodies of the constable and injured citizen were shifted to DHQ Tank Hospital.



LAHORE: Members of Women in Struggle for Empowerment (WISE) are holding protest demonstration for demanding justice for 10-years old housemaid Fatima Farro, at Lahore press club.

SCCI, Gomal Uni agreed to enhance industry, academia linkages

PESHAWAR (APP): In order to build up industry-academia linkages, the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan here on Wednesday. According to details, the MoU was signed by SCCI's acting President Ijaz Khan Afridi and the Director Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), Gomal University DIKhan Dr Barkat Ali Khan during a ceremony held here today at the chambers house. Abidur Rehman, Personal Secretary to Vice Chancellor, Gomal

University DIKhan and SCCI's Secretary General Sajjad Aziz were also present on the occasion.

In his remarks during the meeting, Ijaz Afridi informed that the chamber has so far signed MoUs with more than 16 public and private universities throughout the province, aiming to build up industry and academia linkages.

He said the MoU with Gomal University DIKhan was part of this series of agreements, which would help to strengthen collaboration between the institutions in future.

Ijaz Afridi elaborated that the MoU aims at equipping graduates and young students.

15 more dengue cases reported in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 15 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 116.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Wednesday said that, among the new cases, six patients had arrived from Chaklala Cantonment, five from Potohar town urban area, three from Municipal Corporation, and one from Rawalpindi Cantonment area.

He said 35 patients were admitted to City's allied hospitals, out of which 24 were confirmed cases while 77 were discharged after treatment.

Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered 82 FIRs, issued tickets to 23, sealed 14 premises, and a fine of Rs 100,000 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours.

The health officer said that dengue cases were being reported across the district while the health authority along with allied departments was making efforts to control the spread of the disease.

PM assures Sindh govt of centre's all-out support

KARACHI (APP): Renowned Actor Zahir Lehrion Wednesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday met Interim Sindh Chief Minister Maqbool Baqar and assured him of the federal government's all-out support to run the province's administrative affairs.

In the meeting, the chief minister apprised the prime minister of the administrative affairs of the province and the issues being faced by the caretaker government.

They reiterated their resolve to cooperate with the Election Commission of Pakistan for holding free and fair elections.

Meanwhile,

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here and apprised him of the problems faced by the artists in Balochistan.

The prime minister assured the government's full cooperation to the artists.

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

The prime minister thanked the actor for the gesture.

Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi also attended the meeting.



LAHORE: A delegation led by Bishop of Lahore, Nadeem Kamran in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Finance minister reviews construction of 2.1m houses for flood victims

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Planning and Development Mohammad Younus Dagha, presided over a meeting to review the construction of 2.1 million houses for flood victims in the province.

The meeting was held at Sindh Secretariat Tughlaq House in the office of the Planning and Development department on Wednesday.

Chairman Planning and Development Board Syed Hasan Naqvi, Chief Executive Officer Sindh People's Housing Scheme for Flood Affected People Khalid Mehmood Sheikh, and other officers briefed the minister.

On this occasion, Younus Dagha said that the construction of 2.1 million houses for the flood victims is a big project. The Sindh government is

committed to the timely construction of flood-affected houses, he added.

He said that the verification process of 500,000 flood-affected houses has been completed and funds should be released immediately for their construction. The work of verification of the rest of the damaged houses should also be completed as soon as possible, he said. On this occasion, it was informed in the briefing that Rs 3,00,000 will be given to the residents of each affected house and the process of payment for the affected houses should be completed within a fixed period of six months.

On this occasion, Muhammad Younus Dagha directed that the report of the construction work done in the period of six months of payment should be submitted step by step.

Ombudsman Punjab provides relief of Rs. 1.09 mln to Ramzan bazar suppliers

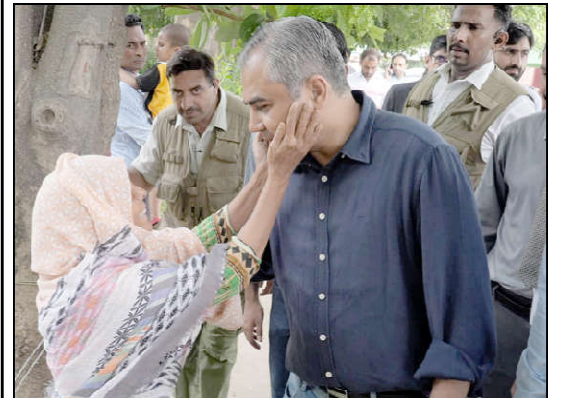
LAHORE (APP): On the order of the Ombudsman Punjab, Major (ret'd) Azam Suleman Khan, the outstanding dues amounting to Rs. 1,090,950 have been paid to the suppliers of different articles for Ramzan bazar of Sargodha district.

According to a spokesman of the office of Ombudsman, the complainant filed a complaint that he supplied sugar and oil for Ramzan bazar of Sargodha district, but even after the Ramzan,

the former Assistant Commissioner Sargodha did not pay him a single penny against the goods supplied.

The Ombudsman ordered to pay the outstanding dues to the complainants, in that any further delay.

The outstanding dues amounting to Rs 9,41,000 of similar kind of suppliers were also cleared by the district administration of Sargodha on the directions of Ombudsman Punjab.



LAHORE: Old age woman showing lovingness and praying for caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi during his visit to Children Hospital.

IGP releases Rs. 2.4m funds for treatment of injured cops

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has released funds worth Rs. 2.4 million.

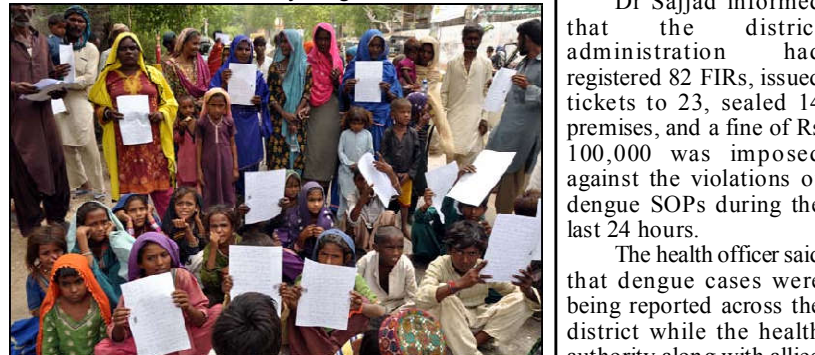
The applications received from various districts including Lahore were reviewed in detail by the Welfare Branch's Compensation Award Committee, after which 16 police officers and officials of various districts were approved for financial assistance of medical treatment.

On recommendations of the committee, IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar

issued orders for release of funds of Rs. 2.4 million.

According to details, constables Raliq Hussain and Mohammad Javed were approved to give Rs. 3 lac each.

Likewise, constables Asif Ali, Safdar Ali, Waheed Anwar and Muhammad Usman were given 2 lac each. Whereas, Mureed Hussain, Falak, Muhammad Saifdar and Shaikat Ali, Muhammad Siddique, Nasr Javed, Muhammad Afzal, Abdul Rasheed and Mubarak Hussain were approved to give Rs. 1 lakh each.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Badin are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police and affluent people, at Hyderabad press club

PM for collective efforts to take forward economic journey, transform nation

Assures resolution of issues facing Karachi business community

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has called for collective efforts to transform the 250 million nation of Pakistan through collective efforts by taking forward the economic journey.

He addressing the members of the business community here on Tuesday night during his visit, assured them that the government would do the maximum possible for the uplift of the business community as they were

the engine of economic growth. He said the \$6 trillion natural deposits in Balochistan did not reflect in the condition of the people living there.

The nation living on the Indus Basin facing food insecurity manifested the collective incompetence, he added.

The prime minister said the caretaker government would resolve all of the issues confronting the business community within its capacity.

He said the caretaker

government had a very limited mandate to assist in elections, run day-to-day governance issues, and follow the international commitment till the new parliament.

He said the caretaker setup was becoming a source of peaceful transition.

Calling Karachi, Karachiites and the business community a "grace of the nation".

the prime minister said Pakistan could not survive sans their

contribution.

Prime Minister Anwaar said the provision of low-cost electricity was inevitable for industrialization as the existing reserves of natural gas were insufficient to support the industry's needs.

Emphasizing the need for skilled human resources, the prime minister also mentioned the issues of structural challenges and business attitudes facing the goods and services sector.



KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing businessmen and owners of small and medium-sized industries.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Domki being briefed by Secretary Mines and Minerals Department. Caretaker Advisor to CM Umair Muhammadhassani and Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan are also present.

Ombudsman asks provincial govts to pay outstanding dues to federal departments

BAHAWALPUR (Online): Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan, Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi has urged the provincial governments to pay outstanding dues to the federal government agencies/departments so that they could overcome their financial constraints.

He was talking to the media after presiding over a meeting of heads of the federal government agencies/departments including WAPDA, Sui Gas Limited, Postal Services, FIA and others at South Punjab Secretariat here Wednesday.

The Federal Ombudsman Secretariat had disposed of over 134,000 applications seeking justice and relief in issues pertaining to the federal government agencies/departments including WAPDA, Sui Southern Gas Limited, Sui Northern Gas Limited, Pakistan Railways, Postal Services, Estate Life Insurance and others. "We are satisfied that 90 percent of decisions given

by the Office of Federal Ombudsman in filed applications have been implemented and the applicants were provided with relief," he said.

He said that the Federal Ombudsman had played a pivotal role in providing relief to tens of thousands of the applicants including widows, orphans and other poor people who could not even afford expenditures to file petitions with courts.

"The people filing their applications with the Office of Federal Ombudsman have been provided with relief free of cost," he said and added that more applications would be filed with the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat pertaining to alleged over billing by power companies and sui gas companies, pension and insurance. He said that he himself monitored implementation of decisions giving by the Office of Federal Ombudsman in order to ensure provision of relief to people.

Origin-based products can increase export through GI rights

LAHORE (APP): The origin-based products of Pakistan like Multan's Blue Pottery can capture a huge export market by having (Geographical Indication) rights as per an international agreement of the World Intellectual Property Rights Organization (WIPO), also signed by Pakistan.

Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) General Manager Socrat Aman Rana disclosed this, while addressing a consultative seminar as chief guest on behalf of CEO SMEDA Farhan Aziz Khawaja, here Wednesday.

Jointly organized by SMEDA, Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC), IPO and MCCI (Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry) was also addressed by

Muhammad Asim Javid Hashmi, Managing Director PSIC, Ms. Shazia Adnan, Director General of IPO- Pakistan and Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed Vice President MCCI. The speakers gave awareness on protection of "Multan's Blue Pottery as geographical indication of Pakistan.

Socrat Aman Rana highlighted the importance of Geographical Indication concept of WIPO as a tool for value addition and to give Pakistani products a market identity especially with reference to the SME sector. He also spoke about the SMEDA's role in SME sector development and support to all governmental agencies for achieving this goal. On this occasion, PSIC MD Asim Javid Hashmi said that PSIC was making concerted efforts to provide GI protection.



BAHAWALPUR: Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi presiding over meeting of heads of Federal Government Agencies/Departments including WAPDA, Sui Gas, Postal Service and others at South Punjab Secretariat.

US, UK and China remain Pakistan's top export destinations in July

ISLAMABAD (INP): During the month of July, the first month of the current financial year 2023-24, United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products, followed by the United Kingdom (UK) and China.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) statistics, the total exports to the US during July 2023 were recorded at US \$432.803 million against the exports of US \$499.686 million during

July 2022, showing a decline of 13.38 percent.

This was followed by the UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$169.789 million against the exports of US \$160.114 million last year, showing an increase of 6.04 percent.

China was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$147.385 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$174.056 million, SBP data revealed.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi addressing the International Conference on Globalizing Women Entrepreneurship, organized by the Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

APCEA holds briefing on CPEC energy projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA) on Wednesday organized a comprehensive briefing for media and think tanks to apprise about potential and significance of existing and ongoing energy projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The briefing titled "Infodur Salon on CPEC Energy Projects" brought together media, think tanks and representatives from seven key CPEC energy enterprises.

The consortium of seven companies included Power China Pakistan, China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd, China Energy International Group Company Limited Pakistan Branch, China Power Hub Generation Company (PVT.) Ltd, China Electric Power

Equipment and Technology Company, China Machinery Engineering Corporation, and Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy (Pvt) Ltd.

During the briefing, the Power China Pakistan representative said that the company had been a pivotal driving force in the development of the CPEC since its debut in Pakistan back in 1987. Our investments in regional infrastructure growth, particularly in the domain of power plants, has been instrumental in transforming the landscape of Pakistan's energy sector, he said.

Currently, he said that there were 41 ongoing projects, including subcontracts, under CPEC with a contract value exceeding 6 billion US dollars.



KARACHI: Members of All City Tajir Ittehad block road as they are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, held at Saddar Regal Chowk in Karachi.

IT, solar sectors capable to pull economy out of ICU: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the IT and solar industries can play a fundamental role in raising the country's economy from its death bed.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, he said that the IT exports can be increased to 25 billion dollars, for which the problems of this sector have to be solved, it has to be developed, and the tax burden has to be reduced.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that apart from this, the taxes raised on the internet have to be withdrawn because the internet is closely linked to the internet Pakistan and India gained independence together, Pakistanis are more qualified than Indians, and better results can be achieved by training them, he added.

Presently, India's IT exports are 194 billion dollars, while Pakistan's IT exports are about two billion dollars. The size of our economy is 375 billion dollars, which is shrinking rapidly, while the size of India's economy has increased to more than 3750 billion dollars.

President directs refund of Rs 4.1m to bank fraud victims

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed two private banks to return a collective sum of Rs 4.1 million to four customers, who were swindled out of their money by fraudsters.

The president gave these remarks while rejecting three representations filed by Muslim Commercial Bank (MCB) and one by Allied Bank Ltd (ABL) against the orders of the Banking Mohtasib directing these banks to refund the lost amount to victims of bank fraud.

The banks had activated the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) without obtaining the consent of the customers and were found negligent in

complying with the State Bank of Pakistan's various regulations regarding online fund transfer facilities, disclosing the terms of fund transfer in a clear and simple language to customers, and assigning limits to fund transfer.

President Alvi said that the loss of money occurred due to the reason that the banks made EFT operational without the account holders' request, therefore, the banks committed maladministration and were liable to make good the loss of the customers.

As per details, Sumera Allahditta, Afzal Abbas Kazmi, Farah Muhammad Khan, and Dr Kanwar Shakeel Ahmed (the complainants) lost Rs

1,558,700, Rs 985,000, Rs 960,000, and Rs 598,000 respectively when these amounts were transferred from their bank accounts without their consent.

Dr Kanwar received a call from a number resembling ABL's helpline and asked for his personal banking information to update the bank account. After he shared his banking information, Rs 598,000 were transferred from his account.

Sumera, Afzal, and Farah found out that huge amounts were missing from their bank accounts even though they hadn't shared their personal details with anyone. They separately approached the banks for the refund of lost amounts but to no avail.

'Livestock farmers being facilitated'

FAISALABAD (APP): The Livestock department is taking effective measures to provide better facilities to livestock farmers in the division.

In this regard, the quality of services of veterinary institutions is beyond expectations.

Director Livestock Dr Haider Ali said this while reviewing the facilities available at various veterinary institutions on Wednesday.

He asked the officers to keep in close contact with the livestock farmers for redressing their issues. He also reviewed the cleanliness arrangements in the institutions and said that a clean environment should be maintained at all times.

Senate body on Finance SBP should take precautionary measures to ensure dollar stability

ISLAMABAD (Online): Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue was held here at Parliament House on Wednesday with Senator Saleem Mandviwalla in Chair. The Senate Committee was briefed on consistent fluctuations in dollar price. Dr. Inayat Hussain, Deputy Governor SBP, pointed out that rising demand of dollars among the masses and import uplift are the primary drivers in dollars fluctuations. The Chairman Committee was of opinion that SBP should take precautionary measures to

ensure dollar stability and discourage masses from unnecessary dollars purchases. Additionally, he highlighted the matter of LCs opening to import EV Cars and maintained that Government should prioritize import of EV cars over the average fuel cars as it will contribute majorly in averting the climate crisis.

Furthermore, the senate body deliberated on starred question related to status of assets declared by Officers of Inland Revenue and Customs at the time of appointment and their current status.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Secretary Zahid Saleem presides over the meeting to review progress of the department.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, Maersk Pittsburgh, MSC Tianping and UACC Manama, carrying Containers and Soya bean oil, berthed at Container Terminal and Liquid Cargo Terminal, respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Sea Bulk and Marangas Asclepius with Canola seeds and LNG are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on during last 24 hours.

A total of 08 ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, TTC Vidyut and Fuwairit sailed out to sea on Wednesday morning, while five more ships, Maersk Pittsburgh, MSC Tianping, African Nighthawk, Ullswater and Kaisa-I are expected to sail on same day afternoon.

Cargo throughput during last 24 hours stood at 96,675 tonnes, comprising 68,506 tonnes imports Cargo and 28,169 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 3,350 Containers (2,100 TEUs Imports and 1,250 TEUs export) was handled at the port. There are eight ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Jigjiga and Marangas Asclepius & two more ships, Central Park and MSC Santa Maria scheduled to load/offload.

First Lady points out key measures to promote women entrepreneurship

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Alvi here on Wednesday pointed out key measures to promote women entrepreneurship and their participation in the country's development process.

Speaking at an international conference on "Globalizing Women Entrepreneurship (GWE) 2023" organized by President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FWCCI), she said, the government institutions must work to create an environment that is

conducive to women economic participation.

The First Lady said that offering financial incentives, promoting gender-sensitive policies, creating a women-friendly and harassment-free work environment, and establishing mechanisms for easy access to loans specifically tailored for women entrepreneurs were few of the measures, the government institutions should take.

She said banks could play a pivotal role by providing financial backing and advisory services to women entrepreneurs.

Gold imports increase by 94.25% in July

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of gold increased by 94.25 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (July 2023) as compared to the corresponding month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The gold imports during the July 2023 were recorded at \$1.986 million as compared to the imports of \$1.022 million during July 2022, according to PBS data. In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 50 kilograms of

gold during the month under review as compared to the imports of 16 kilograms last year, showing growth of 207.79 percent. Meanwhile, on month-on-month basis, the gold imports during July 2023 decreased by 39.32 percent when compared to the imports of \$3.273 million in June 2023.

In terms of quantity, the gold imports declined by 40.48 percent when compared to the imports of 52 kilogram during June 2023.

China's Xi calls for BRICS unity as bloc weighs expansion

Monitoring Desk
JOHANNESBURG: China's President Xi Jinping called for unity among his BRICS counterparts at a summit in South Africa on Wednesday as he pushed the case for expanding the grouping to face a global "period of turbulence and transformation".

Leaders of the bloc of leading developing nations Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are meeting in Johannesburg with discussions around establishing a framework and criteria for admitting new members topping the agenda.

While all BRICS members have publicly expressed support for growing the bloc, divisions remain over how much and how quickly.

Bloc heavyweight China has long pushed for expansion and views its deteriorating relations with Washington as well as heightened global tensions resulting from the Ukraine

war as adding urgency to the enlargement project.

Addressing the summit of the bloc's leaders, Xi said he was glad to see that developing countries had shown great enthusiasm in participating in BRICS and many of them have applied to join.

"We should let more countries join the BRICS family to pool wisdom and efforts to make global governance more just and equitable," Xi said.

Xi also said the BRICS countries have agreed to launch a study group on artificial intelligence (AI) and further expand cooperation on AI, including by strengthening information exchange and technical cooperation.

"The world is undergoing major shifts, division and regrouping... it has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation," Xi said.

"We, the BRICS countries, should always bear in mind our founding purpose

of strengthening ourselves through unity."

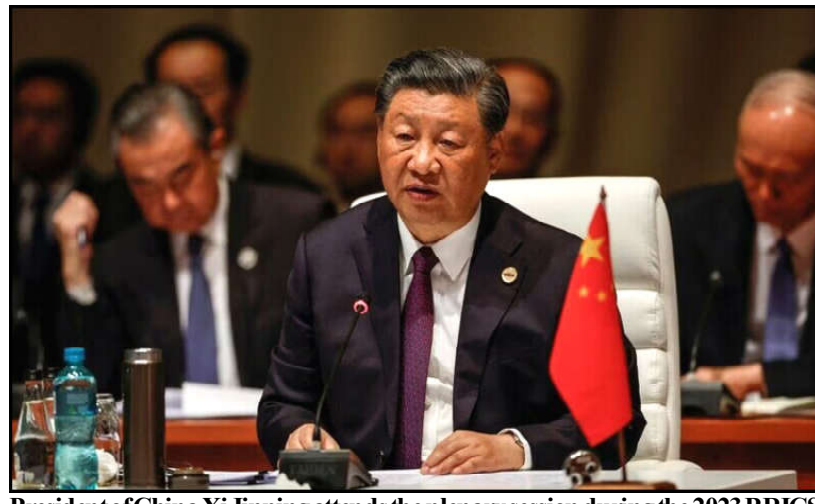
BRICS group countries have economies that are vastly different in scale and governments that often seem to have few foreign policy goals in common, complicating decision-making.

The economy of China, for example, is more than 40 times larger than South Africa's, Africa's most developed country.

Russia, isolated by the United States and Europe over its invasion of Ukraine, is also pushing to quickly grow BRICS and forge it into a counterweight to the West.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is wanted under an international arrest warrant for alleged war crimes, sees BRICS membership as a way of showing the West he still has friends.

He did not travel to South Africa but used a video address to attack Western powers.



President of China Xi Jinping attends the plenary session during the 2023 BRICS Summit at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Top Turkish diplomat calls for Iraq to designate PKK a terrorist organization during Baghdad visit

Monitoring Desk
BAGHDAD: Turkey's foreign minister denounced a separatist Kurdish group that operates in northern Iraq territory as an enemy of both Turkey and Iraq, and urged the Iraqi government to ban the group as a terrorist organization as Ankara has done.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan urged Iraq to label the Kurdistan Worker's Party, or PKK, a terrorist organization during his first visit to Baghdad since taking office.

The trip came ahead of an anticipated visit by Turkish President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan, after what has been months of escalating hostility between Turkey and Turkish-backed groups on one side, and Kurdish fighters in Iraq and Syria on the other.

In a statement after meeting with his counterpart, Fidan urged Iraqi officials to "not allow our mutual enemy, the PKK terrorist organization, to poison our bilateral relations."

While Baghdad has frequently complained that Turkish airstrikes in northern Iraq are a breach of its sovereignty, Fidan described the PKK's activities

there as a "challenge against Iraq's sovereignty," accusing the group of "occupying" areas in Iraq and seeking to link Iraq to neighboring Syria with a "terror corridor."

The PKK question is expected to loom large during a visit by Erdogan, along with the resumption of oil exports from northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region via the Ceyhan port in Turkey.

Officials in Baghdad and Irbil, the seat of the Kurdish regional government, have long been at odds over sharing of oil revenues.

Iran sentences 8 to prison over paramilitary's death during last year's nationwide protests

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran sentenced seven men and a woman to prison after their convictions over allegedly aiding two men who were earlier executed for killing a paramilitary volunteer during the nationwide protests last year that followed Mahsa Amini's death in police custody, state media reported Wednesday.

The sentences come just ahead of the one-year anniversary of Amini's Sept. 16 death, as authorities have been rounding up activists and others in an apparent attempt to tamp down on any dissent ahead of it.

The report by the

judiciary's Mizan news agency offered the first official confirmation of the sentences apparently handed down earlier by a Revolutionary Court in the city of Karaj, where the November slaying happened. The report said the country's Supreme Court upheld the sentences handed down following an appeal by the lawyers for those convicted.

The defendants were found guilty of committing "warfare" and of "corruption on Earth," a term often used to describe attempts to undermine the Iranian government, Mizan said.

UK believes Ukraine destroyed N-capable Russian bomber

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British military intelligence said on Tuesday that a weekend drone attack on an airfield deep inside Russia which Moscow blamed on Ukraine is highly likely to have destroyed a nuclear-capable TU-22M3 supersonic long-range bomber. Kyiv, which on Monday claimed to have attacked another Russian military airfield, says Russia has used the TU-22M3 to bomb targets across Ukraine with conventional munitions. Western military experts believe Russia has around 60 of the aircraft. The destruction of the plane, which can be fitted with conventional or nuclear warheads.

Video footage shared by Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga showed a metal frame that had toppled off towering columns into a wooded valley below. "Deeply saddened and affected by this tragedy," he wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Zoramthanga, who uses one name, added that he was grateful that people had "come out in large numbers to help with rescue operations". Forty labourers had been working at the site, according to the Northeast Frontier Railway.

An employee of the agency, who requested ano-



Rescue workers conduct a search operation at the site of an accident where an under-construction railway bridge collapsed in Sairang town of the Aizawl district in India's eastern state of Mizoram.

Russia removes 'General Armageddon' as air force chief after mutiny-related disappearance - RIA

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia has removed Sergei Surovkin, nicknamed "General Armageddon", as head of the air force after he vanished from public view during a Wagner mercenary mutiny against the top army brass, the RIA state news agency reported on Wednesday.

A recipient of Russia's top military award, Surovkin would be the most senior Russian military figure to lose his job over the June 23-34 mutiny, which President Vladimir Putin said could have tipped Russia into civil war.

Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin, who spearheaded the revolt, remains at liberty and on Monday posted a video address which he suggested was shot in Africa. The two men Prigozhin had wanted

to topple - Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Valery Gerasimov, the chief of the General Staff - remain in their posts.

Once commander of Russia's overall war effort in Ukraine when he was lauded by Russian and Western military experts as one of its most effective operators, Surovkin had not been publicly fired but RIA cited an unnamed source as saying:

"Ex-chief of the Russian Air and Space Forces Sergei Surovkin has now been relieved of his post, while Colonel-General Viktor Afzalov, head of the Main Staff of the Air Force, is temporarily acting as commander-in-chief of the Air Force."

Reuters could not independently verify the report and there was no immediate official confirmation.

Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia to probe HRW report on killings

Monitoring Desk
ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia said on Tuesday it would launch a joint investigation with Saudi Arabia into a Human Rights Watch report accusing the kingdom's border guards of killing hundreds of Ethiopian migrants.

The report sparked global outrage after its publication on Monday, although a Saudi government source dismissed the allegations as "unfounded."

"The Government of Ethiopia will promptly investigate the incident in tandem with the Saudi Authorities," the foreign ministry said on X, formerly Twitter. "At this critical juncture, it is highly advised to exercise utmost restraint from making unnecessary speculations until (the) investigation is complete," the ministry said, noting the "excellent longstanding relations" between Addis Ababa and Riyadh.

Cyprus dismantles human smuggling ring bringing Syrian migrants from Syria, Lebanon and Turkey

Monitoring Desk
NICOSIA: Cyprus said Wednesday it dismantled a criminal human smuggling ring responsible for bringing boatloads of Syrian migrants from Syria, Lebanon and Turkey. The eastern Mediterranean island nation has seen almost daily migrant boat arrivals in recent days.

Cypriot police said three months of investigative work resulted in the arrest of five suspects following a raid by a combined force of 40 officers on several homes in the island's southeast.

A Cyprus court ordered the detention of the suspects, all Syrian nationals, for eight days until police wrap up their investigation. The suspects face charges of belonging to a criminal migrant smuggling organization.

Police spokesman Christos Andreou told The Associated Press that seven

more Syrians were being sought in connection with the ring, including the ring-leader who is believed to have fled abroad along with another ring member.

Andreou said the police raid also found 44 Syrian migrants living in those homes, all of whom are asylum seekers or have been accorded international protection status. The migrants will be questioned and released, if they're not found to belong to the same ring, according to Andreou.

It wasn't immediately clear if the detained suspects had legal representation. Andreou said they could apply for legal aid and have a public defender appointed at any time, but he was unaware if that had happened Wednesday.

The arrests come as Cypriot authorities rescued 142 Syrian migrants aboard four separate boats over four consecutive days this week.

'Chinese activist' makes 300-km jet ski ride to South Korea

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: A Chinese man who rode a jet ski more than 300 km (186 miles) across the sea to South Korea from China was jailed in his homeland several years ago for making fun of his leader, Xi Jinping, a South Korean activist said on Wednesday.

South Korea's Coast Guard said it had detained a Chinese man in his 30s on Aug. 16 after he had travelled from China on a 1,800 cc jet ski, wearing a life jacket and helmet and carrying a telescope, compass, and five containers of fuel.

The Coast Guard did not identify the man who was taken into custody in the western coastal city of Incheon. Reuters was not immediately able to contact the man and a press officer at the Chinese embassy declined to comment.

People watch a live stream of Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft's landing on the moon, inside an auditorium of Gujarat Science City in Ahmedabad, India.

UNICEF to commit \$270 million to support poverty alleviation in Nigeria

Monitoring Desk
ABUJA: The United Nations children's agency, UNICEF, plans to commit \$270 million to Nigeria's humanitarian and poverty alleviation efforts and pledged to help set up an emergency operation centre, its executives said on Tuesday.

The government of President Bola Tinubu wants to lift 133 million citizens out of poverty, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation Betta Edu told UNICEF executives Christian Munduate and

Edu did not provide a timeline for achieving the target.

UNICEF said the agency will support the establishment of a humanitarian emergency operation centre that will help monitor, mitigate and prevent emergencies, and also help the ministry build capacity for its staff.

Edu said the government will target about 71 million "extremely poor Nigerians" who live on less than \$1.95 a day because "time is of essence."

Four killed in Russian attack on Ukrainian school - interior minister

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Four educational workers were killed and four other people were hurt in a Russian attack on a school in the city of Romny in north-eastern Ukraine on Wednesday, Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said. Klymenko said the bodies of the school director, deputy director, secretary and a librarian had been pulled from the rubble by rescue workers. He said four residents were injured as they had been passing the school in Romny, which is part of the Sumy region. Photos shared by Klymenko on the Telegram messaging app showed emergency workers carrying away a body on a stretcher.

Swiss police warn that heat wave raises danger of falling ice, rock in the Alps

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: Police in southwest Switzerland warned Wednesday that a heat wave has increased the risk of falling rock and ice in the Alpine region, where it's been particularly deadly this year for mountaineers and hikers. Most of the victims have been foreigners.

Valais regional police say a spike in temperatures and a record high altitude of nearly 5,300 meters (about 17,300 feet) for a bellwether zero-degree Celsius reading over Switzerland has accelerated erosion in the Alps.

"With the heat wave of the last few days, and the days to come, the danger level is heightened in the high mountains," regional police spokesman Steve Leger said in an email.

The high temperatures have jeopardized the usual night-time refreeze that helps keep ice frozen solid. The resulting thaw means ice patches such as glaciers and seracs — blocks or towers of ice on top of glaciers — as well as rocky formations held together by ice could get dislodged, posing a threat to mountain climbers.

South Korea holds rare air raid drill, but many citizens ignore it

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Sirens wailed on Wednesday as South Korea held its first nationwide air defence drills in six years to counter North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats, but many people appeared to ignore calls to seek shelter.

The government has reintroduced the drills into the annual Ulchi civil defence exercises, held alongside the Ulchi Freedom Shield drills, which South

Korean and U.S. troops began on Monday, to improve responses to a North Korean attack or sirens blared at 2 p.m. (0500 GMT) on a rainy but hot summer afternoon in downtown Seoul. Community leaders in yellow jackets and hats with the "Civil Defence" logo asked people to

get off the streets for about 15 minutes before the alert was eased.

But many pedestrians did not pay heed to those requests or rush to find designated shelters or nearby underground spaces.

"I didn't know about the drill. And people don't seem to care about it much. I don't believe there will be an actual war either," Na Eun, a 52-year-old architectural designer told Reuters.

Park Joo-ui, a community leader of the Jongno district in Seoul who passed out leaflets to notify the drill said he was baffled by public indifference.

"How can we be prepared for crisis when we don't get support from our people during this drill? People are just not interested," the 69-year-old said.

22 killed in Indian railway bridge collapse

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: At least 22 labourers were killed on Wednesday when the railway bridge they were building across a ravine in India's remote northeast collapsed, with four others feared dead.

The incident took place in Sairang, a town around 20 kilometres (12 miles) north-west of Mizoram state capital Aizawl — an outlying pocket of the country near the border with Myanmar.

Video footage shared by Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga showed a metal frame that had toppled off towering columns into a wooded valley below. "Deeply saddened and affected by this tragedy," he wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Zoramthanga, who uses one name, added that he was grateful that people had "come out in large numbers to help with rescue operations". Forty labourers had been working at the site, according to the Northeast Frontier Railway.

An employee of the agency, who requested ano-

nymy as he was not authorised to talk to the media, said 22 bodies had been recovered from the wreckage.

Another four people were still missing, he added. A committee has been set up to investigate the cause of the accident. "Rescue operations are underway and all possible assistance is being given to those affected," the office of Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

Modi was "pained" by the accident and offered his "condolences to those who have lost their loved ones", his office added.

The government will pay around \$2,400 to the next of kin of those killed, it said.

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw also announced separate compensation for those killed or injured in the accident.

Building and construction collapses are common during India's June-September monsoon season, with old and rickety structures buckling under days of non-stop rain.

Scorched Europe battles deadly fires while Turkey shuts shipping lane

Monitoring Desk
MENIDI: More searing temperatures fuelled wildfires and prompted health warnings across Europe on Wednesday, as a blaze in Turkey forced the closure of the Dardanelles shipping lane and winds fanned the flames in Greece where 20 people have already been killed.

France, which widened its heatwave red alert in the south of the country, said it would scale back production at a nuclear power plant as high temperatures curbed the cooling water supply.

In Greece, firefighters were battling a blaze for a second day close to Athens and the authorities warned that heat and winds risked fuelling more wildfires, a day after 18 bodies, probably migrants, were found in a charred northern forest.

A wildfire north of Athens that erupted on Tuesday has smothered the capital in smoke and ash, spreading to the town of Menidi, from where about

150 people were evacuated from three nursing homes. Police ordered others to leave as a helicopter clattered overhead to drop water to douse the conflagration.

"The fire went out for half an hour... but with these very strong winds, it's been alternately starting and then stopping again," 60-year-old resident Dimitris Armetis told Reuters.

A volunteer carried an icon of the Virgin Mary out of a burning monastery, while police raced to remove large gas canisters from the ash-covered premises.

Another 700 people were moved from a migrant camp in the Amygdaleza region, about 25 kilometres north of Athens, a Migration Ministry official said.

Greek Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said 355 wildfires had broken out since Friday, with 209 new blazes in the last 48 hours alone.

Prosecutors prepare evidence in trial of 3 men accused in plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Whitmer

Monitoring Desk
BELLAIRE: Prosecutors were preparing Wednesday to present evidence against three men accused of plotting to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in what investigators described as an extremist scheme to ignite a civil war.

Attorneys were scheduled to make opening arguments in the trial of Eric Molitor and brothers William Null and Michael Null, who were among 14 defendants charged weeks before the November 2020 election. Nine have been convicted in state or federal court, including four who pleaded guilty, while two were acquitted.

Investigators described them as members of paramilitary groups angered by Whitmer's COVID-19 policies, which shut down schools and restricted the economy.

Eleven women and seven men were selected Monday to serve as circuit jurors in Republican-

leaning Antrim County, a rural area popular with tourists. Whitmer has a vacation home in the Lake Michigan village of Elk Rapids.

Evidence presented in previous trials suggested the plotters intended to abduct the two-term Democratic governor there and blow up a bridge to prevent law enforcement officers from aiding her. Informants and undercover FBI agents were inside the group for months, leading to arrests. Whitmer was not physically harmed.

Molitor, 39, and the Null brothers, both 41, are charged with providing material support for terrorist acts — punishable by up to 20 years in prison — and illegally possessing firearms. They have pleaded not guilty.

Two other defendants, Brian Higgins and Shawn Fix, pleaded guilty to reduced charges earlier this year and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors.



A volunteer stands outside a burning monastery, as a wildfire rages in Menidi, near Athens, Greece.

Jaranwala tragedy: Religious scholars, political leaders unite in Islamabad Declaration to promote harmony

ISLAMABAD (APP): The religious scholars representing various schools of thought and political leaders on Wednesday announced the 'Islamabad Declaration' to foster both interfaith and intra-faith harmony in response to the recent Jaranwala tragedy.

The joint conference took place at the 'Our Lady of Fatima Church' in the federal capital, where leaders from different backgrounds unequivocally condemned the appalling inci-

dent that occurred in Jaranwala and called for swift trials and exemplary punishment for those allegedly responsible for this inhumane act, underscoring their commitment to justice.

The collective leadership also issued a demand for the government to conduct an impartial and thorough investigation into the incident emphasizing to make its findings public, and to ensure transparency and accountability.

Expressing apprecia-

tion for the federal and Punjab governments, the leaders acknowledged the compensation provided to the victims' families whose homes were demolished and the allocation of funds for the rehabilitation of religious sites belonging to the Christian community in the affected region.

Commending these steps, the leaders urged the relevant authorities to expedite the entire process to provide a sign of relief to the affected community.

They were of the view

that addressing the grievances of the affected individuals would contribute to the collective healing process.

The religious and political leaders extended their gratitude to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Kakar and nominated Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa for their visit to the site of the incident, along with Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir's statement expressing deep concern over the disgraceful events in Jaranwala.



JARANWALA: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Aneeq Ahmad, chairing a meeting Christian community and Muslim Ulama at AC Office on his visit to Jaranwala.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan being briefed about affairs of department of Home and Tribal Affairs. Caretaker Home Minister and Chief Secretary are also present

For free, fair elections in Balochistan CM directs concerned high ups to provide peaceful environment

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that it is his main job of the caretaker government to provide peaceful environment for the free and fair elections in the province.

He directed the concerned authorities to take practical steps for providing base to conduct free and fair elections in peaceful environment.

These directives were issued by the caretaker Chief Minister while chairing a high level meeting held about the overall functioning of Home and Tribal Affairs Department, here on Wednesday.

The Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Zubair Jamali, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Saleh

Muhammad Nasar, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and other concerned senior officials were present in the meeting.

The meeting was briefed about departmental affairs of the Home and Tribal Affairs department besides coordination of the department with other departments and their functions.

The meeting was also briefed about the performance of police force and its special units.

Speaking on the occasion, Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that it is his job of the interim government to provide peaceful environment for conducting the elections in transparent manner.

For the purpose, it is necessary for the Home department to perform better, adding he stressed.

UN Pak launches dialogue drive ahead of SDG summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahead of the International Summit on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York next month, the United Nations in Pakistan on Wednesday launched a dialogue campaign with stakeholders across the country. The UN office in Islamabad will engage more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities outside of the federal and provincial capitals to discuss development priorities across the country.

In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories will discuss the development challenges they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts, a press release on Wednesday said.

The dialogues will be held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan in the coming weeks.

"These dialogues will help United Nations agencies better understand which development issues local leaders see as their priorities outside of the federal and provincial capitals," said Julian Hameis, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan.

Aneeq says: Govt to fully protect minorities' rights

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmad said on Wednesday the government would fully protect the rights of minorities by penalizing the culprits involved in Jaranwala riots.

Talking to the media during his visit to Jaranwala, he said that minorities were an integral part of Pakistan as the national flag reflected existence of minorities, whereas the Constitution of Pakistan also provided guarantee to protect their rights.

He condemned the

Infrastructure Projects play crucial role in improving connectivity: Sami Saeed

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister Muhammad Sami Saeed convened performance review meetings on the functions of infrastructure development and Monitoring & Evaluation Wings.

In the meeting, Mr. Waqas Anwar, Member Infrastructure delivered a detailed overview of projects spanning diverse sectors in transportation and communication.

The Minister stressed that Infrastructure Projects play key role in improving connectivity and in meeting the challenges posed by Climate change and Water scarcity. He added that building resilient and weather resistant Infrastructure to embrace the climate induced calamities is the need of the hour.

In another subsequent meeting that reviewed the

Sanjrani, CEO Qesco discuss issues relating efficient power supply to Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmad said on Wednesday the government would fully protect the rights of minorities by penalizing the culprits involved in Jaranwala riots.

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He condemned the

PPP delegation calls on PM

KARACHI (APP): A delegation comprising the leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Wednesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar here. The members of the delegation apprised the prime minister of the problems confronting Sindh particularly Karachi.

The delegation consisted of Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Qaim Ali Shah, Syed Murad Ali Shah and Saeed Ghani.

Governor Balochistan assures: Steps to be taken to make procedure of financial aid for poor people: Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that steps would be taken for making the procedure of getting financial assistance for poor people easier under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

He said that the BISP's basic objective is to improve standard of living of the marginalized groups and especially those living below the poverty line.

He on the occasion said that the concerned institutions would be approached for providing benefits of the programme to the people living in scattered areas of the province.

In this regard, our every possible cooperation would remain with the BISP, adding he assured.

It Pakistan-KSA Joint Special Forces Exercise AL BATTAR-I begins

RAWALPINDI (APP): The First Pakistan-KSA 'Joint Special Forces Exercise AL BATTAR-I' began on Wednesday with opening ceremony at Cherat.

The special forces of Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are participating in the two-week long exercise, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The exercise is aimed at further harnessing the historic military to military relations between the two countries, including nurturing of joint employment concept and identifying ar-

reas of mutual interest for future military collaboration, with a view to accrete maximum benefits from each other's experience in employment against terrorism.

The national anthems of both countries were played at the start of the ceremony. Senior officials from the two armed forces were present on the occasion.

Such joint military exercises between armies of the two brotherly countries were aimed at enhancing existing bilateral relations and benefiting from each other's experience, ISPR said.

PML-N forms 7-member delegation for ECP consultation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) has constituted a seven-member team to engage in discussions with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding consultations on electoral procedures.

In a statement, Marryum Aurangzeb, the party's Secretary of Information, said the Election Commission Secretary has officially invited the Pakistan Muslim League (N) for discussions on electoral procedures, which are scheduled for August 25 at 11 a.m.

Comprising seven members, the delegation includes Ahsan Iqbal, the Secretary General of PML-N, Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, Zahid Hamid, Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Rana Sanaullah Khan, Engineer Amir Maqam (Punjab) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Presidents respectively), and Attaullah Tarar, Deputy Secretary General will visit ECP on Friday for consultations.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Ministers Mir Arif Jan Muhammadhassani, Mir Zahoor Buledi and Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa meeting with caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Kha Domki

Secretary Information says Access to information is basic element of any democratic society

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Secretary Information Department, Hamza Shafiqat has stated that the Right to Information Balochistan Act 2021 has been prepared and the establishment of Information Commission is in its final stages.

The Secretary Information was speaking at the closing ceremony of two-day awareness workshop for the public information officers organized by AID Balochistan in collaboration with Information Department here on Wednesday.

He said that access to information is the basic element of any democratic society. He said that under the RTI Act, any citizen of the province has the right to acquire information from any department or institution. While the provincial departments and institutions would be bound to provide the required information to the applicants

PPP playing role for dev. of country: Ghazala

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Balochistan Women's Wing President Ghazala Gola and General Secretary Zarina Zehri on Wednesday said that the PPP was playing due role to put the country on track of development.

PPP's workers should prepare for the general elections in order to win the upcoming election with majority seats in Balochistan, they underlined.

They expressed these views while talking to a delegation of women called on here.

Both leaders said that the PPP was the party of martyrs and ghazis. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari bring employment to the people.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan addressing on the seminar regarding breast feeding.

Four killed, 3 injured over financial dispute in Lakki Marwat

LAKKI MARWAT (Online): As many as 4 people died as a result of clash between two groups over money dispute in Lakki Marwat.

According to policemen, two groups exchanged fire in a fair in Lakki Marwat as a result of which 4 people lost their lives and 3 people were also injured in the firing.

Policemen said that firing took place over a dispute over money transactions. Dead bodies and injured were shifted to hospital.

Policemen started raids to arrest the suspects.

Security forces kill active terrorist in Ladha fire exchange

RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces have killed an active terrorist during an exchange of fire exchange in the wee hours of Wednesday in the general area Ladha of South Waziristan District.

The army troops effectively engaged the terrorists and resultantly one of them was sent to hell, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. Weapon and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorist, who remained actively involved in various terrorist activities in the area, it said.

Domki opens monsoon tree plantation campaign by planting Quetta Pine sapling

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurated the Monsoon tree plantation campaign in the province on Wednesday.

He planted the sapling of Quetta pine in the Chief Minister's secretariat marking the launch of the campaign all over the province.

Earlier, the caretaker Chief Minister was informed that some 400,000 trees would be planted on Wednesday all over the province. Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan also planted a sapling in the civil secretariat the same morning.

Also present on the occasion were the Secretary Forests, Noor Muhammad Pirkan, Secretary S&GAD, Babar Khan besides others.

Samina calls on American Political & Economic Chief Shelly Saxon

QUETTA (APP): Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri and American Political and Economic Chief Shelly Saxon held a vital meeting at the American Consulate on Wednesday.

During a meeting, both leaders discussed various topics, especially women's representation in political parties and being the women's representative of Balochistan Awami Party, general elections, Balochistan politics.

There was a lively discussion about the role of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and the party as an emerging political force.

Earlier, American Political and Economic Chief Shelly Saxon welcomed Samina Mumtaz Zehri on her arrival at the American Consulate.

Secretary Information Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat giving away certificate to master trainer Mir Behram Lehri after conclusion of RTI workshop

QUETTA: Secretary Information Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat giving away certificate to master trainer Mir Behram Lehri after conclusion of RTI workshop.



QUETTA: Activists of National Party (NP) are holding protest demonstration against attack on Mir Douran Khan Khosa and demanding justice for him, at Quetta Press Club.