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PM seeks plan comprising concrete measures to reduce excessive electricity bills

Says such measures will be taken which will not put an additional burden on the country's exchequer.; NEPA determines electricity tariff: Water & Power ministry

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has directed the relevant institutions to prepare concrete measures to reduce the excess electricity bills and submit a report in the next 48 hours.

He said that such measures will be taken which will not put an additional burden on the country's exchequer.

The distribution companies should present a road map to prevent electricity theft, it is not possible that the common man will be in trouble and bureaucrats and the prime minister will use free electricity on their taxes, he added.

The first round of emergency meeting on the increase in electricity bills was held on Sunday under the chair-

manship of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar Haq Kakar. According to the ongoing declaration, the Prime Minister was given a detailed briefing on the increase in July electricity bills in the meeting.

The Caretaker Prime Minister said that in the next 48 hours, concrete steps should be taken to reduce the excess electricity bills. No action will be taken in haste which will harm the country.

Measures will be taken which will not burden the national exchequer and provide convenience to the consumers. The caretaker prime minister said that it is not possible that the common man is in trouble and the bureaucrats and the prime minister use free electricity on their taxes.

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Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing an emergency meeting regarding electricity bills at the Prime Minister's House Islamabad.



QUETTA: A delegation of Vice Chancellors of Public Sector Universities of Balochistan called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Jan Achakzai says

Caretaker Government of Balochistan will not have any impact on elections

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Caretaker Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has assured veteran politician and Chief of BNP(M), Sardar Akhtar Mengal, that the caretaker government of Balochistan will not have any impact on the upcoming elections.

The assurance comes in response to an interview given by Mengal to a private channel, where he claimed that members of the caretaker government in Balochistan have political affiliations with certain political parties. Mengal further stated that resigning from a party after taking an oath will not diminish a cabinet member's loyalty or ideological affiliation.

In a statement issued

today, Achakzai reassured Mengal that the members of the caretaker cabinet have no political agenda and will not participate in any way that violates the rules set by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). "The caretaker government is committed to ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections in Balochistan," Achakzai said. "We will not allow anyone to interfere in the electoral process."

Achakzai also welcomed any legitimate proposals from Mengal to further ensure the fairness and transparency of the elections.

"We are always open to constructive suggestions," he said. "We will consider any proposal that is in the best interests of the people of Balochistan."



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai talking with staff during his visit to office of Daily Mashriq.

Protest to be held against increase in prices of petroleum products & electricity on September 1

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Quetta Development Mahaz (QDM) has announced to stage protest demonstration against increase in the prices of petrol and petroleum products and the tariffs of electricity on September 1 in the provincial metropolises.

This was announced by the Chairman of QDM, Abdul Mateen Akhonzada in a statement issued here on Sunday.

According to Chairman QDM, the life of common man has been made miserable by the caretaker government. The petrol and petroleum prices were increased on one hand, and the tariffs of the electricity were increased on the other hand making it difficult for the people to make their both ends meet, Abdul Mateen

Akhonzada regretfully pointed out.

He said that the levying of numerous taxes on the daily used items as well as in the electricity bills is something against the will and interests of the people.

He also charged that a corrupt and incompetent bureaucracy is imposed on the general public especially in Quetta.

He also criticized the concerned authorities for causing delay in conducting the local bodies elections in Quetta. The hurdles are being created in holding LB polls in Quetta in the name of delimitations, he charged adding that the people are facing immense problems due to negligence of the concerned high ups.

He announced to take wholehearted part in the LB elections to be held in Quetta.

During investigation Imran deviates from May 9 incidents

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) once again deviated from the events of May 9.

The JIT investigated Chairman PTI in 6 cases on May 9 arson incidents across the country.

According to the sources, 6 cases of terrorism related to May 9 have been registered against Chairman PTI, on which he was investigated.

JIT sources said that the entire JIT team, including DIG Investigation Imran Kishor, questioned Imran Khan regarding the events of May 9. PTI Chairman once again deviated from the events of May 9.

Sources said that the JIT said that there is evidence of incitement by you regarding May 9, on which the PTI chairman said that he was arrested and did not incite anyone by calling. The JIT members said that there are videos and clips in which the protestors are seen chanting his name, to which Imran Khan said that he did not instigate anyone, they all went to the cantonment area on their own. No one else was involved.

MQM-P wants elections after fresh delimitations

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Sunday demanded transparent elections with the fresh delimitation of constituencies in line with the census 2023.

"General elections should be held following fresh delimitation of constituencies," the MQM-Pakistan convener said while addressing the presser alongside party leaders Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal.

The MQM-P leader went on to say that Karachi needs transparent elections at the earliest, but on the same hand, Siddiqui said "If the delimitation of constituencies took weeks or months, it is not a bad deal."

"In the previous elections, fake representatives were imposed on the city," Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said, adding that this time the elections needed to be fair, transparent, impartial, and acceptable to all.

"Delimitation of new constituencies inevitable after the new census," he said.

Domki optimistic about meaningful progress in resolving longstanding issues of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed the high hope that there would be meaningful progress in resolving longstanding problems of the province after the visit of caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar to Quetta.

In a tweet issued here on Sunday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the visit of caretaker Prime Minister has im-

mense importance and it is the source of pleasure, encouragement for the people of Balochistan.

He said that the caretaker Prime Minister is well aware of the issues of Balochistan.

He said that the caretaker Prime Minister got briefing about the law and order, ongoing development projects and other related issues in the province.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki mentioned that Mr. Kakar has assured us to resolve the issues of the province at the earliest.

Kakar assures resolution of all issues of Balochistan

Caretaker PM vows to bring higher education in Pakistan at par with world standards

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday assured resolution of all issues of Balochistan province and said that Pakistan's progress and development were linked with the development of the province.

The prime minister was talking to a delegation of the elders of the province who called on him to felicitate him on assuming the office.

The delegation also extended good wishes, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release issued here. Governor Balochistan Abdul Wali Kakar and Care-

taker Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki were also present during the meeting.

The prime minister said that the government was taking steps, on a priority basis, to enhance foreign investment, industrial and agriculture development, and provision of employment opportunities in the province.

He also assured of providing equal job opportunities to the youth of Balochistan.

For the country's progress, the caretaker government would strive to increase the role of Balochistan province through the provision of

infrastructure, electricity, water, and all other available resources, he added.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar Sunday stressed upon formulation of planning to ensure that higher education at the university level should become a regular base for the latest research and innovative achievements.

He said that graduated students should be equipped with the professional skills set to meet the requirements of industries.

The prime minister expressed these views during

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KARACHI: Leaders and activists of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held in Karachi.

Poverty-stricken masses continue protesting against unbridled electricity bills

ISLAMABAD (INP): People took to streets against inflated electricity bills and heavy taxes in parts of the country on Sunday.

In Faisalabad, the protesters blocked the Sheikhpura Road and chanted slogans against the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco).

In Risalpur, Nowshera the traders pulled their shutters down and blocked traffic on GT Road against the heavy electricity bills. They warned expanding the protests across the country if the government did not reduce the power rates.

Amid sloganeering, the

agitators demanded the government to withdraw the inflated bills and reduce the electricity taxes.

During the demonstrations, people vehemently chanted slogans against the government, holding them accountable for the exorbitant power bills.

Protests were held in Multan, Faisalabad, Nowshera, Bahawalpur, Sadiqabad, Hujra Shah Muqem, Okara, Kasur, Malakand and other areas of the country.

Package approved for 1200 students: Chinese shown special interest in improving education system in Gwadar

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chinese government has shown special interest in improving education system in Gwadar as a package has been approved for 1200 students belonging to the port city.

In this regard, meeting of District Education Officer (DEO) Gwadar was held with the General Manager, Administration, Gwadar Port, Mr. Zhao and assistant General Manager of the Port.

During the course of meeting, the pace of ongoing projects being imple-

mented with Chinese cooperation in the schools of Gwadar was reviewed.

The DEO presented a project of package for 1200 students of Gwadar in the meeting, which was approved by the Chinese Port authorities.

As per the decision, work on the project would be started in September this year.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Zhao assured that he would extend wholehearted cooperation for bringing improvement in education system in Gwadar.

India releases fourth flooding water volum in Sutlej river

KASUR (Online): India has released the fourth flooding water volume in Sutlej River, which is likely to worsen the flood situation in Sutlej River.

Hundreds of villages on the river belt of Pakpattan, Kasur, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Lodhran and Wahari are already under water and crops are submerged due to the flooding water.

Residents of the affected areas are forced to leave their homes and live in camps. Water in Bahawalpur Due to the pressure of the embankment bridge, the embankment was breached due to which water entered 6 villages and crops were affected.

Delaying tactics in elections not good omen for democracy: Mengal

Independent Report

QUETTA: The President Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sardar Akhtar Mengal has stated that it is constitutional obligation of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to conduct elections in the country within the stipulated timeframe. In addition to this, the caretaker government's responsibility is to supervise the elections. He said that using delay tactics in elections is not good omen for democracy in the country.

He said that the caretaker government in Balochistan is just incomplete, however, whoever are included in the provincial cabinet belongs to some

political parties.

Those made part of the caretaker government and cabinet should not belong to any political party. The caretaker Prime Minister (Anwarul Haq Kakar) has resigned from the party after taking oath of his office. The people happen to be ideological while remaining part of the political parties, and their relationship don't end nor the ideologies are ended with resignations.

Any non-political person should have been made caretaker Prime Minister. While a member of a political party was chosen as caretaker Prime Minister.

This and similar other

Continued on page 2

Caretaker provincial govt announces financial assistance of ailing media persons

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker provincial government has announced financial assistance for treatment of two ailing media persons of the province on Sunday.

The government also announced financial assistance for the bereaved family of a media person.

According to an official hand out issued here on Sunday, the caretaker Minister Information, Jan Achakzai arranged the funds for treatment of ailing media persons and the family of a late journalist, on directives of the care-

taker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

It may be mentioned here that the caretaker Minister Information had visited the Quetta Press Club on Saturday.

During the visit, the office bearers of Press Club had diverted attention of Jan Achakzai towards the issue of treatment of two ailing media persons besides financial condition of bereaved family of a media person.

On this, Jan Achakzai had assured them of arrangement of necessary funds for them.



FAISALABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Syed Jamal Shah is visiting a Christian Colony Jaranwala.

Nawaz Sharif has no plan to return to Pakistan soon: Khursheed Shah

ISLAMABAD (INP): Despite the statement made by Shehbaz Sharif, PPP leader Syed Khursheed Shah has said that he does not see PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif returning to Pakistan in October.

On Friday, after meeting his brother in London, Shehbaz had said that after consultations with the party's senior leadership, it had been decided that Nawaz "will return to Pakistan in October".

Shehbaz made the statement in response to a question about media reports suggesting that Nawaz would return to Pakistan in mid-October. However, in an interview with a private television channel earlier this month, Shehbaz had said Nawaz would return to Pakistan in September while other senior N-leaguers suggested the same.

Informed sources told

that though the elder Sharif was eager to return to Pakistan ahead of the elections, there was still no clear date set.

Party insiders told that Nawaz's return date was still up in the air, as key developments back home would determine his return to the country, including the retirement of Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, the status of Nawaz's pending appeals and a date for elections.

The party leadership fears that Nawaz may be incarcerated upon return, as he has been declared an absconder by the courts, and his appeals are still pending. Speaking with media on Saturday regarding Nawaz's homecoming, Shah said, "Nawaz Sharif has no plan to come [to Pakistan] right now. I don't think so."

The PPP leader added, "His health is not good, he

might not come."

When the host cited Shehbaz's recent statement, the former water minister asserted, "Indeed, he (Shehbaz) might have said so but I say that he is not well and even at the last moment, he can get unwell."

Nawaz has been residing in the United Kingdom since November 2019, when he went there for medical treatment following his conviction in a corruption case. He has not returned since and faces multiple cases in Pakistan. He was deemed an absconder the following February. Later in 2020, courts declared him as a proclaimed offender. Media reports have been speculating since October last year that Nawaz is to return soon. His daughter and PML-N Vice Organiser Maryam Nawaz stated the same in a public address in January this year.

Misbah facilitates NY Warriors to book a place in final

LAUDERHILL (INP): The New York Warriors became the first team to reach the US Masters T10 League Final after defeating California Knights by 8 wickets in Qualifier 1. The New York Warriors restricted the California Knights to 96/4 in their 10 overs before chasing down their target in 8.4 overs.

The New York Warriors' opening batters Tillakarathne Dilshan and Kamran Akmal fell early in the innings as the Warriors were reduced to 28/2 in 3.3 overs. However, Misbah-ul-Haq brought the momentum towards his team's side through a six and a boundary off Devendra Bishoo's bowling in the sixth over.



MULTAN: Pakistan cricket team arrived for the upcoming First match of Asia Cup 2023 between Pakistan and Nepal teams at Multan Cricket Stadium.

Gwadar – a city of development, prosperity in the making

QUETTA (APP): With inflation and unemployment looming like never before, the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project has assumed more importance with its potential of encouraging investors for investment and creation of more employment opportunities.

It was yet another practical manifestation of Pakistan-China friendship when this huge project was signed marking the beginning of a new era of development for Pakistan.

The port city of Gwadar is going to be the hub of business activities in the future where 70 to 80 percent of locals are attached to fishing business, while the remaining 20 to 30% with border trade.

Pak-China joint venture's decade-long stewardship had remarkably transformed Gwadar from a modest village into a thriving modern city, Chairman China Overseas Port Holding Company, YO BO said. "Given that majority of the fishermen in Gwadar have no technological knowledge, under the CPEC, they will be provided with technology and other facilities to enhance breeding and grow seafood business through innovative means," he said.

Mr. YO BO highlighted China's substantial investments in Gwadar's growth including the construction of the airport, healthcare facilities and other infrastructure.

The Gwadar Free Zone, which came under the auspices of the Free Zone Company in 2018,

has already established a vibrant phase one, spanning over 25 hectares adjacent to the port attracting six companies to launch their businesses.

The Gwadar port is fully operational and equipped to manage both imports and exports. According to official data, from 2022 to June 14, 2023, around 637,124 metric tons cargoes have been landed in Gwadar.

Sharif Ibrahim, a resident of Gwadar city, said the government had inaugurated the Mand-Pishin border marketplace at Pak-Iran border besides demolishing unnecessary checkpoints in the area to boost business activities.

"The border market has created a great number of employment opportunities for the locals," he said, adding, "The federal government has also awarded 2000 boat engines to local fishermen and distributed 3,000 solar panels among 89,000 registered fishermen in the port city." Former president of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Fida Dashti however underlined the port's role in facilitating barter trade with Iran, Afghanistan and Russia, highlighting Gwadar's strategic advantages over Port Qasim.

"Opening of border market at Gwadar is a remarkable step, but unless the government involves local business community in the entire process of business at the border, one can't expect the prolific rise of trade between Iran and Pakistan."

A committee shall immediately be formed to take

a decision regarding allotment of shops at border market and other SOPs regarding the same," he emphasized.

The former president and serving executive member of the QCCI said that by taking local population of Gwadar and the business community on board, a number of more avenues could be explored to grow business in the port city.

A local fisherman Sulaiman said Gwadar was in dire need of a processing and cold storage facility to protect fish from decay.

"Gwadar has a thriving fishing industry that provides employment opportunities and contributes not only to the local economy but there is a huge potential of fish export which is heavily based on the establishment of storage and transportation facilities," he mentioned.

Director General Gwadar Development Authority Muejib ur Rehman Qandrani told APP that several projects had been completed in Gwadar related to education, health, water and electricity to facilitate the residents of the city. He said the authorities had laid down 152 kilometers long pipelines in the city to provide clean drinking water to the citizens through the Shadi Kor and Swad dams.

The water storage capacity of Shadi Kor dam was 35000 acre-feet and would supply 2.5 MGD safe drinking water, while the storage capacity of Swad dam was 46000 acre-feet, which would supply

5 MGD water to the residents of the old city, he added.

According to a source in the planning and development department of Balochistan, a desalination plant has been established with the assistance and funds of the Chinese government having the capacity to purify 1.2 million gallons of seawater per day to provide clean drinking water to the masses. The project has cost Rs 2 billion.

Meanwhile, Pak-China Friendship Hospital was also being established over 68 acres of land which would be equipped with modern medical facilities, he said.

All major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, Distribution of 2000 Boat engines to fishermen of Gwadar, Khuzdar-Panjgur Transmission line (via Nag-Basima) connecting Markran with National Grid, New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone, and Gwadar Port would become shining pearls in the region.

He informed that the provincial government had declared Gwadar district a tax-free zone in a bid to attract investment. The district had been exempted from all provincial taxes including excise, services and transfer of property.

The government was making serious efforts to

frame the master plan of the coastal belt as the province possessed a plethora of tourist attractions along the 750-kilometer-long coastal belt.

Construction work on eco-tourism resorts, beach parks, floating jetties and rest areas was in full swing with allied facilities to cater the needs of local and foreign tourists visiting these beautiful coastal lines.

Moreover, the government has posted 215 lieutenants to facilitate the tourists and provide protection to them.

Talking to APP, an official of the GDA said work on the renovation of old buildings and archaeological sites had started to preserve the ancient civilization and history of Gwadar.

"Under the plan, dilapidated buildings will be restored for tourists to recall the history, culture and heritage of the port city," he added.

He said Gwadar had a lot of potential to generate tourism opportunities, and there was a dire need to have a constructive approach to exploring the hidden beauty of the city.

It is evident that Gwadar enjoys a great potential to catalyze regional connectivity, benefiting not only China and Pakistan but also adjacent nations such as Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asian states.

The region's untapped potential, brimming with natural resources will not only bring about positive change in the lives of the local population but open a gateway of prosperity for the whole country.



PESHAWAR: Members of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are holding protest demonstration against the highly inflated electricity bills, held in Peshawar.

PCB to unveil Pakistan team's World Cup kit today

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will launch the national team's new kit for ODI World Cup 2023 today (Monday).

PCB Chairman Zaka Ashraf will unveil the World Cup kit at an event in Lahore.

The World Cup commences on Thursday, 5 October when 2019 finalists England and New Zealand clash at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, with the event culminating in the final at the same venue on Sunday, 19 November.

Earlier this month, the

International Cricket Council (ICC) announced change in the World Cup matches, including the eagerly-awaited contest between India and Pakistan.

Details of eight other matches have also been changed. The clash between India and Pakistan was originally slated to take place in Ahmedabad on Sunday, 15 October, but this has been moved a day earlier and will now be held at the same venue on Saturday, 14 October.

As a result, England's fixture against Afghanistan in Delhi will be moved from Saturday, 14 October and will now be played 24 hours later on Sunday, 15

October.

Pakistan's contest against Sri Lanka in Hyderabad has moved from Thursday, 12 October to now being played on Tuesday, 10 October and Australia's big match against South Africa in Lucknow moved back 24 hours and will now be played on Thursday, 12 October instead of Friday, 13 October.

Similarly, New Zealand's game against Bangladesh originally scheduled as a day match for 14 October in Chennai has been moved back and will now be held on Friday, 13 October and be played as a day-night contest.

Delaying tactics...

Continued from page 1 views were expressed by Sardar Akhtar Mengal while speaking to a private TV channel the other day.

The BNP chief further said that the constitutional obligation of conducting elections should be fulfilled within the given time period. While the assemblies were dissolved before their due tenure then ECP should announce elections in the country meeting the constitutional requirements instead of constitutional excuses, he maintained.

About the population census, Sardar Akhtar Mengal said that we think that free and fair census was conducted for the first time in the province.

He said that the very aim of the CCI meeting held before few days of the end of previous government was nothing but to reduce the population of Balochistan. In that meeting, population of the province was decreased up to 7.3 million, he charged.

He said that the CCI meeting was also delayed for six hours just for the then Chief Minister (Abdul Quddus Bizenjo).

Hafeez assists Texas Chargers to knockout Morrisville Unity

LAUDERHILL, Florida (INP): The former Pakistan captain Mohammad Hafeez was in sublime form with the bat, and played a blinder as the Texas Chargers defeated Morrisville Unity by 8 wickets in the Eliminator, in the inaugural edition of the US Masters T10. The Chargers won with 9 balls remaining.

Batting first, the Morrisville Unity lost Jonathan Foo (9) early on, but had Shehan Jayasuriya and Obus Pinaar kick on. The duo scored at a quick pace and put on a 42-run stand for 21, just before the midway point.

Pinaar and Corey Anderson set about their task of getting runs quickly after that, taking the score to 88/2 after 7 overs. The platform was set for the batters to tee off in the final overs. In the 9th over, Pinaar completed his fifty

as the Unity score surged over the 100-run mark.

Anderson lost his wicket for 22 in the final over, but only after he and Pinaar had put on a half-century stand. Unity eventually finished with 115/5, as they lost Pinaar and Navin Stewart's wickets in the final over too. In response, Mohammad Hafeez and Mukhtar Ahmed gave the Texas Chargers a flying start. Hafeez got stuck into Sreesanth's second over and smashed two sixes and three fours, as the Chargers motored along in the early phase. By the end of the fourth over, six maximums and five fives were hit by the openers, and the score was at 66/0, as more than half the target had been knocked off. At the halfway stage, the Chargers needed 34 more to win with Hafeez looking good, and the openers marching on towards a century-stand.

Kakar assures resolution...

Continued from page 1 a meeting with a delegation of vice-chancellors of public sector universities of Balochistan that called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release issued here.

The delegation apprised the prime minister of the progress over higher education and the pertaining issues.

The prime minister underscored the need to promote a culture of research and creativity as the lack of innovation was linked with the deficiency in research and higher education.

The caretaker prime minister further asked for setting up incubation centers for the students by the industrial sector in universities, so that they could get opportunities for contem-

porary research, adding that with these measures, trained manpower would be provided to the industries, thus paving the way for an industrial revolution.

He shared that with the continuous facility of higher education, the improvement could be brought in different sectors of life.

The youth should be provided with ample opportunities to seek higher education so that the talented young lot could play their due role in the progress of the country, he said, adding the youth and manpower were the vital assets for a better future.

The caretaker prime minister also underlined to remove all hurdles in the pursuit of higher education by bringing it to par with international standards.

Door not closed on Harry Brook for World Cup: Buttler

LONDON (INP): England premier wicketkeeper batsman Jos Buttler has hinted that Harry Brook could yet force his way into England's final World Cup squad after his 41-ball century in the Hundred this week, but stressed that Ben Stokes' return to ODI cricket as a specialist batter "changed the dynamic" for selection.

Brook was a surprise omission from England's 15-man squad last week and responded by hitting 105 not out from 42 balls for Northern Superchargers at Headingley on Tuesday night. He walked in at 10 for 3 after 20 balls, and the next-highest score was just 15.

As things stand, he is likely to travel to India as a reserve but England are allowed to change their provisional 15-man World Cup squad until September 28. Four years ago, they made two late changes to their squad, with Jofra Archer and Liam Dawson replacing Joe Denly and David Willey.

Brook is part of England's squad for a four-match T20 series against

New Zealand starting on Wednesday, and Buttler entertained the idea he could still force his way into the squad through performance alone. "There's still a long time before everyone is meant to get on the plane, so we'll wait and see what happens," he said.

"We all know Harry's a fantastic player and we saw what he can do the other night," Buttler added. "It's not like it's a surprise: we know what a brilliant player he is, he's just the unfortunate one at the moment to not be in that squad at the moment."

"Of course, Ben Stokes coming back and being available just as a batter sort of changes the dynamic a little bit. Ben's a fantastic player to be able to welcome back, so it's a really tough selection."

Several members of England's provisional squad have had quiet tournaments in the Hundred - including Liam Livingstone, perhaps Brook's nearest equivalent as a power-hitter - but there is no obvious like-for-like switch which would maintain the balance of the squad.



QUETTA: Laborers are busy in unloading woods from truck to earn their livelihood for support their families

PM seeks plan comprising...

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The concerned Ministries and concerned institutions should provide complete details of officers and institutions receiving free electricity. Anwarul Haq Kakar said that I represent the common man, the cost of electricity in the Prime Minister's House and Pakistan Secretariat should be kept to a minimum.

A detailed consultation with the provincial chief ministers on the implementation of power saving measures and the issue of excess bills for July will also be held on Monday.

The Caretaker Prime Minister asked the distribution companies to present a road map to prevent electricity theft.

Interim Cabinet Federal Ministers Shamshad Akhtar, Gohar Ijaz, Murtaza Solangi, Advisor to Prime Minister Dr. Waqar Masood, Secretary Power, Chairman WAPDA, Chairman Nepra and other relevant senior officials participated in the meeting.

The meeting was given a detailed briefing on the problems of the electricity sector, details regarding excess bills, electricity theft and measures to be taken to prevent it.

The Prime Minister adjourned the meeting till Monday and directed to

prepare and submit concrete measures and plans.

Earlier, a briefing was given in the meeting by the Ministry of Water and Power. The Power Division officials said that the price of imported coal was also Rs 51,000 to Rs 61,000 per metric. Next year, Rs 2 trillion should be paid only in terms of capacity payments. 63.5% of domestic consumers have no increase in tariff.

The Power Division said electricity prices for 31.6 per cent domestic consumers increased by Rs 3 to Rs 6.5 per unit.

Only 4.9 per cent of domestic consumers saw a tariff hike of Rs 7.5 per unit. The average tariff hike for domestic consumers was Rs 3.82, Power Division officials said. The maximum electricity tariff in 2022 was Rs 31.02 per unit. In August 2023, the price of electricity is Rs 33.89 per unit.

Meanwhile Officials of Ministry of Water and Power have said that electricity tariff is determined by NEPRA (National Electric and Power Regulatory Authority) electricity prices change under Consumer Price Index, due to KIBOR (Karachi Interbank Offered Rate) and fuel price adjustment also in electricity prices.

According to details,

an emergency meeting on electricity rates and bills was held on Sunday under the chairmanship of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar. The Ministry of Water and Power gave a briefing in the meeting.

The power division said that the price of imported coal was 51 thousand rupees per metric. Next year, 2 trillion rupees have to be paid only in the form of capacity payment minutes.

The major difference in the increase in electricity prices was applied to consumers of more than 400 units. There was no tariff increase for 63.5 per cent of domestic consumers.

The Power Division said electricity prices for 31.6 per cent domestic consumers increased by Rs 3 to Rs 6.5 per unit.

For only 4.9% of domestic consumers, the tariff increased by Rs 7.5 per unit. The average tariff for domestic consumers increased by Rs 3.82.

Officials of Power Division said that there was an increase of 7.5 rupees per unit for consumers falling in other categories. In July 2022, the maximum electricity tariff was 31.02 rupees per unit. In August 2023, the price of electricity is 33.89 rupees per unit.



LAHORE: Activists of Khaksar Tehreek chanting slogans during protest against the surge in petrol and electricity prices as Pakistan endures soaring inflation, outside press club in Provincial Capital.

SSDO asks CJ to take suo motu on Rizwana case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The civil society on Sunday demanded of the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take suo motu notice and order the police to register FIR under Section 3 and 4 of the Trafficking in Persons Act 2018 in the Rizwana torture case.

The Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) in collaboration with other civil society organizations continued to mobilize the public for their weekly protest across the country to demand justice for Rizwana, an underage domestic worker who was allegedly brutally abused by her employer, the wife of a civil judge.

Despite the recent arrest of the accused, the SSDO brought to the notice the fact that the Chief Justice of Pakistan still hasn't taken suo motu notice. We've often seen that even if an accused is arrested, no actual conviction is ever made, they are simply just acquitted, said Syed Kausar Abbas, Executive Director SSDO. He said, that is why all of us have gathered on this one platform with the demand to ensure that the ones responsible for this should be held accountable for their

actions, and actually punished to the full extent of the law, under the Prevention of Trafficking Act 2018. Not only is this a textbook example of trafficking, this is a non-bailable offence and according to Section 7 of the act, the court may not consider the consent of victim, parents or guardian' as a defence of employing children under forced labour. Until then, all of us will keep raising our voices and calling attention to this issue.

We protested here last week, and we will do it again next week. We assure you that we will not stop until justice is served."

The protest was participated by a diverse group of individuals from different backgrounds such as social activists, media, students, legal fraternity, public policy professionals, and common citizens. As per FIR and media reports, the Humak police registered a case on the report of the girl's father under Sections 506 and 342 of the PPC.

The SSDO also put forth their agenda which is calling upon the police to register an FIR of trafficking in persons under Section 3 and 4 of the Preven-

tion of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018 (PTPA 2018).

While reading out their mandate, Khurram Malik, Manager Program Development at SSDO said that this was a clear case of compelled labour as defined in Trafficking in Persons Act 2018, though the police was resistant to add Section 3 and 4 of the Prevention of trafficking in person act in FIR.

According to Section 3 (1) of the PTPA 2018, TIP offence is defined as any person who recruits, harbours, transports, provides or obtains another person, or attempts to do so, for compelled labour or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud or coercion, commits an offence of trafficking in persons and shall be punished with imprisonment.

Furthermore, Malik continued by saying, "Section 3 (2) of the PTPA 2018 further states that if the victim is a child, the punishment would extend to ten years and a million rupees fine, or both. Moreover, Section 4 defines aggravating circumstances as serious injury, life-threatening illness or death of the victim or another person.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan visit the PIMS Hospital to check the health facilities.

Health minister inspects federal capital's hospitals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Sunday visited the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and the Federal General Hospital Chak Shahzad to examine facilities being provided to the patients.

During visit, he examined various departments of PIMS and Federal General Hospital including emergency section and received response from the admitted patients about the standard of medical services being delivered to them.

On the occasion, the minister said, "We will make efforts to meet the challenges in the health sector. We have to work round-the-clock for the welfare of the people of this country."

"Health sector is our first priority and improving the health sector is my mission," Dr. Nadeem Jan added.

He assured that he would try his level best to resolve the problems of the people in a short period of time on priority basis.

He expressed his resolve to serve the country

and the nation. Public welfare projects would have to be completed on fast track, Dr. Nadeem Jan said.

"We will ensure effective measures to protect people from diseases and epidemics," he said.

He asked the hospital staff to work with full dedication to come up to expectations of the people.

Dr. Nadeem said, "We will endeavor to lay the foundation of revolutionary welfare projects of public interest in the health sector."

Syed Ali Gilani was symbol of resistance movement: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and parties have said that iconic leader Syed Ali Gilani's stance on Kashmir dispute was the symbol of Kashmiris' resistance struggle.

According to Kashmir media service, APHC leader, Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Yasmeen Raja, Maulana Musab Nadvi, Imtiaz Rishi, Muhammad Hazeefa and Abdul Samad Inqilabi in their separate statements in Srinagar said that on the second martyrdom anniversary of Syed Ali Gilani on September 1, Kashmiris will march towards his graveyard in Hyderpora, Srinagar, to pay tribute to the great leader.

They said that the people of Kashmir would also renew their pledge that the mission of the veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Gilani and other martyrs of

Kashmir freedom movement will be accomplished at any cost.

They appealed to the people to demonstrate unity and the best way to pay tribute to the martyrs is to carry forward their mission.

Meanwhile, APHC AJK chapter leaders Altaf Hussain Wani, Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Altaf Ahmed Butt, Syed Aijaz Rehmani and others in Islamabad paid glowing tributes to Syed Ali Gilani and said that his struggle and sacrifices would always be remembered in history.

They urged the Kashmiris, living in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and abroad to hold protest rallies and demonstrations on the martyrdom anniversary of Syed Ali Gilani and draw the attention of the international community towards the plight of enslaved and besieged Kashmiri people.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors are enjoying in waterfall at Trail-5, Federal Capital.

Under 'Tahafuz Programme' Around 4,781 requests for health financing approved

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety has approved 4,781 requests of deserving patients for health financing from May 2022 to March 2023 under the 'Tahafuz programme'.

"A total of 15,729 requests of the deserving patients have been approved for health financing since the inception of the programme" an official source revealed.

The initiative is aimed at catering to the catastrophic health expenditures of deserving patients through fourteen impaneled hospitals based in

Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Balochistan, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), irrespective of geographical limitations and domicile. Tahafuz is a Public Sector Development Program (FY-2021-2024) demand-driven initiative designed to protect the extremely poor from catastrophic health expenditures. The program is also providing healthcare assistance to the poor who fall under the pre-defined eligibility criteria primarily based on BISP or National Socio-Economic Registry Poverty scores i.e. PMT.

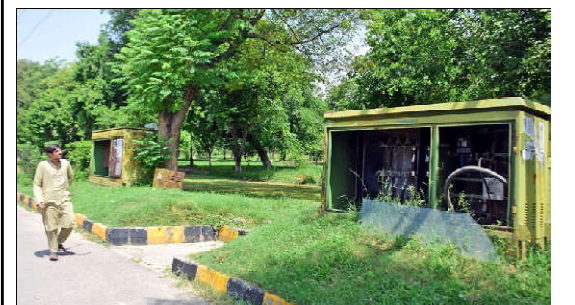
PIMS takes steps to serve dengue patients

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has made all necessary arrangements to manage dengue cases keeping in view the prevailing high-risk season of disease spread.

According to hospital sources, Executive Director of PIMS Prof. Dr Rana Imran Sikandar directed the hospital staff to ensure the implementation of the plan prepared to handle the dengue patients at the hospital.

Dr Rana said the hospital staff was put on high alert and he will personally supervise all preparations to prevent patients from any inconvenience in treatment. Dr Rana assured that like in previous years, the hospital would provide the best medical care to dengue patients this year.

"The hospital is committed to serving the patients with full care and special steps have been taken in this regard," sources added.



ISLAMABAD: A man walk past in front of open electric box alongside a road near Kachnar park in Federal Capital, which may cause any incident time as needs to attention for concern authority.

CDA plans to develop several new parks in capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is planning to develop several new modern parks in the federal capital to provide better recreational facilities to the residents of the city.

"The civic authority has already developed around 37 public parks in the federal capital during the last ten years and is working on a policy to increase their number in the coming years," official sources in the CDA told APP.

"We need three to four months to develop a new park after completion of the codal formalities."

At present, they said the federal capital had six amusement parks, which were considered sufficient

to cater to the recreational needs of Islamabad residents.

"But the policy has been made that whenever a new sector will be developed, an amusement park will be constructed along," they added.

The sources said that the CDA was developing several new sectors, including I-11, I-12, I-14, I-15, I-16, D-12, and Park Enclave, adding that Model Villages and parks were also being developed in the said areas.

"As and when these areas are developed and completed, the new parks will be there to meet the demand and requirement of the general public as per CDA approved layout plan," they added.



ISLAMABAD: Members of Christians community hold the holy cross and banner reading 'Justice should be given to the Christian community victims of Jaranwala tragedy' during a protest outside national press club.

Inaugural meeting of Graveyard Development Committee held

ISLAMABAD (Online): The first meeting of the Graveyard Development and Facilitation Committee convened today at the H11 Graveyard, with Imran Ghaznavi leading as the chairperson.

This committee, composed of esteemed members including Imran Ghaznavi, Admiral Shahid Saeed, Advocate Tayyba Abbasi, and the Director of DMA, were to enhance the facilities available at Islamabad's graveyards, ensuring the highest level of convenience for the public, said a press release.

With a shared vision of raising graveyard facilities to international standards, the committee aims to create a transformative impact on these vital community spaces. The committee's approach prioritizes collaboration with both the community and the

Capital Development Authority (CDA), reflecting a commitment to inclusivity and partnership.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Chairman CDA for their instrumental role in establishing this committee, a testament to their unwavering dedication to this important initiative. This collaboration is poised to usher in a new era of enhanced services and facilities, making a positive difference in the lives of the citizens of Islamabad, the committee members said.

The inaugural meeting also included a touching moment as committee members paid a visit to the grave of late Arshad Sharif. As the committee begins its work, we invite the community to follow our progress closely and join us in celebrating the positive impact that this collaboration would bring.

Rain likely at various parts of country: PMD

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Sunday has forecast mainly hot and dry weather for most plain areas of the country during the next 24 hours.

However, rain-wind/thundershower is expected in Potohar region, Islamabad, upper Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir during the afternoon/evening.

According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave is affecting upper parts of the country.

Monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea were penetrating in the upper parts.

25 absconders involved in heinous crime held

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Capital Police have arrested 25 absconders involved in heinous crime during the last week, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, special tasks were assigned to all seniors' police officials to ensure the arrest of proclaimed offenders and absconders involved in heinous crimes. During the crackdown, the Islamabad Capital Police Kohsar, Golra, Tarnol, Secretariat, Bhara Kah, Khanna and Phulgran police station teams have arrested 25 absconders involved in heinous crime during the last week.

'Censorship has reached at peak in Kashmir after August 2019'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The level of censorship has reached a new high in occupied Jammu and Kashmir after India revoked its special status in August 2019 and the Modi regime has employed a range of intimidating tactics to ensure no reporting critical of its actions comes out of the territory. A report released by Kashmir Media Service, said journalists, rights activists, and even ordinary citizens' Twitter, Facebook, & Instagram accounts are being persistently censored to ensure there is no voice contrary to the

government's claims. Kashmiris' cell phones are being taped and every individual's activities are being monitored by Indian agencies, it added.

The report decried that IIOJK's mainstream media is not allowed to report facts on the ground and legitimate political voices of the people of occupied Kashmir are being silenced under the guise of "national security".

It said the new censorship regime in the territory is meant to bring the Kashmiris to their knees and make them acquiesce to Indian policies but India must remember it cannot obfuscate what is happening in Kashmir by imposing strict censorship.

Ansari calls for awareness campaign on 'Zainab Alert' app

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ameen Ansari the father of late Zainab here on Sunday stressed the need to launch a massive awareness campaign for 'Zainab Alert' app for effective emergency response and recovery of missing children. "A wide-spread awareness campaign to sensitize the general public about the rights of children and attitudes and behaviors could help create a safe and enabling environment for them to grow up," Ansari told APP. He urged the parents, media and all stakeholders to play their due role in implementation of the "Zainab Alert Act" in true letter and spirit to combat child abuse, advising the parents to keep an eye on children activity.



ISLAMABAD: Police personals stands alert outside IESCO office of Manager (Operation) Rawalpindi circle in the city. As IESCO's request, Rawalpindi police have deployed over 500 personnel to provide security for electricity offices to avoid "unpleasant" situations.

IPS join hands with RIIO to form network of think tanks on IOR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) has become part of a pioneering effort by a Chinese institution to create a multilateral cooperative network of think tanks of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The development was a result of a bilateral MoU signed by IPS in Kunming, China with the Research Institute for Indian Ocean Economics (RIIO), Yunnan University of Finance and Economics (YUFE), said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The initiative was launched during the 8th RIIO international conference on 'Common Development of China and Indian Ocean Region' held with the theme of 'Challenges and Prospects of Blue Economy Cooperation in the Indian Ocean: from the Perspective of Security and Development', which was hosted by RIIO-YUFE. Apart from IPS, the event was attended by top officials of the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (SIS), India, Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Myanmar, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh, and Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka.

The participating institutions have also signed

a letter of intent to become part of the network after necessary formalities.

This network will work for the policy analysis and review of Indian Ocean's strategic issues, undertaking joint activities, promoting common development between China and Indian Ocean region through research and discussion, and publishing research papers, articles, books, white papers, and reports as an outcome, all in a bid to strengthen various areas of cooperation such as investment environment in Indian Ocean economies, the foreign policy and economic relations of Indian Ocean economies, and any other such issues having bilateral or multilateral implications for each country. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman stated, "The economies, livelihoods, and cultural identities of the states and people around IOR are vitally linked to it." "For continuous, coordinated, and proactive growth of the blue economies, a greater focus on maritime-specific policies, research and education, knowledge and information sharing, establishing mechanisms and networks, integrated planning on regional scales as well as within the countries.

International Day of Charity to be marked on Sep 5

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Day of Charity will be marked on September 5 (Tuesday) across the globe including Pakistan which promotes charitable efforts made to alleviate poverty worldwide.

Charity workers visiting homes with donation boxes.

Educational events and fundraising activities are held worldwide on the International Day of Charity. Media publicity about the day is promoted via social networks, online news, radios, and TV. Printed material is also published and distributed to publicize this observance.

Poverty persists in all countries regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, particularly in developing countries.

Concerned with the poverty problem, the UN called for countries to recognize and contribute towards the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals.

On December 17, 2012, the UN designated September 5 as the International Day of Charity, which was first celebrated in 2013.



ISLAMABAD: Traffic wardens are issuing challan to motorcyclists against riding motorcycle without helmets at Raja Bazaar area in the city.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Monday August 28, 2023

Flashpoint now

Bloated electricity bills have triggered countrywide protests. Crushed by the spiking cost of living, hundreds of consumers took to the streets in most cities yesterday to give vent to their seething anger over growing incidence of indirect taxes in their electricity bills.

Some political parties joined them to cash in on the growing discontent. The interim government of Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar is also feeling the heat and has convened a meeting of power sector authorities today to find a way to provide some "relief" to frustrated power consumers.

How? It's not yet clear. The caretakers have little space to help inflation-stricken citizens without compromising on the fiscal goals of the present IMF programme, which would be disastrous for the economy, as it could make the multilateral lender suspend or terminate the programme.

The increasing price of electricity is essentially a governance and fiscal problem for which successive governments are to blame. On the one hand, the ruling classes have relied on heavy indirect taxes on fuels and power bills to pay for the state's ballooning expenditure, instead of effectively taxing powerful lobbies like retailers, real estate and agriculture because of their political clout.

On the other hand, they've utterly failed to implement energy sector reforms to control growing theft and power and gas sector losses, and chosen instead to periodically increase prices to recover lost revenues from honest customers. It goes without saying that the surging fuel and energy costs are devastating the working-class and salaried households, as well as industry.

At least a third of the electricity bill is made up of taxes and other government charges. Likewise, almost a quarter of the petrol price consists of taxes and levies. The government can't remove or even partially reduce these levies without an IMF waiver. At best, they can offer consumers the 'facility' of paying their bills in installments, as was decided by Shehbaz Sharif last year.

This is no solution though. It will only delay the calamity for the consumers. The toxic mix of inflation and economic recession over the last two years, coupled with inequitable tax policies, have brought households under renewed pressure.

Inflation, considered to be the most regressive tax on the poor-middle-income families, remains elevated at above 28pc. Fuel and food prices have hit the hardest as tens of millions of people scramble to find some way to survive. Unable to cope with the rising cost of living that is exacerbating inequalities in society, many are ready to risk their lives to leave this country.

With the authorities unlikely to change their bad fiscal and tax policies, and take tough decisions to reform the energy sector, working-class and salaried households can expect to face continued pain for a much longer time than the rulers would like us to believe.

**Parvez Hassan**

President Dr Arif Alvi, on Aug 20, 2023, went on his X (formerly Twitter) account to allege that he had not 'assented' to two bills seeking amendments to the Pakistan Army Act, 1952, and the Official Secrets Act, 1923, both of which the government had already notified as duly promulgated acts by parliament. In fact, the government hastily moved to prosecute certain PTI leaders under these amended 'acts'. The controversy around the 'assent' of the president is against the following backdrop of law and facts:

(1) Article 75 of the Constitution provides a multidimensional approach to the 'assent' of the president necessary to the passage of a 'bill' of parliament to an 'act' of parliament. There is a distinct di-

chotomy in the Article between 'assent' and 'deemed assent'.

(2) Thus, Article 75 charges the president, within 10 days, to either 'assent to the bill' as covered by sub-Article 75(1)(a) or return the bill to parliament with "a message requesting that the bill or any specified portion thereof, be reconsidered" by the joint session of parliament and, if passed on such reconsideration, with or without amendment, it shall be presented to the president who "shall give his assent within ten days, failing which such assent shall be deemed to have been given" (Article 75(2)).

(3) Against this constitutional background, simply presented, the president has alleged that he did not "assent" to the bills. There is the detail about his instructions to his staff which were allegedly not carried out. These details may impact on the good governance and the personal conduct of the president in not fully complying with his obligations under Article 75 but what needs to be examined is whether such governance and conduct impact on the constitutional requirement of "assent" required under

Article 75(1)(a). It is clarified that as the president did not return the bills with a "message" under Article 75(1)(b), the provisions of Article 75(2) are not attracted.

The pivotal issue to be addressed simply is whether in not returning the bills within 10 days, with or without a message, the president shall be deemed to have "assented" to the bills under Article 75.

'Assent' in the Constitution is always understood to mean an unequivocal intent to support or approve a measure. An assent, generally, to be valid and legal must, borrowing from the timeless principles of contract law, be consensus ad idem, that is assent in the same sense upon the same thing. Thus, if the parties are not ad idem, there is no assent. Assent, accordingly, must normally be expressed through the signatures of the president or communicated through his subordinate staff, in writing, as allowed by the applicable Government Rules of Business, 1973. It thus remains to be investigated whether the government complied with this constitutional requirement at the time it notified the 'bills' as 'acts'.

Clearly, the bills could not become acts if there was no substantial compliance with this basic obligation. If the president had not signed his assent or not communicated his assent through his office as enabled by the Government Rules of Business, there, clearly, was no assent under the Constitution for purposes of Article 75(1)(a) and the issuance of the notification of the bills as acts was flawed, irregular, illegal and unconstitutional.

A few other comments about 'assent' and 'deeming' provisions of law may be helpful in the above result.

First, an 'assent' could be unequivocally expressed in writing as through a signature. But our jurisprudence is also familiar with 'constructive assent' or 'implied assent'. None of these have been invoked by the caretaker law minister and, in any event, the extension of such assents in Article 75(1)(a) would be reading something that is not there.

Second, the deeming provisions in a Constitution or law are exceptional provisions and are always interpreted restrictively. The word 'deemed' conveys a fiction whereby a thing is legally treated in a particular

manner when in fact it does not so exist. A deeming provision creates a legal fiction, which is otherwise not factual, and the interpretation of such provisions is always most guarded in the jurisprudence of all legal systems. We canvass that the deeming provisions of Article 75 are limited, as per the express provisions of Article 75(2), to the reconsideration of parliament of the message of the president sent under Article 75(1)(b). It is a fundamental principle of constitutional construction that you cannot read into the Constitution that which is not written there. Had it been intended to read the deeming fiction in Article 75(1)(a), the Constitution would have so stated as it did in Article 75(2).

The oft-repeated observation on the interpretation of deeming clauses in the rich jurisprudence of our Supreme Court and the superior judiciary compels that "statutory fiction should be carried to its logical conclusion... but the fiction cannot be extended beyond the language of the section by which it is created or by importing another fiction", therefore, to find out a solution, it has been observed that the "principle of

harmonisation shall be attracted" and ultimately it was held that "the impact of deeming clause could be curtailed if it produces a disgraceful result" (emphasis added).

Here, let us look at the enormity of the implications of a "deeming assent". The president's right to assent to a bill is a part of the fundamental basic structure of our Constitution of checks and balances meant in the ultimate interest for the welfare of the common man. The right to 'assent' to bills before they become the law of the land is not a trivial right that should be 'deemed' when the president has, particularly, expressly and publicly said that he did not 'assent' for purposes of Article 75(1)(a).

The president may be guilty of poor office-keeping and ineffective indoor management (a concept known to corporate lawyers) but such conduct cannot be extended to allege his abdication or relinquishment of his right to assent under Article 75(1)(a) which, as we suggest, should be clear, unequivocal, unambiguous and in writing through his signature or through his office as may be enabled by the Government Rules of Business. — Courtesy Dawn

A sense of the world**Ghazi Salahuddin**

It had been raining for hours, though not as heavily as our monsoon downpours, when we ventured out on a drive. It was early in the afternoon last Sunday, well before the storm was expected to peak in that location. The environment was laden with an air of foreboding. And I was excited as well as nervous about experiencing a tropical storm in southern California. It had been raining for hours, though not as heavily as our monsoon downpours, when we ventured out on a drive. It was early in the afternoon last Sunday, well before the storm was expected to peak in that location. The environment was laden with an air of foreboding. And I was excited as well as nervous about experiencing a tropical storm in southern California.

We drove around a few beaches in Long Beach. It was hard to take the scenic routes because the parks had been closed. There were many other motorists looking for a good view of the Pacific though the roads were generally deserted, with rainwater flowing on the sides.

Yes, I am referring to a tropical storm named Hilary. It was California's first tropical storm in 84 years and another manifestation of abnormal weather events that have plagued the United States and several areas across the globe. This is how climate change is becoming a global issue. We in Pakistan have suffered its blow in the rains that submerged a large part of Sindh last year. In fact, it was a disaster that shocked the world and underlined the magnitude of what can happen elsewhere.

Anyhow, being here when a tropical storm came calling, I felt as if I was situated in a wider world where momentous events are taking place. It has now been about three weeks since we landed in the US and I am trying to emotionally and mentally disengage myself from the mostly sordid developments that are taking

place in Pakistan. One resolve is to not watch the news channels and avoid conversations on politics with the Pakistani friends I meet here.

This does not mean that I am not keeping tabs on what is happening in Pakistan. As a professional journalist, I have to be aware of the headlines and it is not possible to not be concerned about the national drift. But here is this opportunity of being abroad and in the midst of unfamiliar situations in another, faraway country. A 12-hour time difference in itself enforces a kind of detachment.

I also see this as an educational experience. We exist in a world that is vast and various and not really in a good shape. It is certainly not the land of dreams or even opportunity that so many of our people are willing to risk their lives for. This does not mean that our unemployed and frustrated young men have no justification for yearning to escape from what is becoming a great country to go away from.

I am not intending here to look at Pakistan's place in the world, which is in the lower depths, or to examine the horror of what hu-

man smuggling often presents. Nor am I in any position to endorse the lure of what is said to be the American dream. It can be a dream — and also a nightmare, particularly for a large number of its own citizens.

What I am trying to say is that an encounter with the world as such, across its myriad climes, can be useful in one's attempt to understand Pakistan and its abiding sorrows. Or it can simply be a gratifying experience, at a personal level, to just watch the world go by and be grateful for whatever pleasures and surprises it has to offer. Let me also explain that I am not talking about a tourist's fleeting love affair with a particular place and its liberating prospects, though traveling essentially is a learning experience.

I feel energized by so much that I can do during this sojourn, apart from the immeasurable joy that a family reunion can provide. For instance, the time that I spent in The Last Bookstore in downtown Los Angeles is now a precious memory. A somewhat similar emotional and spiritual nourishment is provided by meaningful conversations with learned individuals

who come from other countries and cultures.

Incidentally, I was happy to be with an Indian family on Wednesday evening to share the joy and the thrill of India's Chandrayaan-3 achievement of landing a craft near the Moon's South Pole. There is this South Asian bondage that still sustains the glimmer of our 'Aman ki Asha'. This occasion was made more cheerful with the induction of Urdu poetry and Bollywood music. Beyond South Asia, there are concerns that bind the entire populace of this planet Earth. Climate change is apparently becoming a larger threat than the possibility of a nuclear war, which has become a topical issue with the release of Christopher Nolan's epic movie 'Oppenheimer'. It is interesting how movies, like books, can inspire serious debates on the state of our civilization. So, there is 'Barbie'. Actually, they are talking about 'Barbenheimer'. However, I was talking about last Sunday's tropical storm that had southern California in its path, after its landfall in Mexico. There were extensive preparations to

deal with the potential of deadly floods. Authorities had pleaded with residents not to drive. There was a state of emergency. As I have stated at the outset, I had a little taste of it all.

Thankfully, Los Angeles escaped major damage. But the citizens are urged to get ready for the next disaster. What will it be and when will it come? It is this uncertainty that the phenomenon of climate change has fostered. Meanwhile, the situation in many parts of North America and southern Europe has recently been very critical. Weather records have been broken around the world during this summer.

Wildfires around the historic city of Lahaina in Hawaii are one of America's deadliest disasters. The fires that raged across the breadth of Canada in July eclipsed annual fire records. Smoke from Canada that drifted into the US led to an increase in the number of asthma patients being taken to hospitals.

There are many other stories to be told about how climate change is affecting everything. Isn't this the time to worry about the future in a global context? — Courtesy TheNews

Outsider, outcast**Muna Khan**

My nephew, now 9, and I have been watching one of the 11 Star Wars films for the last three years whenever we are together. He didn't think anything of the British-Pakistani actor Riz Ahmed playing Bodhi in Rogue One, whereas the rest of us celebrated this first. Bodhi's ethnicity doesn't figure in the film. There are many other firsts for Pakistanis in the creative arts which have paved the way for a new normality.

When I was nine, the closest I got to some sense of representation — without knowing what it meant — was watching Atyque Padamsee play Jinnah in Gandhi in 1982. I watched it as part of my history class and remember feeling upset at Jinnah's portrayal. Pakistan seemed like a last-minute inclusion in the film. Fast forward to my first job as a journalist at Newsline in the mid-'90s; there was so much controversy about Christopher Lee playing Jinnah but the film went ahead.

That could not happen now and it is a good thing. Today you see pushback against the constant portrayal of regressive storylines in dramas or the casting of a man to play a transgender character. Of course, this pushback will cause conflict among those who have created and enforced a social order, and do not want to give new voices a seat at the table.

I believe audiences want to see themselves in stories and visuals, and I'm including the news in this, too. Marginalised commu-

nities aren't adequately represented, which widens the gulf in people's understanding of their issues.

But sometimes seeing yourself on screen can also go wrong, as happened with Yashica Dutt, author of Coming out Dalit, who saw her story in an episode of the Indian series Made in Heaven, the second season of which was released recently. The episode in question portrays an inter-caste wedding of Pallavi Menke, a scholar at Columbia University who claims her Dalit identity after years of hiding behind an upper-caste name. Her marriage into an upper-caste family in India is riddled with power and class dynamics. These are rarely talked about on screen and many people have hailed the episode, which was directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, also Dalit, for the assertion and resistance shown by Pallavi. In a tense exchange of words with her fiancé about the kind of wedding they should have, Pallavi says, "everything is about politics".

But for Dutt, the opening scene cuts too close to home and, as she wrote on Instagram, was "taken without permission or credit". While the director Ghaywan credited Dutt as an inspiration for the episode in a social media post, and Dutt herself called the episode a "cinematic triumph" when it comes to showcasing what it truly looks like for a Dalit woman to take her power back in the casteist society, she wants to be acknowledged in the end credits. The producers felt otherwise and issued a strong rebuke denying any appropriation of Dutt's life. This controversy has evoked diverse opinions and thoughtful discussion across caste lines. Dalits are sharing stories about the discriminations they've faced, and also asking whether any individual should speak for a

community.

For readers in Pakistan not familiar with the caste system: Dalits are the lowest in social hierarchy. They have historically performed jobs like manually removing human waste from sewers. Although India outlawed caste discrimination in 1950 and manual scavenging in 2013, both continue. India also created a quota system for lower castes to give them more opportunities.

One of America's greatest public intellectuals, Cornel West, was quoted by the Associated Press as saying he felt a kinship with Dalit activists, and called racism and casteism "institutionalised forms of hatred".

Lest any sense of gloating set in, I'd like to remind you about Pakistan's shameful "institutional form of hatred" that makes its citizens rob others of their right to self-identification. Further, linking that to citizenship — and even marriage certificates, as attempted in Punjab last year — legitimises hatred. We are seeing this hatred play out across Pakistan in the form of brutal violence against peaceful communities trying to make ends meet like every other person right now. Yet they are only seen when acts of violence are thrust upon them. Our response to Christian persecution in Pakistan does not elicit the same reaction as does violence against Muslims in India.

I do not know how this institutional prejudice can be arrested, given the government's head-in-the-sand approach. However, I believe filmmakers may have answers if they are allowed to tell stories that unmask stigmas. We have, after all, a rich history of thought-provoking dramas on social ills. I have no doubt of our ability to do it again. There is an audience desperate for these stories. — Courtesy Dawn

Truth & tolerance**Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry**

Jaranwala, a small town near Lahore, has shot into prominence, but for the wrong reasons. What happened there on Aug 16, 2023 represents another low in our history of communal intolerance, with local community leaders and law-enforcement authorities appearing totally helpless in preventing the mob from targeting dozens of Christian families, their houses and churches. For a country whose teeming majority adheres to the faith of Islam — the religion of peace — the incident has put all Pakistanis to shame.

Sadly, this was not an isolated occurrence, nor was it the first time that Christians were targeted in our country. In July 2009, a mob attacked houses belonging to Christians in Kasur, and a month later in Gojra. In 2010, Aasia Bibi was sentenced to death for blasphemy and remained in prison for eight years before her acquittal, and in 2012, the trial of another Christian, Rimsha Masih, made headlines. In 2013, a suicide bombing at a church in Peshawar killed more than 100 people, while at least 75 Christians were killed in 2016 when they were celebrating Easter at a park in Lahore. Extremists have targeted other non-Muslims as well.

This gross intolerance and vigilantism in the name of religion is most reprehensible. The persecution of minority communities is against the spirit of Islam and the teachings of

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Any Muslim knows that one's faith is not complete if he or she does not believe in Allah's Prophets or His books, including Hazrat Essa (Jesus) and the scripture revealed on him, the Gospel or Bible. These actions are also a violation of the Constitution, which provides for freedom of religion to every citizen under articles 20 and 36. The founder of Pakistan also provided clear guidance that all citizens of Pakistan should be free to go to their places of worship.

Such blatant display of violent extremism causes immense damage to Pakistan's reputation. The persecution of Christians is not around the world because the majority of the world's Christians (nearly 63 per cent) live in the Americas and Europe, where parliaments, international human rights organisations and civil society are quick to call out Pakistan every time such persecution of Christians occurs.

Such incidents also weaken the moral high ground that Pakistan has taken to speak for the rights of Muslims and other non-Hindu citizens of India.

The only silver lining in this situation is that this time, the people of Pakistan from every walk of life have expressed deep anguish and concern about the growing incidents of mob violence against non-Muslims living in Pakistan. However, condemnation of such incidents is not enough. We need concerted action to prevent such incidents in future.

A first step would be to ensure that the perpetrators of the latest violence are brought to justice. If they manage to escape accountability on one ground or the other, then sadly the Jaranwala incident might not be the last one.

Secondly, we need to revive the culture of toler-

ance that used to be the hallmark of our society. Textbooks would need to be amended to include the virtues of tolerance. In a recent article published in this paper, Amir Rana reported that Saudi Arabia was updating its textbooks, removing anti-Semitic and anti-Christian references, and modernising negative depictions of non-believers. Pakistan could consider taking a leaf or two from the Saudi book. In this regard, it would help if the study of all major religions is mainstreamed in academic disciplines at all levels of education.

Thirdly, we need to complete the task of madrasah reforms that was star-ted under the National Action Plan. These reforms should also ensure that masjid imams would be allowed to lead prayers only if they have the requisite academic certification issued by the government. This has been adopted as a standard practice in many Muslim countries. Fourthly, the threshold of evidence regarding blasphemy accusations needs to be raised in order to prevent the misuse of the law. Our legislators have an onerous responsibility in this regard. Finally, and most importantly, extremist organisations should not have any political patronage, nor should they be used as a tool for political manoeuvring. British philosopher Bertrand Russell, when asked to outline his advice to future generations, identified the values of truth and tolerance as 'vital' for the continuation of human life. In Jaranwala, both these values were trampled upon with impunity. If we want to prevent such incidents from happening in future, the state must act firmly to uphold the values of truth and tolerance. Let the intolerance displayed in Jaranwala be the endpoint of the cycle of faith-based violence in our country. — Courtesy Dawn

Governor praises Christian schools educational services in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Sunday lauded the significant contributions of Christian Church-administered educational institutions to the advancement of education.

He highlighted that these institutions have played a commendable role not only in producing numerous scholars across the country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but have also contributed to increasing the literacy rate prior to the partition of the subcontinent.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali expressed these sentiments during a meeting with a delegation led by Priest Rauff Masih of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

The delegation, which included Principal of Seventh Day Adventist School, Waris Sharif, Adil Siddiqui, and others, discussed the provision of facilities in the schools under the administration of

Adventist Church. The delegation informed the Governor about the challenges faced in providing clean drinking water and other facilities at the Adventist Church-administered school.

They also shared that the construction of a tube well had been initiated by the Department of Awaqaf (Religious Affairs), but due to a lack of funds, progress had been hindered, causing difficulties in ensuring clean drinking water for the students.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali attentively listened to the delegation's concerns and assured them of his complete cooperation in resolving the issues.

He expressed his condolences over the Jaranwala incident, emphasizing that minority communities are equal citizens of the country and their protection is the responsibility of all.

He mentioned that individuals from various schools of thought,

including important figures and even the Prime Minister, had shown solidarity with the Christian community.

Praising the exemplary educational services provided by the Christian community, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said that the Christian community is contributing significantly to the progress and well-being of the nation.

He emphasized the importance of ensuring facilities in all educational institutions, recognizing that children are the future and providing facilities in educational institutions is not just a duty but also vital for the bright future of the nation.

The delegation expressed gratitude to the Governor for his willingness to address their concerns and offer cooperation in finding solutions. They also commended the steps taken by the Governor for promoting education in the province.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Syed Jamal Shah is visiting Jinnah House.

Jaranwala a shameful act, committed by some so-called Muslims: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Syed Jamal Shah has said the Jaranwala incident was a major tragedy which saddened all patriotic Pakistanis.

It was a very shameful act and regrettably it was committed by those who called themselves Muslims. "I am ashamed and apologise to the Christian community over this incident, he said during his visit to Isa Nagri in Jaranwala and an interaction with the locals and the media on Saturday.

The caretaker minister said that

teachings of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) were very obvious and not only a philosopher but also a common man could understand it easily. He said Pakistan was a peaceful land despite having diverse ethnic communities and religions. He regretted that intentionally the peaceful combination was distorted by sowing thorns in this land and "now we are facing its ill impacts".

He said "we lived in the diversity. Many of my teachers and friends were Christians, Hindus, Parsi. But our Indus culture

narrative had taught us that we are a bouquet of diversity and our difference was a beauty of the land where flowers of all kinds grow". He said Pakistan was a most peaceful land in the region. It was the land of Sufis who prohibited strictly from injuring feelings of any person.

He quoted a proverb in Pashto that "I am a Muslim but my friend is a Hindu. Therefore, I am ready to sweep his place of worship for the sake of my friend" and said that it was a pity that thorns were intentionally sown for the last four decades to disturb peace of the land.

Interim CM directs to control Malaria in a week

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqir, while taking notice of increasing malaria cases across the province here on Sunday, directed the Health Department and Local Government (LG) Department to take necessary measures to control the disease in a week.

He said that most of the cases were being reported from Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Larkana and Sukkur divisions.

The caretaker CM directed the Health Department to launch a campaign against the elimination of malaria.

Baqir also directed to make arrangements for the availability of malaria drugs and wards in all government hospitals.

He said that the LG department should start spraying mosquito killers in their respective areas.

He further said that the Solid Waste Management Board should improve sanitation.



HYDERABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Mola Bux Chandio addresses to media persons during press conference held in Hyderabad.

Minister visits LGH, says govt to uphold rule of law at all costs

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George assured the public that the government was committed to upholding the rule of law at all costs.

During a visit to the Lahore General Hospital here on Sunday, he spoke to the media about the importance of justice and accountability, stating that even the government officials would not be exempt from facing the court if they commit injustices.

The minister emphasised his personal connection to matters of human rights and commended the media for shedding light on issues that might otherwise go unnoticed. He stressed

equal rights to minorities in the country and acknowledged their significant role in Pakistan's freedom struggle.

Khalil George also praised the unity between Muslim Ulema and local communities, particularly in supporting Christians in Jaranwala.

Concerning Rizwana, a victim of domestic violence, the minister noted her ongoing health struggle, but highlighted the progress made through dedicated efforts. Her plea for justice resonated with him.

Responding to queries, the minister explained that the removal of the assistant commissioner in Jaranwala.

ANF recovers over 266 kg drugs, 20250 liters prohibited chemical in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country, managed to recover over 266 kg drugs and 20250 liters prohibited chemicals besides netting five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Sunday.

He informed that 30 kg opium and over 100 kg hashish were recovered from a vehicle intercepted in a private housing society near Islamabad Airport. Two pistols and ammunition were also recovered from the vehicle.

During the operation, a suspect, resident of Swabi was also arrested on

the spot. In another operation on Kuri Road Islamabad, 100 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused, resident of Karachi. In the third operation at a courier office in Karachi, over 1320 grams Ice drug was recovered from two parcels which were booked for Hong Kong and Bahrain. In the fourth operation, 270 grams Ice drug was recovered from a parcel being sent to Bahrain through a courier company located on Faisal Road, Karachi. In the fifth operation, 122 kg hashish concealed in secret cavities of a vehicle was recovered near Hub area.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George is visiting the child victim of violence Rizwana in Lahore General Hospital.

Govt won't succumb to pressure from elements promoting vulgarity: minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Information Amir Mir warned on Sunday that the Punjab government would neither be blackmailed by elements promoting vulgarity at theatres nor succumb to any threats or pressure.

Talking to the media persons here on Sunday, he remarked that the elements promoting obscenity should desist from becoming spokespersons of genuine artists. He said genuine artists were siding with the Punjab government in its crackdown on indecency and immorality. He rebuked that the elements minting money through obscene dances could not be deemed as true representatives of artists, adding that crackdown

would continue against such elements for making theatres haven for obscene dances.

Amir Mir asserted that the elements involved in attempting to mislead people would also be dealt with an iron hand. He stressed that strict accountability would be done of such elements challenging the writ of the government. In reply to a question, he apprised that the Punjab government was introducing amendments in the Drama Act and dance in dramas would be banned. Besides, producers committing violation of the Drama Act would be awarded punishment along with imposition of fine.

Amir Mir revealed that after the approval of the Punjab cabinet.

Caretaker CM visit Bulleh Shah hospital

KASUR (APP): Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday paid a surprise visit to Baba Bulleh Shah District Hospital Kasur and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients.

According to the spokesperson here, he inspected the emergency, children ward and various wards. The Chief Minister also asked about the provision of free medicines to the patients and the doctors.

The patients expressed their satisfaction on the facilities being provided in the hospital while the careers complained about the overcharging of the parking lot, on which Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi ordered MS Dr. Farooq Ahmed to immediately redress the complaints of overcharging. Chief Secretary, Commissioner Lahore Division, RPO and related officials were present on the occasion.

CS, IGP visit office of EC

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chaudhry Nadeem Aslam, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur on Sunday visited office of Provincial Election Commissioner KP in connection of local bodies by-elections. Polling remained peaceful throughout 21 districts without any break from 8am to 5pm. The Spokesman of ECP said that counting process is continue and will be announced officially.

Shamshad Khan says: Monitoring by-election in 21 districts of KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Shamshad Khan in a video message said that they were monitoring the by-elections in 21 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) wherein a Control room, and complaint cell had been established for three days of the election.

"A central control room has been established for monitoring the election process, and redressal of complaints," Shamshad Khan added.

He said, "Officers in the central control room along with the monitoring

team are monitoring the election process."

"Senior officers from the central control room along with the monitoring team are closely monitoring the election process for three days without interruption," Shamshad Khan disclosed.

"Apart from this, complaints regarding the election process will also be resolved immediately," he informed. He said, "CCTV cameras have also been installed in sensitive polling stations adequate security arrangements have been made and people shall leave their homes.

Zulfiqar for collective efforts to resolve public issues

DG KHAN (APP): Former Governor of Punjab, Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa, emphasized the need for collective efforts to ensure the country's survival and put it into the path leading to progress and prosperity.

While talking to journalists at Khosa House, he called for focus towards national interests, highlighting the challenges of inflation and uncertain futures for the youth.

Khosa hoped for relief measures from the caretaker government, and urged individuals to work for the country's betterment.



PESHAWAR: A delegation led by Priest Rauff Masih of the Seventh Day Adventist Church meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali.

Widow get pension dues of Rs3.7m on ombudsman order

FAISALABAD (APP): Pension dues of Rs.3.7 million were paid to widow of a deceased government employee on the order of Punjab Ombudsman Major (Retired) Azam Suleman Khan.

A spokesman to district administration said here on Sunday that Muhammad Boota was working as guard in the

Forest Department when he died during service on April 08, 2021.

His widow approached the Punjab Ombudsman as the Forest Department failed to make payment of pension dues and arrears of her deceased husband to her despite submission of necessary document along with pension case.

Police complaint cell set up at Jaranwala

FAISALABAD (APP): The police have established a complaint cell at Jaranwala to facilitate people affected due to Jaranwala riots. A police spokesman, Sub Inspector (SI) Naveed Ahmad, said here on Sunday that City Police Officer (CPO) Usman Akram Gondal had directed the police officers to facilitate masses, especially Christian community affected due to Jaranwala incident.



HYDERABAD: People are enjoying pleasant evening and cooling themselves during cloudy weather of summer season, at River Indus in Hyderabad.

EPD warns toxic smoke-emitting units, seals 131

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Environment Protection Department (EPD) has formed various teams to check whether the industries have taken necessary steps to control water and air pollution by installing emission control systems, and to make survey reports on them.

EPD Director Naseem-ur-Rehman Shah told APP that the department has sealed 131 industrial units and imposed fine worth millions besides registering FIRs [first information report] over pollution during the ongoing pre-smog arrangements' drive.

To control smog and air pollution, the EPD launched strict action and announced imposing fines over violation of the

industrial and traffic rules. The EPD teams are raiding factories, industrial units in nook and cranny of Lahore, engaged in burning expired batteries in industrial units and surrounding areas, he added.

Naseem-ur-Rehman told APP that ahead of the winter season, heavy smog and air pollution might create an alarming situation in Punjab and especially in Lahore. Therefore, keeping in view the situation, the EPD was making round-the-clock efforts, he added.

He said that teams were working under the supervision of secretary environment and they would consist of field officers, with the director general (DG) Labs, attached to them.

Environment Misbah-ul-Haq Khan Lodhi told APP that inspection of the industrial units, smoke-emitting vehicles and brick-kilns was being ensured on daily basis by the departmental teams as preventive measures to avert smog. He said that this year, prior to smog season, strict measures were being taken as smog last year, had been declared as calamity in terms of Punjab National Calamities (Prevention & Relief) Act 1958.

Likewise, brick-kilns not following SOPs [standard operating procedures] were also being sealed over violation of smoke emissions and not adopting zig-zag technology.

The EPD deputy director further informed that smoke-emitting vehicles were also being challaned, adding that the smog situation was under control across the district due to adoption of timely measures and hoped that it would remain normal. Lodhi said that FIRs were also being registered against violators. The Agriculture Department and the district administration was taking action against stubble burning in the district as rice harvesting season had almost started, he added.

Noted environmentalist Mahmood Khalid Qamar said that climate change is the single biggest health threat, which the humanity is facing, adding health professionals worldwide are already responding to

the health hazards, caused by the unfolding crisis. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that to avert catastrophic health impacts and prevent millions of climate change-related deaths, the world must limit temperature rise to 1.5°C. The past emissions have already made a certain level of global temperature rise and other changes to the climate-inevitable, he added. Qamar said that even global heating of 1.5°C is not considered safe; however, every additional tenth of a degree of warming is likely to take a serious toll on people's lives and health.

Dr. Ifthikhar, former Medical Superintendent Mayo Hospital.



LAHORE: Residents of Kharak block road and burn tyres and electricity bills as they are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held at Multan road in Lahore.

Caretaker govt's efforts to give a fillip to industrial revolution in Balochistan: PM Kakar

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday said that the interim government, during its short period, would make all-out efforts to spur an industrial revolution in Balochistan.

He said that under the Special Investment Facilitation Council, efforts would be made so that Balochistan province

could benefit from foreign investment.

The caretaker prime minister was addressing a delegation of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce that called on him.

The delegation comprising prominent members of the business community of the province also apprised the prime minister of their issues, PM Office Media

Wing said in a press release issued here.

The prime minister said that Balochistan was not only the largest province of the country owing to area, but also a very suitable area for trade due to Gwadar port.

He opined that the province should have been a hub of industries due to huge mineral resources and vast agricultural land.

During the meeting, the caretaker prime minister also assured the delegation of the resolution of their issues.

Separately, a delegation led by Sahibzada Muhammad Khan also called on Caretaker PM Kakar. The delegation felicitated the prime minister on assuming his duties and expressed good wishes.



QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar



HYDERABAD: Members of Sindh Left Front (SLF) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills.

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

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

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

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

The official said that Railway Dry Ports at

61 shopkeepers arrested over profiteering, hoarding

LAHORE (APP): The price control magistrates arrested 61 shopkeepers over profiteering and hoarding in a crackdown launched across the provincial capital by the district administration.

On the directions of Lahore Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider, more than 1,447 sale points and shops had been inspected during the last 24 hours, while legal action was taken against 193 points.

The spokesperson for the district administration told the media on Sunday that cases were also registered against 58 shopkeepers over violations of the rules and 132 violators were faced penalties in shape of fines.

During the current month, more than 33,000 points were inspected while hefty fines were imposed on 2,215 business operators. Around 36 shops were sealed, 1,005 cases were registered and 1,025 shopkeepers were arrested in August, he disclosed.

PCMEA calls for devising long-term export policy

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf has demanded for devising at least 10-year-long policy to increase exports, as the fluctuations in US dollar rate against Pak rupee, high cost of production in the region, and unjustified restrictions by various departments were hampering exports.

Addressing a review meeting of the Association here Sunday, he welcomed the vision of Caretaker Federal Minister for

Commerce and Industry Dr. Gohar Ejaz to complete the strategic programme to enhance country's exports to US \$ 80 billion in 90 days, but called for implementation of this programme in letter and spirit.

Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairman Ejazur Rehman, PCMEA senior central leader Abdul Latif Malik, senior member Riaz Ahmed and others were also attended the meeting. The meeting also reviewed the preparations for 39th annual world exhibition of handmade carpets.

Malik stresses Africa's \$4 trillion market as key for Pak sustainable development

ISLAMABAD (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI) former President Ifrikhar Ali Malik on Sunday stressed the need for fully exploiting the vast potential and investments in Africa, a 45 trillion market, for sustainable s o c i o - e c o n o m i c development of Pakistan.

Chairing a round table conference on 'Vast Potentials of Africa and Pakistan', he said recognizing Africa's potential for exponential growth in the mining sector as a result of the global energy transition, he

anticipated an influx of foreign investment within the continent which holds an estimated 30 percent of the planet's mineral reserves.

He said, "Africa possesses an impressive range of minerals, particularly those vital to the energy transition," according to a news release issued here.

He said, "We can not afford to sideline the continent that holds the key to many of the world's most pressing challenges."

He stressed the need to explore the significant opportunities that lie in

harnessing the untapped potential of partnerships with African nations.

"As Pakistan seeks to diversify its economic and diplomatic relations, Africa presents a rich landscape for collaboration and mutual growth," he added.

He said, "Africa, with its diverse economies, vast natural resources, and growing consumer markets, holds immense promise for trade, investment, and cooperation." He said by strategically engaging with African nations, Pakistan could tap into sectors such as agriculture, energy,

Online shopping scams on rise with influx of platforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): The influx of online shopping platforms during the last few years has undoubtedly made the lives of people much easier by making every essential item available to their doorsteps but their reliability is still questionable for many.

It has been observed that a number of online shopping websites, social media pages and groups operating in the country were selling sub-standard stuff including dresses, shoes and other accessories to the customers, contrary to what is displayed and shown.

A number of fake websites created in the names of famous brands are making buyers fool by showing original branded pictures of dresses and other items with original prices but delivering substandard stuff and replicas.

PCMEA calls for devising long-term export policy

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'King of fruit Mango' demands high amid health benefits

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the mercury levels rise, markets, shops, and roadside vendors across the country have begun showcasing a 'King of Fruit Mango' to customers of various varieties.

According to a report by a private news channel, "Mangoes are the most popular fruit during the summer season in Pakistan. With over 600 varieties available, Pakistani mangoes are considered among the best in the world." "Aside from their sweet, delicious taste, mangoes also offer numerous health benefits," a nutrition expert stated.

"Mango is not only delicious but also boasts an impressive nutritional profile one of its most impressive nutrient facts is that just 1 cup (165 grams)



SUKKUR: Members of All Sukkur Small Traders Alliance are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held in Sukkur.

FTO coordinator emphasizes regional collaboration through Pak inclusion in BRICS group

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday viewed the inclusion of Pakistan in the BRICS group would be a significant step towards fostering economic and diplomatic collaboration in the region.

Speaking at a seminar on "Role of the Brics Bloc in region" held under the aegis of the Gold Economic Ring Forum he said Pakistan's expertise in sectors such as agriculture, technology, and energy could contribute to the bloc's overall growth and development, said a news release issued here.

He said adding Pakistan to this group

could further enhance the bloc's potential and influence, offering numerous benefits to all member nations. Furthermore, the inclusion of Pakistan could help foster stability and cooperation in the South Asian region. As we are all aware, regional stability is crucial for economic growth and security. He said by engaging Pakistan in a platform like BRICS, the bloc could actively contribute to peace-building efforts and facilitate dialogue among neighboring countries.

He said Pakistan has a diverse economy, a strategic geographical location, and a population of over 224 million people.

Farmers demand Rs450 per maund rate for sugarcane crop

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Chamber of Agriculture (SCA), a farmers' lobbying group, on Sunday demanded at least Rs450 per maund for sugarcane crop, keeping in view of the ever increasing cost of inputs and crop cultivation. They rejected Rs425 per 40 kilogram price fixed for the crop from the growers by the sugar mills. The prices of seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, fuel and machinery have increased by leaps and bounds, they observed.

They pointed out that the government had not increased the price of gas for the fertilizer industries but still the farmers were being extorted for

expensive rates for bags of fertilizer. The farmers complained that the dealers selling fertilizer had also turned into a mafia which first stockpiled the supplies and then demanded higher than the factory rates for the bags.

The SCA's President demanded that the government should take action against the industries and dealers by sealing shops of the latter.

He said the season of sowing the wheat crop would start soon and requested the caretaker government to take action against hoarding and overpricing to prevent the common people from suffering food price.



CHINIOT: Farmers busy in plucking vegetable from field to transport to vegetable market.

Railways earn over 5mln from salons in last three years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs 5,269,315 through utilizing its 23 salons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three years.

"At present, Pakistan Railways has only 23 salons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these salons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Giving the details, he said, "Two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways, and another senior official in the ministry." The official said, "Only one salon has been allocated to the federal government while one each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and the provincial governments."



QUETTA: People buying used clothes from weekly Sunday Bazar at Joint road.

Founders Group holds annual meeting, greets new chairman

LAHORE (APP): The Founders Group organised its annual meeting at local hotel to celebrate Mian Misbahur Rehman's selection as chairman. A significant representation from Lahore's business community including market leaders and Anjuman-e-Tajir members, showed their full support for the Founders Group.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(LCCI) President Kashif Anwar vowed to uphold the law and serving the business community. Notable attendees at the event included former presidents Tariq Hameed, Sheikh Muhammad Asif, and others. In his address, Mian Misbahur Rehman highlighted his 50-year association with the Founders Group and expressed his determination to lead the Group forward.

He said, "While we are working diligently to counter these cases, the unfortunate reality is that if our economic crisis persists, these numbers might surge."

As Komal Naqvi, a graduate from COMSATS University, succinctly put it, "Even the simplest joys turn bitter when separated from family," a sentiment she shares from her position working in Italy since May 2023.

Faizan Sheikh, a seasoned consultant with

Fuel price hike ignites struggle for affordable transportation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Transportation stands as an indispensable component of daily existence, serving as the bridge that connects individuals to their workplaces, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and leisure pursuits. Amid current economic challenges, citizens strive for affordable mobility solutions, reshaping their interactions with a crucial aspect of existence.

Similarly, the average daily production of gas in the country was recorded at 3311 MMcf in the week ended August 16, which is 0.5% less than the previous week.

Average daily production of gas in the country was recorded at 3328 MMcf in last week. According to the data, average daily production of OGDCL crude oil for the week ended August 16 was 32846 barrels, PPL 11711 barrels, PI 5084 barrels.

The average daily crude oil production of Omari Gas was recorded at 985 barrels.

Oil, gas domestic production records slight decline on weekly basis in country

ISLAMABAD (Online): Domestic production of oil and gas in the country has recorded a slight decrease on a weekly basis.

According to Pakistan petroleum information service (PPIS) and industry statistics, the average daily production of oil in the country in the week ending August 16 was recorded at 70146 barrels, which is 0.5 percent less as compared to last week.

According to the report, the average daily production of oil in the country was recorded at 70513 barrels in the continuous week.

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Soaring inflation fuels a wave of unprecedented migration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's economic woes, especially soaring inflation, have triggered a wave of unprecedented migration, forcing numerous families with the agonizing choice of leaving their homeland for the promise of a better future.

This migration, characterized by its sheer scale and desperation, reflects a collective yearning for survival and a glimmer of hope to address high cost of living. From skilled professionals to daily-wage labourers, each person opting to leave the country carries a story of shattered dreams and the unrelenting quest for a

sustainable livelihood. Recent statistics shared by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) paint a sobering picture. Over the span of five working days, more than two hundred thousand people apply for visas, while over half a million have bid farewell to their homeland in the past six months alone.

The harsh reality of a constrained job market, often restricted by networks of privilege, has ignited frustration among the educated youth. "I deserve recognition for my abilities, not for the connections I possess,"

voiced Taimur Furqan, a graduate from the National Defence University, who is now seeking opportunities overseas in pursuit of his future which he sees bleak in his country.

Dr. Sajid Amin, an economist, shed light on the dire situation, noting that a fragile economy often confines youth to underpaid, and uninspiring jobs. This predicament poses even graver challenges for working women and the salaried class, as these low-quality jobs disproportionately impact these groups.

"The convergence of these distressing factors leads to a troubling reality:

made thousands of arrests, thwarting illegal migrations and deporting many from European shores. As one FIA official lamented, "While we are working diligently to counter these cases, the unfortunate reality is that if our economic crisis persists, these numbers might surge."

As Komal Naqvi, a graduate from COMSATS University, succinctly put it, "Even the simplest joys turn bitter when separated from family," a sentiment she shares from her position working in Italy since May 2023.

mass migration, and worse, illegal migration. When hopes are dashed and potential goes unrealized, escaping becomes a necessity. This isn't just for the educated elite; it's also impacting the lower socioeconomic strata. Economic and political uncertainties from the last two decades continue to take their toll," Sajid observed.

Amid the eco-political uncertainty, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has been grappling with an increasing number of fake visa agents, human smugglers, and human traffickers. Over the last few years, the agency has



MULTAN: Labourers busy in unloading sacks of potatoes from delivery truck at Vegetable Market.

Putin orders Wagner fighters to sign oath of allegiance following Prigozhin plane crash

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Vladimir Putin has ordered Wagner fighters to sign an oath of allegiance to the Russian state, amid anger in the mercenary group's ranks over their leader's apparent assassination in a plane crash near Moscow.

The decree was published on the Kremlin's website and signed with immediate effect by Mr Putin, as his spokesperson Dmitry Peskov insisted that claims Prigozhin had been killed on the Russian president's orders were an "absolute lie". The wording of the oath includes a line in which those who take it promise to strictly follow the orders of commanders and senior leaders, as questions hang over the fate of the mercenaries — many of whom had already relocated to Belarus following their mutinous march on Moscow in June.

Russia has opened an investigation into the plane crash, but has not yet officially confirmed the identities of the 10 bodies recovered from the wreckage. However, Mr Putin has appeared to eulogise Prigozhin — using the past tense — as a "talented businessman" who made "serious mistakes".

Mr Peskov told reporters on Friday that it was unclear how long the investigation would take and insisted it was therefore "impossible to talk about" whether Mr Putin would attend Prigozhin's funeral, adding: "The only thing I can say is that the president has a rather busy schedule at the moment." Nigel Gould-Davies, a former British ambassador to Belarus, said the funeral would be significant. "If Putin wishes to emphasise that Prigozhin died as a traitor, he will ignore it," he said, adding that the occasion "could strengthen the hostility of a core of Wagner loyalists towards the Kremlin".

However, Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko, who appeared to help broker the deal which saw Wagner relocate to Belarus, also sought to insist that the plane crash was "just too rough and unprofessional a job" for his ally Mr Putin to be behind it. In remarks quoted by state news agency Belta, Mr Lukashenko claimed he had warned Prigozhin during the mutiny that he would "die" if he continued his march on Moscow, to which he replied: "To hell with it — I will die." Meanwhile, Ukraine said two civilians were killed and another wounded as Russian troops shelled a cafe in the suburbs of Kupiansk, where fears are growing of a second Russian takeover less than a year after the city was liberated.



U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, shakes hands with Lin Feng, Director General of China Ministry of Commerce as U.S. Ambassador to China Nick Burns looks on as she arrives at the Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing.

Xi stresses 'hard-won social stability' in rare Xinjiang visit

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping made a rare visit to Xinjiang on Saturday, state media reported, calling on officials to conserve "hard-won social stability" in a troubled region where Beijing is accused of severe human rights abuses.

The Chinese government has pursued a years-long campaign against what it describes as terrorism and Islamic extremism in the northwestern region, detaining large numbers of Uyghurs and other Muslims. A United Nations report last year found China's actions in Xinjiang may constitute "crimes against humanity", and the United States and legislatures in other countries have labelled the policies a "genocide" — claims Beijing denies. State broadcaster CCTV said Xi travelled to regional capital Urumqi on Saturday, listened to a government work report and delivered a speech "affirming the achievements made in various tasks in Xinjiang".

It was his first publicly known visit to Xinjiang since last July, when he made his maiden trip since the crackdown in the region was escalated.

Xi "stressed that top priority must always be given to maintaining social stability... and we must use stability to guarantee development", CCTV reported.

He said it was "necessary to... combine the development of the anti-terrorism and anti-separatism struggle with the push for normalising social stability work and rule of law", according to the broadcaster.

At least three die after US military aircraft crashes amid drills in Australia

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: The US military officials said on Sunday that at least three US Marines died after a Boeing MV-22B Osprey helicopter crashed on a remote tropical island north of Australia during war games, according to AFP. "There were a total of 23 personnel on board," US military officials said in a statement. "Three have been confirmed deceased while five others were transported to Royal Darwin Hospital in a serious condition."

Australian police said they were conducting a preliminary assessment of the injured at the crash site. Rescue efforts were complicated by the location of the crash site—the remote and sparsely populated Melville Island about 60 kilometres (37 miles) north of the Australian mainland.

"Recovery efforts are ongoing," US officials said, adding that an investigation into the cause of the incident had been launched.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described the incident as "tragic" and "regrettable" but stressed that authorities were still trying to piece together what happened.

Biden campaign will not concentrate on Trump's legal woes, aide says

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: U.S. President Joe Biden's 2024 re-election campaign will not concentrate on the legal cases against Republican front-runner Donald Trump, who faces four sets of criminal charges, a top Biden campaign aide said on Sunday.

Trump on Thursday was booked at an Atlanta jail on more than a dozen felony charges as part of a criminal case arising from the former U.S. president's attempts to overturn his 2020 election defeat in the state of Georgia.

Iran says uranium enrichment continues based on domestic law

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's enrichment of uranium continues based on a framework established by the country's parliament, nuclear chief Mohammad Esلمي said on Sunday when asked about reports regarding Tehran slowing down its 60% enrichment.

"Our nuclear enrichment continues based on the strategic framework law," Esلمي said, referring to a related legislation.

Earlier this month, the Wall Street Journal reported that Iran had significantly slowed the pace at which it was accumulating near-weapons-grade enriched uranium and diluted some of its stockpile, moves that could help ease tensions with the U.S. and revive broader talks over Iran's nuclear work.

In 2020, Iran's hardline parliament passed a law requiring the government to take measures such as stepping up uranium enrichment beyond the limit set under Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal if other parties did not fully comply with the deal.

After Washington ditched the deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions, Tehran began to violate the nuclear curbs set out in the pact.

Iran, which under the nuclear agreement could only enrich uranium to 3.67%, started enriching it to 60% purity in 2021, a move bringing the fissile material closer to levels suitable for developing a bomb. Tehran has repeatedly denied seeking a nuclear bomb.

Zimbabwe's opposition alleges 'gigantic fraud' in vote that extends the ZANU-PF party's 43-year rule

Monitoring Desk
HARARE: Zimbabwe's main opposition leader on Sunday alleged "blatant and gigantic fraud" in the country's election after President Emmerson Mnangagwa was declared the winner and international observers reported an atmosphere of intimidation against voters.

The returns from the latest troubled vote in the southern African nation were announced Saturday night, two days earlier than expected. Opposition leader Nelson Chamisa's Citizens Coalition for Change party said it would challenge the results as "hastily assembled without proper verification."

"They stole your voice and vote but never your hope," Chamisa wrote in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, in his first public reaction to the election's announced outcome. "It's a blatant and gigantic fraud."

People in the country of 15 million were bound to view the results with suspicion but Mnangagwa, 80, dismissed allegations of vote fraud.

"I did not conduct these elections. I think those who feel the race was not run properly know where to go to complain. I am so happy," he said at a news conference Sunday, adding that the elections were run "transparently, fairly in broad daylight."

Mnangagwa was re-elected for a second and final five-year term with 52.6% of the vote, according to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. Chamisa, 45, who also lost to Mnangagwa in a very close and disputed election five years ago, won 44% of the vote this time, the commission said.

Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan resume negotiations over a disputed dam

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan resumed their years-long negotiations Sunday over the controversial dam Ethiopia is building on the Nile River's main tributary, officials said.

The resumption of talks came after President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said last month that they aim to reach within four months an agreement on the operation of the \$4.6 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile. The Blue Nile meets the White Nile in Sudan's capital of Khartoum, before winding northward through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea.

Egypt fears a devastating impact if the dam is operated without taking its needs into account. It called it an existential threat. The Arab world's most populous country relies almost entirely on the Nile to supply water for agriculture and its more than 100 million people. About 85% of the river's flow originates from Ethiopia.

The Egyptian Irrigation Ministry announced the new round of talks in Cairo. Irrigation Minister Hani Sewilam said Egypt wants a legally binding agreement on how the giant dam is operated and filled.

Sewilam said there are many "technical and legal solutions" for the dispute, without elaborating.

Tensions have heightened between Cairo and Addis Ababa after the Ethiopian government began filling the dam's reservoir before reaching an agreement.

Key questions remain about how much water Ethiopia will release downstream if a multi-year drought occurs and how the three countries will resolve any future disputes. Ethiopia has rejected binding arbitration at the final stage of the project.

Ethiopia says the dam is essential, arguing that most of its people lack electricity. Sudan wants Ethiopia to coordinate and share data on the dam's operation to avoid flooding and protect its own power-generating dams on the Blue Nile, the main tributary of the Nile.

North Korea to allow its citizens abroad to return home, a sign of further easing of pandemic curbs

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea said Sunday it will allow its citizens staying abroad to return home in line with easing pandemic situations worldwide, as the country slowly eases its draconian coronavirus restrictions.

In a brief statement carried by state media, the State Emergency Epidemic Prevention Headquarters said those returning to North Korea will be put in quarantine for a week for "proper medical observation."

The statement didn't elaborate. But analysts predicted the announcement would lead to the return of North Korean students, workers and others who have had to stay abroad, mostly in China and Russia, because of the pandemic. The workers are a key source of foreign income for the country.

North Korea banned tourists, jettied out diplomats and severely curtailed border traffic and trade after the pandemic began. The lockdown has further worsened the North's chronic economic difficulties and food insecurity.

Earlier this month, South Korea's spy agency said North Korea was preparing to further reopen its borders gradually in a bid to revive its economy.

On Tuesday, a North Korean commercial jet landed in Beijing in what was the North's first such commercial international flight known to leave the country in about 3½ years. The plane returned from Beijing later in the day, but it wasn't known who was aboard it. Earlier in August, a group of North Korean taekwondo athletes and officials traveled by land to Beijing and then took a flight to Kazakhstan to participate in an international competition.

The group of around 80 men and women wearing white track suits with the North Korean flag on the front were seen in the departure hall of Beijing's international airport.

Japan says seawater radioactivity below limits near Fukushima

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Tests of seawater near Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant have not detected any radioactivity, the environment ministry said on Sunday, days after authorities began discharging into the sea-treated water used to cool damaged reactors.

Japan started releasing water from the wrecked Fukushima plant into the Pacific Ocean on Thursday, sparking protests in Japan and neighbouring countries, in particular China, which banned aquatic product imports from Japan.

Japan and scientific organisations say the water is safe after being filtered to remove most radioactive elements except for tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen.

Because tritium is difficult to separate from water, the Fukushima water is diluted until tritium levels fall below regulatory limits.

The ministry's tests of samples from 11 points near the plant showed concentrations of tritium below the lower limit of detection — 7 to 8 becquerels of tritium per litre, the ministry said, adding that it "would have no adverse impact on human health and the environment".

Monitoring would be carried out "with a high level of objectivity, transparency, and reliability" to prevent adverse impacts on Japan's reputation, Environment Minister Akihiro Nishimura said in a statement.

The ministry would publish test results every week for the next three months at least, an official said. Japan's fisheries agency said tests of fish from near the plant did not show any abnormalities.

Nigeria's Tinubu to meet US president at U.N. General Assembly

Monitoring Desk
ABUJA: Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu will meet U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York next month, his spokesman said on Saturday. The U.N. general assembly is scheduled for Sept. 18 to 26 in New York.

Presidency spokesman Ajuri Ngelale said in a statement Tinubu had accepted the invitation, which was delivered by U.S. presidential envoy and assistant secretary of state for African affairs Molly Phee. The two leaders are likely to discuss the situation in Niger where Tinubu, who chairs the regional bloc ECOWAS, is working with other heads of government in West Africa to find a solution after a military junta seized power.

338 missing since deadly Hawaii wildfire

Monitoring Desk
KIHEI: Hawaii officials have released the names of 338 people still missing more than two weeks after the deadliest US wildfire in more than a century swept through the resort town of Lahaina.

The list, compiled by the FBI, includes only people whose full names are known and who were reported missing by someone for whom authorities have verified contact information. "The 388 names are a subset of a larger list," Steven Merrill, a special agent from the FBI's Honolulu field office, told a press conference in Maui on Friday. "I don't want to lose sight of the fact that we still have hundreds of other names where we still need more information."

In the hours after the list was published, the FBI had received reports that about 100 people on the list were accounted for, which agents were working to confirm, Merrill said.

Russia says genetic tests confirm mercenary chief Prigozhin died in plane crash

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian investigators said on Sunday that genetic tests had confirmed that Yevgeny Prigozhin, chief of the Wagner mercenary group, was among the 10 people killed in a plane crash earlier this week.

Russia's aviation agency had previously published the names of all 10 people on board the private jet that crashed in the Tver region northwest of Moscow on Wednesday. They included Prigozhin and Dmitry Utkin, his right-hand man who helped found the Wagner group. "As part of the investigation of the plane crash in the Tver region, molecular-genetic examinations have been completed," Russia's Investigative Committee said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app.

"According to their results, the identities of all 10 dead were established. They correspond to the list stated in the flight sheet," it said. There had been some speculation, especially on pro-Wagner Telegram channels, about whether Prigozhin — who was known to take various security precautions in anticipation of a possible attempt on his life.

Four killed in Vietnam coal mine collapse

Monitoring Desk
HANOI: Four people have been killed in a collapse in a coal mine in Vietnam's mining centre of Quang Ninh, the state-run Thanh Nien newspaper reported on Sunday.

The accident happened late on Saturday at a mine operated by Vang Danh Coal Company, a unit of Vietnam's state coal miner Vinacomin, Thanh Nien reported.

A rescue team pulled out the bodies of four miners, it said.

The newspaper did not give a reason for the collapse.

In March a similar accident happened at a Vang Danh-operated mine but no one was killed.

Second vessel leaves Odesa through temporary Black Sea corridor: Minister

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A vessel carrying steel products to Africa has left Ukraine's Odesa port through a temporary Black Sea corridor, the second ship to do so since Russia withdrew last month from a U.N.-brokered deal that allowed for grain to be safely exported, a senior Ukrainian government official said on Sunday.

Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said the ship had been at the port since Feb. 20, 2022, just before Russia's invasion, and was carrying steel products to Africa. Odesa's three seaports shipped tens of millions of tons of grain under a year-long U.N.-brokered deal.

on Saturday by a Ukrainian lawmaker.

"The 2nd vessel blocked due to the war has left the port of Odesa and is now sailing through a temporary corridor," Kubrakov posted on the social media platform X, formerly called Twitter.

Kubrakov said the ship had been at the port since Feb. 20, 2022, just before Russia's invasion, and was carrying steel products to Africa. Odesa's three seaports shipped tens of millions of tons of grain under a year-long U.N.-brokered deal.

Just two migrants deported to EU under post-Brexit deal

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Only two migrants who arrived in the UK by crossing the English Channel have been deported to Europe under the post-Brexit agreement, figures from the Home Office reveal. The post-Brexit returns policy, introduced in 2021, allows officials to deem migrants "inadmissible" if they travelled through a safe third country to reach Britain.

But zero migrants were considered "inadmissible" in the past year and just two were deported.



A boat collecting seawater for monitoring radioactive materials in the sea is seen near the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, after the nuclear power plant started releasing treated radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean, in Okuma, Fukushima prefecture, Japan.

May-9 reflected not political anger but anti state mindset: Jamal

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah said on Sunday that May-9 mayhem did not reflect anger of some so-called political activists but anti-state mindset. Talking to the media after visiting the Jinnah House (Corps Commander's House in Lahore Cantt), he said that those who had burnt the house and pictures of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on May 9 could neither be regarded as responsible citizens nor patriots. He said that on May 9, memorials of martyrs, iconic fighter jet of MM Alam, and the statue of martyred Captain Sher Khan were put on fire and vandalised by unruly mobs. He said those who had burnt the sensitive installations were 'zombies' as they had zero per cent ability to apply their own

mind. Jamal Shah said: "Our elders teach us the lesson of patience and advocate to make our surroundings clean and prosperous". He added that those who were involved in the violent incidents of May 9 would be brought to justice at all costs, as the people of Pakistan would never forget the painful day.

He said that he had visited the burnt building of Radio Pakistan where a stock of heritage information from 1935 were collected, but felt sad to see the present condition of the heritage site. The caretaker minister said the country was facing critical situation these days and collectively efforts from all stakeholders were needed to make it developed and prosperous. He said that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) was developing a park named 'Bagh-e-Shuhada' in F-9 sector.



QUETTA: Musa Jan Badini and Bilal Kakar meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Folk singers meet caretaker PM in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: Two prominent folk singers including Meer Jamali and Wahab Bugti met the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here in Quetta the other day.

The meet-up was held at the Chief Minister's House on the occasion of dinner-reception arranged by the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki in honour of the caretaker Prime Minister.

It may be mentioned here that the folk singer from Naseerabad Division, Meer Jamali had diverted the attention of caretaker Prime Minister towards the

broken Pinjra Pull (bridge) located in Boaln area through his song sung in a special way.

He had demanded of the Prime Minister to take notice of the Pinjra bridge through his song.

The song had gone viral on the social media and then mainstream media had also aired it.

The caretaker Prime Minister had taken notice of the issue and assured to do the needful in this regard at the earliest.

During the course of meeting, the caretaker PM reassured the singers that the work on damaged bridge would be started in September 2023.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi in a group photo with winners and runners up of 2nd CNSAL Pakistan Squash Championship 2023 held at RKJK Squash Complex Karachi

Sh. fears civil disobedience movement amid protests over electricity bills

RAWALPINDI (INP): Awami Mulsim League (AML) president Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said the people of Pakistan, recently hit hard by inflated electricity bills and generally affected by inflationary pressures, are moving towards civil disobedience movement. Taking to X (formerly known as Twitter), he said the masses protesting power bills on roads could be more violent in the month of September if the caretaker rulers failed to rescue their economic woes.

Taking jibe at former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the seasoned politician said those [PDM government] claiming

to sell their clothes to provide relief to the masses after enjoying 16 months in power. He said the influential people are involved in power theft, but the poor bear the brunt of this theft, fearing next bills of fuel and electricity would add fuel to fire.

Rashid further was of the view that the most important challenge for the country is not holding elections in time, but how the masses would bear electricity and fuel costs for the month of September.

The former minister said that all the power distribution companies have removed official number plates of their vehicles.

Brain drain escalates: Over 450,000 Pakistanis flee in pursuit of better jobs overseas

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan is grappling with a major exodus as more than 450,000 of its citizens have left the country in search of improved job prospects overseas during the first half of 2023, according to official data from the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment.

This alarming trend underscores the ongoing economic challenges facing the nation, pushing educated professionals like Nazeer Ahmed, a young banking professional, to make the difficult decision to leave his job and seek a brighter future abroad.

"The economic conditions and uncertainties left me no choice. I had to find a way out," Ahmed explained.

"The salaried class is working hard, but the disparity between what we earn and what it takes to have a decent life continues to widen."

Ahmed's story reflects the experiences of many educated Pakistanis who are increasingly seeking opportunities abroad to escape the country's persistent economic crisis.



QUETTA: A delegation from Balochistan led by Sahibzada Muhammad Khan called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Ministry organizes 'Interfaith Harmony Conference' to address religious issues, minority safety

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is holding an 'Interfaith Harmony Conference' on Wednesday, August 30, to bring together religious leaders and representatives from various faith communities to discuss pressing issues related to attacks on religious sites, desecration of holy scriptures, and the safety of minorities.

Presiding over by Minister Aneeq Ahmed, the conference would promote unity and cooperation among different religious groups besides providing a platform for open dialogue and collaboration on topics crucial to fostering interfaith harmony. The attendees would include representatives from both Muslim and Christian communities,

demonstrating their shared commitment to peaceful coexistence. Meanwhile, in a meeting with the executive members of International Interfaith Harmony Council, President Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi highlighted the recent attack on the Christian community in Jaranwala and characterized it as a deliberate attempt by external forces to tarnish Pakistan's reputation on the global stage.

He asserted that initial investigations pointed towards the involvement of elements from India, alleging a strategic move to divert international attention from the plight of minorities in India.

Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council further de-

tailed a larger scheme involving planned incidents in Sargodha and Sialkot, alluding to Pakistan's successful prevention of these attempts by its law enforcement agencies.

He emphasized the solidarity between Pakistan's Muslim and Christian communities, noting their shared commitment to thwarting divisive agendas.

Applauding the Danish government's recent legislation against the desecration of the Holy Quran, Ashrafi underscored the Christian community's respect for the holy scripture. He highlighted the Quran's role in providing insights into the lives of Prophet Jesus and Hazrat Maryam, further promoting mutual understanding between the

two faiths.

He asserted that Pakistan belonged to both Muslims and Christians alike urging the public to refrain from seeking collective retribution for individual wrongdoings, thereby promoting a sense of tolerance and coexistence.

The conference also witnessed the presence of notable figures such as Ammanul Khokhar, representing Pakistan Churches, Tahir Naveed Chaudhry, Maulana Nawaz Khalid, Mufti Nasrullah, Maulana Ubaidullah Gurmani, Allama Tahirul Hassan, Mufti Abdul Rahim, Waqar Usmani, Maulana Aqeel Zubair, Maulana Abdul Rauf Dogar, Maulana Tanveer Ahmed Chohan and several other prominent religious leaders.

Khurshid's proposes Rs.15 reduction in per unit of electricity

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan People's Party leader Khurshid Shah suggested a reduction of 15 rupees per unit of electricity. In his statement, he said that the coalition government of PDM could have reduced Rs 4 per unit but it could not be done, the caretaker government can reduce 15Pkr per unit.

Khurshid Shah said that a reduction of Rs 15 per unit of electricity is still possible, not that it cannot be reduced per unit.

He predicted about the return of Nawaz Sharif and said that there is no program for the return of Nawaz Sharif as his health is not good and he may not come.

NAEAC delegation visits Balochistan Agricultural College

QUETTA (APP): A delegation of National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council led by the Chairman Council (NAEAC) Professor Dr. Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Sai will visit the Agricultural College from August 28 to 30, 2023 in Baluchistan Agricultural College Quetta, on behalf of Higher Education Commission Islamabad.

The purpose of the visit is to take stock of educational and research activities in different departments of Baluchistan Agricultural College Quetta. The delegation includes Professor Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, Professor Dr. Shahjan Shabir Ahmad Rana, Professor Dr. Abdul Qayyum, Professor Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq, Professor Dr. Zafra Lahi Gondal, Professor Dr. Badr Naseem Siddiqui, Professor Dr. Rai Mohammad Amir, Dr. Arif Shah Kakar, Secretary Council, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar and Mr. Muhammad Afzal as members of coordination of the Council.



QUETTA: Former Speaker Balochistan Assembly Raheela Durrani addressing during the two days National Youth Workshop organized by Health and Rural Development (HARD).

Proper strategy yet to be prepared to cope with challenges of digital world: caretaker Minister Info

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that social media is a powerful tool, which can be used for making an access to the youth in positive manner and connecting them through constructive means.

He said that there is an important role of government, security institutions and civil society in shaping narrative on the social media.

However, proper strategy is yet to be prepared to cope with the challenges of digital world.

This and similar views were expressed by the caretaker Minister Information while addressing the short documentary film competition held on the theme of anti-terrorism here on Sunday.

The short documentary contest was arranged by Voice of Balochistan. Mushahid Shan of Mastung stood first in the competition with Saiful Islam from Lasbela and Payam Kharoti from Zhob remained second and third respectively.

Jan Achakzai on the occasion also spoke at length about importance of

messages on the social media.

He stressed the need to provide accurate information to the youth about dangers of the terrorism.

He on the occasion also praised Voice of Balochistan for highlighting the issues of province and engaging the youth in good initiatives.

He exhorted the youth to use social media for promoting peace and harmony besides rejecting the message of extremism.

He also congratulated those who won the short documentary film contest.

An attempt to smuggle 1bln 17 crore worth sugar to Afghan fails

KARACHI (Online): Customs has made fail an attempt to smuggle 1 billion 17 crore worth of sugar to Afghanistan. Additional Director Customs Moin Afzal told private TV that sugar worth 1 billion 17 crore rupees was being smuggled from Pakistan to Afghanistan. Smugglers were using off-road tracks to smuggle foreign goods, mafias were now smuggling banned goods along with local goods in small pickups.

He said that an attempt was being made to smuggle Indian Gutka under the guise of Chalia cement, smuggled goods worth 36 lacs have been recovered and seized from a Land Rover pick-up.

Law ministry condemned criticism of Chief Justice of IHC on social media

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Ministry of Law strongly condemned the criticism of the Chief Justice Islamabad High Court on social media and said that political parties should refrain from attacking the country's institutions.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, it has been said that the attack on the Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court by a political party on social media is highly condemnable.

Ministry said it is a responsible act for political parties to refrain from attacking national institutions.

Keep clear that social media is heavily criticising the Chief Justice Aamer Farooq on petition to dismiss conviction of chairman PTI Imran Khan by additional session judge Humayun Dilawar in Tosha Khana case.

Former Information minister and PMLN leader

Maryam Aurangzeb also criticised the social media criticism and wrote on that state terrorist (Imran Khan) who threatened Zeba Judge has now come down to "Oy Aamir Farooq, I will not leave you."

Information Secretary of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Maryam Aurangzeb said that the person who threatened "Oy beautiful judge, I will not leave you" and the state terrorist of May 9 now "Oy Amir Farooq, I will leave you." "Ga nain" has come down.

Maryam Aurangzeb, in one of her tweets on the social media website X (former Twitter) said that the hands, actions, mouth and conspiracy of the state terrorist have always harmed the state, the country and the people and benefited the enemy. The conspiracy of foreign agents, ciphers, Kashmir, the country to pieces, bankrupt, starving the people has been exposed.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George talking with media persons along with mother of 14-year-old housemaid Rizwana, outside hospital in Provincial Capital.

Hydro-power potential vital for socioeconomic uplift of Kashmiris: AJK PM

MIRPUR (AJK): Transmission Line from Rampura to Barora. He directed the concerned authorities to prepare a feasibility report on whether the Mangera should be linked to Rawalakot or Palindri.

He said that Betaar Power Project should be upgraded for the comfort of the people of Haveli. He said that PDO must ensure better maintenance of its projects so that citizens do not face any difficulties.

Anwaar emphasized the need to adopt a better strategy regarding Jagran 1, 2, 3, 4. The Prime Minister also stressed maintenance of community development projects and local power houses in Neelum, Haveli and Jhelum Valley.

He said that the demands/needs of commercial, industrial and domestic users should be taken into account and the billing system should be made transparent so that there was no inconvenience to the public.

Stressing the need for an uninterrupted supply of electricity across the state, the PM said that along with repair and maintenance of the feeders there was an urgent need to improve the power distribution system.

The PM also sought feasibility reports regarding Khurshidabad Power Project, Transmission Line from Minhasa to Bagh and

Religious affairs minister visits Jamia Islamia Clifton

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Sunday paid a visit to Jamia Islamia Clifton and engaged in discussions with Ulema, fostering unity and collaboration for a shared religious harmony agenda.

Addressing the religious scholars, he, in light of escalating social intolerance, raised a question on the dissemination of true message and purpose of Islam to fellow Muslims. He lamented that the tragic incident in Jaranwala highlighted the unfortunate reality of the nation.

Aneeq asserted that any misconception regarding blasphemy or desecration of the Holy Quran must be dispelled. "No doubt, we cannot tolerate blasphemy or disrespect towards the Holy Quran under any circumstances.

But it does not mean that we have to establish our own courts to deal with such sensitive issues," he added. He said what the message we had delivered in case of Jaranwala incident as it has portrayed a negative image of Pakistan and Islam in the comity of nations. "As followers of the Holy Prophet Peace Be Upon Him, we must exhibit conduct and ethics that invite others to embrace our religion," he urged.

The caretaker minister commended the Holy Prophet's tolerance in the face of injustice. "I aim to cleanse Pakistan's beautiful image from such blemishes," he affirmed.

Aneeq said the events in Manipur had unveiled the true face of secular India, and now, similar attempts were being made here adding that "we do not let Pakistan to be Modi's India at all costs."



QUETTA: Family members and relatives of Shaheed Imdad Hussain Juy'a's hold a protest in front of Quetta Press Club.

Power sector pushing country towards anarchy: PEW

ISLAMABAD (INP): President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Dr. Murtaza Mughal has said that people across the country are protesting and committing suicides as a result of excessive electricity costs, which are pushing the country into chaos.

He said, "The country is plunging into lawlessness and chaos as elites have turned an affluent country into a living nightmare for its citizens."

After the political and economic collapse, the power bills have become a nightmare for the masses; their household budgets have been destroyed, and their lives have become miserable, he added.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that fights are taking place in the streets and in houses, violence has become the norm, and divorcees are taking place due to the inflated electricity bills.

People have been forced to take out loans, sell jewellery and other essen-

tial items to pay the bills, and compromise on food, health, and education.

In various parts of the country, announcements are being made from mosques asking people not to pay electricity bills; traders are not allowing WAPDA officials to enter the markets; strikes, road-blocks, and attacks on WAPDA officials have become routine in many places, which is a perfect recipe for a civil war, he observed.

He said that the security of the power officials, offices, and grid stations is facing severe threats, and if the situation is not controlled, a civil war may also break out across the country.

Dr Mughal said that while the cost of electricity is killing people, it is also destroying businesses. The country's elite and WAPDA officers have become white-collar criminals who only care about their own interests and have no interest in resolving the problems of the people.



KARACHI: Supporters of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration in favor PTI Chief Imran Khan and demanding of released from Jail, held at M.A. Jinnah road in Karachi.