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President, PM express grief over loss of lives Over 30 killed, scores injured as 10 bogies of Hazara Express derail near Nawabshah

Railways minister hints at possible sabotage, says accident could be result of a mechanical fault or the fault may have been 'created'

NAWABSHAH (INP): Over 30 people were killed and dozens others injured when ten bogies of Havelian bound Hazara Express derailed near the Sarhari Railway Station close to Nawabshah on Sunday. Local people, rescue personnel, railway officials, Pakistan Army, FC and officials of district management reached the scene and joined the rescue operation. Talking to media at People's Medical College Hospital in Benazirabad, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah confirmed the death toll.

He said that the injured could be shifted to Karachi if needed and directed the local administration and health officials to expedite relief and rescue efforts. According to Railways and Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique, the accident occurred at 1:18pm and around 1,000 passengers were travelling in the Hazara Express. During rescue operation, dozens of cars, tractors, rickshaws and motorcycles were parked on a road that runs alongside the track at the site of accident.

Volunteers were witnessed through a canal that separates the road from the railway line to help, and lifting the injured to get them assistance. Some passenger compartments were upright but off the tracks, while others lay on their side, mangled steel from the undercarriage twisted and buckled. There were chaotic scenes at the Nawabshah Trauma Centre as ambulances and private cars ferried the injured for treatment. Talking to media in Lahore, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique

said that initial investigation showed that the train was travelling at a "reasonable" speed, adding that officials had reached the scene and an emergency was imposed in hospitals in Sukkur and Nawabshah. He said, "This is quite a big accident. There can be two reasons: first that it was a mechanical fault, or the fault was created — it might be a sabotage. We will investigate it." The minister further stated that relevant district administrations, Rescue 1122 personnel, the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Railways staff

reached the site of the accident soon after the incident and began relief activities. The incident comes a day after the Allama Iqbal Express escaped a major disaster when two of its bogies derailed near Padidan railway station in the wee hours of Saturday, resulting in the suspension of traffic on the affected railway track. However, no casualty was reported in the incident, said rescue officials. President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident of Hazara Express train. He sympathised with



NAWABSHAH: A large numbers of people gathered at the accident site following the derailment of a Hazara Express in Nawabshah

the bereaved families and prayed for grant of patience to them.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of pre-

vious lives in an accident of Hazara Express in Nawabshah. He prayed for the departed souls and ordered the administration to provide the best possible medical treatment to the in-

jured. He sought a report from the railways authorities about the accident. He praised the efforts of personnel of Pakistan Railways, Rescue and Pakistan army for their timely help.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a public gathering in Kasur.

Seven girls drowned to death in local stream of Turbat

Independent Report
QUETTA: Seven girls were drowned to death in a local stream located in Kalag area of Turbat of Kech district on Sunday evening. According to the reports reaching here, two other girls were saved in the incident and shifted to the local hospital in unconscious condition. The reports suggested that at least nine girls aged between 10-17 went to the local stream of Kalag for picnic where they were trapped in the deep water and thus drowned. The local people rushed to the spot and at-

tempted to save them, however, seven of them were drowned and died before they were taken out of the stream. The bodies of deceased girls were retrieved from the stream after hectic efforts. Two of nine girls, however, were saved by the local dwellers and shifted to the Turbat hospital. Later, the bodies of ill-fated girls were also removed to the hospital. Afterwards, the bodies were handed over to the heirs. Moving scenes were witnessed on the occasion when bodies of the girls were brought to their homes.

Cases against Imran Khan is Pak internal matter: US

WASHINGTON (Online): American state departments spokesperson termed arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan's arrest an internal matter of Pakistan. On Sunday United States reaction came out on Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan's arrest and he declared it Pakistan's internal matter. He said cases against Imran Khan and other politician's is Pakistan's internal matter. Further he said we ask Pakistan and the whole world to respect democratic norms and rule of law.

CM grieved over incident of drowning of seven girls in Kech district

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has expressed his deep grief and sorrow over incident of drowning of seven girls in a stream in Kalag area of Turbat, Kech district on Sunday. In a condolence message issued here, the Chief Minister said that he was grieved over the death of seven girls in the sorrowful incident. He said that he is standing with the bereaved families in the time of trial. Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo prayed for the departed souls of deceased girls. He also prayed that may Allah Almighty give enough strength and patience to the bereaved families to bear the tragic loss of death of the girls.

PTI leader Rahim Kakar along two sons arrested

QUETTA (Online): Former mayor and PTI leader Rahim Kakar along with two sons has been arrested on the charges peaceful protest against the arrest of Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman. Rahim Kakar along with his supporters protested and blocked road against the arrest of Imran Khan. Quetta police took action and arrested Rahim Kakar and his two sons.

Nawaz Sharif to be next PM if voted to power: PM

KASUR (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said Nawaz Sharif would be the next prime minister of Pakistan and would change destiny of the country by initiating projects in the sectors of agriculture, industry and infrastructure. He was speaking at a public meeting here after laying foundation stone for Taray Garh interchange on the Lahore-Bahawalnagar motorway and Rai Mansab Ali Khan interchange on the Abdul Hakim motorway on the Bucheki-Nankana road. "Nawaz Sharif will serve the people of Pakistan as prime minister for another term if voted to power. He considers the

whole of Pakistan as his family and in the past selflessly served the people," he remarked. He said Rs 263 billion would be spent on the construction of motorway from Lahore to Bahawalnagar and on other projects. He recalled that in the past, Pakistan suffered from load-shedding of 20 hours every day and then Nawaz Sharif came in 2013 and he removed the darkness caused by power shortages by setting up power projects, revived industry and agriculture and brought the CPEC project of \$30 billion with the collaboration of China. He said their govern-

ment provided laptops worth billions of rupees to millions of students, adding he was unfairly criticised for delivering laptops to youth who were now using modern tools of communication and earning livelihoods. He noted that Nawaz Sharif initiated the project of Diamer Bhasha and Dasu dams and made Pakistan a nuclear state by conducting six nuclear explosions in response to five explosions by India. He reminded that Nawaz Sharif rejected the offer of \$5 billion by the then US President Bill Clinton and went on with the nuclear explosions while ignoring pressure.

Senate passes amended 'Official Secrets Bill 2023' amidst controversy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Sunday successfully passed 'The Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023', marking a pivotal moment in the legislative landscape. The bill, which had faced staunch opposition from various quarters, underwent crucial modifications before achieving passage. Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazir Tarar, presented the bill on behalf of Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan, in the house. Notably, the revised version of the bill omitted certain provisions that had granted intelligence agencies the authority to carry out warrantless arrests or searches. He emphasized that the revised legislation empowers the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to conduct investigations into individuals suspected of violating the Official Secrets Act. He highlighted that the

bill no longer includes the amendment labeling an individual as an 'enemy' for engaging with foreign agents, a provision that had sparked extensive debates. Simultaneously, the Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet, chaired by Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed, presented its comprehensive report on 'The Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023'. The committee's report underscored the urgency to amend the antiquated Official Secrets Act of 1923, considering the evolving social context and the necessity to safeguard official documents. It's worth mentioning that the bill encountered formidable resistance during its journey through the upper house of parliament. Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani had referred the bill to the relevant standing committee on August 2, following vehement opposition during the initial proceedings.

Pakistan cricket team gets go-ahead to travel to India for ICC World Cup

Govt, however, has deep concerns about security of its cricket team: Foreign Office

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has consistently maintained that sports should not be mixed with politics and therefore, decided to send its Cricket Team to India to participate in the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Pakistan believes that the state of bilateral relations with India should not stand in the way of fulfilling its international sports-related obligations. Pakistan's decision shows its constructive and responsible approach vis-à-vis India's intransigent attitude, as the latter had refused to send its Cricket Team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup. Pakistan, however, has deep concerns about the security of its Cricket Team. We are conveying these concerns to the International Cricket Council and the Indian authorities. We expect that full safety and security of Pakistan Cricket Team will be ensured during its visit to India, said authorities.

Flour price up by Rs15 per kg in Quetta
QUETTA (INP): The price of flour has increased by Rs15 per kg in Quetta, Balochistan. According to details, the price of flour after an increase of Rs15 per kg has reached Rs150 in Quetta, adding misery to the already inflation-hit people. It revealed that the price of 20 kg of flour has increased from Rs2,800 to more than Rs 3,000. According to the member of flour mills, wheat from Balochistan is smuggling to other provinces, it is not possible to stabilize prices until wheat smuggling is stopped.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar presenting best performance shield to PRO Provincial Ombudsman Riaz ud Din Bangulzai.

Asghar Achakzai, other ANP leaders assert: Deduction in population of Balochistan would not be acceptable anyway

By Sardar Khandoi
CHAMAN: The Provincial President of ANP and parliamentary leader, Asghar Khan Achakzai and other senior leaders of the party have asserted that we would not be accepting any cut on the population census of the province at any cost. In this regard, we would raise forceful voice along with the like-minded and nationalist forces. This and similar other views were expressed by the Provincial President of ANP, Asghar Khan Achakzai and other senior leaders of the party including Ubaidullah Abid, Mabab Kaka, Asghar Ali Tareen and other leaders while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Intra-party membership held at the Chaman Model High School Hall the other day. The event was also in connection with preparations for the upcoming "peace seminar" to be held in memory of the martyrs of August 8, 2016 in Quetta. On the occasion, Nazir Jan Hasnzai also announced to join ANP along with his companions and leaders of the Pashtoon Students Federation. Welcoming the new joiners in the party's fold, Asghar Khan Achakzai and others said that it is a good omen that the like-minded political activists are joining the party. They strongly condemned the incidents of terrorism on the Pashtoon land saying that terrorism is not product of our country, rather it has been imposed on us. The terrorism has devastated everything, whether it is Majid Ali Khyber or Peshawar's police line or Jamiat workers' convention in Bajor or it is in form of the target killing of police and levies personnel.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb addresses to media persons during meet at Karachi press club.

Imran's arrest not political Cases cannot be avoided by dodging law, attacking institutions: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that cases cannot be avoided by dodging the law, evading the courts and attacking national institutions. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan's arrest has nothing to do with politics, nor it was an act of political vendetta, she said during an exclusive interview with BBC World. "Peaceful protest is a democratic right of any political party or worker, but no protesters came out on the arrest of chairman PTI as people cannot be fooled every time, courts are there". The minister said that the legal procedures were completed in the Toshi Khana case against Chairman PTI, and on the completion of his trial, the court announced a verdict



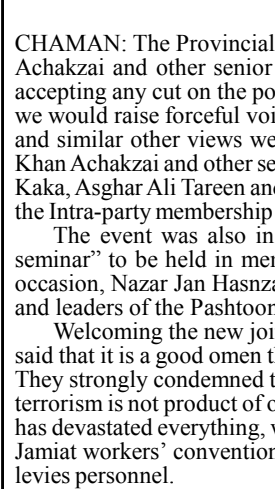
HUB: Activists of National Party are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, in Hub.

Asadullah Baloch vows to record protest against cut in population of Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The central President of Balochistan National Party-Awami (BNP-A) and Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Asadullah Baloch has stated that injustice has been done with people of the province by reducing the population of the province. He said that while the province's actual population was more than 20 million in the recently conducted population and housing census, but it was deducted at least up to 7 million in the meeting of council of common interests (CCI) on Saturday. He mentioned that there was no deduction in the population of other provinces in the CCU's meeting. He pointed out that the people of Balochistan had not known the importance of population census. He said that Punjab is benefiting from the distribution of resources on the basis of population. He said that while the province's actual population was more than 20 million in the recently conducted population and housing census, but it was deducted at least up to 7 million in the meeting of council of common interests (CCI) on Saturday. He mentioned that there was no deduction in the population of other provinces in the CCU's meeting.

than 20 million, but it is being shown as 14.2 million in the current population census. He pointed out that the people of Balochistan had not known the importance of population census. He said that Punjab is benefiting from the distribution of resources on the basis of population. He said that while the province's actual population was more than 20 million in the recently conducted population and housing census, but it was deducted at least up to 7 million in the meeting of council of common interests (CCI) on Saturday. He mentioned that there was no deduction in the population of other provinces in the CCU's meeting.

SANGHAR: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety & Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri distributing ownership (Sanad) of houses built by Sindh Government to the deserving people during the ceremony Distribution of Land Title to Flood Affectees.



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Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

No surprises

Pakistan's twisted political saga continues without the slightest deviation from a tired and predictable script. PTI chairman Imran Khan has been found guilty of "corrupt practices", disqualified from representing the people of Pakistan, fined Rs100,000, and sentenced to three years in jail for good measure.

If Mr Khan's actual 'crime' seems irrelevant and of little moral significance, it is because former prime ministers Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Nawaz Sharif, Benazir Bhutto, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy faced similar treatment at the hands of the state; none of the charges levelled against them withstood the test of time.

Indeed, considering the frivolity of the charge and severity of Mr Khan's punishment, one need not reach too far back in history to find a parallel. Where Mr Sharif's political dreams were cut short over an unrecieved salary, Mr Khan's political career has been rudely interrupted over failing to properly declare certain gifts he received as prime minister. In neither case, can the severity of the punishment be said to have fitted the 'crime'.

There is no denying that Mr Khan blundered by not complying with the ECP's asset declaration rules as strictly as he should have. However, months of reporting on Toshakhana records have since established that very few of those who received gifts in an official capacity may be able to pass similar scrutiny if their records were to be examined with the same vigour.

Given that context, for the court to hand Mr Khan the maximum possible sentence for the offence he was charged with seems excessive. The punishment is all the more problematic after the concerns raised by several observers over the manner in which the trial was conducted and the seeming haste with which the judgement was issued. Of course, Mr Khan is entitled to appeal the sentence, and he may earn a reprieve, but the intended damage may have been done by then.

It must be asked why our state periodically subjects popular leaders to such humiliation when it routinely ignores far more serious crimes. This is, after all, the same country where a clear constitutional edict to hold elections within a specified time frame was willfully cast aside earlier this year, and there still haven't been any consequences for the actors involved in the farce.

The fact is that Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto were not, and Imran Khan will not be rendered irrelevant to Pakistanis over some technical knockout. The fate of a politician rests in the hands of their constituency, and no amount of external interference can change this simple relationship. The experiment was tried in the earlier two cases and failed, and the state seems to be repeating the same mistake, only to weaken a fraying social contract further.

By kamran Raja

Energy has remained the core focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and helped to reduce power shortage in Pakistan. CPEC is expected to have a significant impact on the energy sector in Pakistan. The corridor includes a number of energy projects, including hydropower plants, coal-fired power plants, and wind farms.

These energy projects have a number of benefits for local people. First, they are helping to reduce Pakistan's reliance on imported energy. Currently, Pakistan imports a significant amount of its energy, which is a drain on the country's economy. The energy projects under CPEC will help to reduce this reliance, which will save the country money.

Second, the energy projects under CPEC are creating jobs. The construction and operation of these projects require a large number of workers, which will provide employment opportunities for local people.

Third, the energy projects under CPEC are helping to improve the lives of people in rural areas. Many people in rural areas do not have access to electricity. The energy projects under CPEC have helped to bring electricity to these areas, which will improve the quality of life for many people.

In addition to these benefits, the energy projects under

CPEC are also expected to have a number of positive social changes. For example, they are expected to help to reduce poverty and improve education and healthcare.

Overall, the energy projects under CPEC are expected to have a significant positive impact on the lives of local people in Pakistan. They will help to reduce reliance on imported energy, create jobs, improve access to electricity, industrial growth and bring about positive social changes.

CPEC is making ways for Pakistan to achieve its sustainable energy needs, especially to build its renewable energy power generation capacity from the current 4 percent to 30 percent in 2030. The energy cooperation under CPEC is ongoing between China and Pakistan. Overall, there are 21 energy projects under this fate-changing project initiative between both countries. Among these, around a dozen have been completed, and the rest are in the process of completion and are at different stages of development progress.

In fact, Pakistan was a country that experienced an acute energy crisis previously. Electricity shortages exceeded 7,000MW in the year of 2011. The energy shortage emerged because Pakistan had lacked the power generation capacity. The energy shortfall emerged largely due to the failure of attracting the investment at a level

required for expansion and maintenance of power generation on pace with the growing demand.

However, after the launch of CPEC, Pakistan has constructed new power generating plants which has drastically enhanced the country's energy generation capacity. At present, Pakistan has acquired the capacity to produce more electricity than its requirement. According to the statistics of Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-2020, Pakistan acquired the installed capacity of 35,972MW in 2020. In the same year, Pakistan's consumption capacity stood around 25,000MW. Previously, the primary structural problem of power sector was expansion of power generating units which has already been addressed under the CPEC energy framework and installation of power plants outside of CPEC cooperation.

In total, around 12,000 megawatts of energy would be generated through 21 energy projects envisioned under the ambit of CPEC energy projects. The 21 energy projects will cost around USD \$ 25 billion. At the moment, over a dozen energy projects have been completed and operationalised at full capacity.

Energy projects completed under CPEC featuring advanced technologies and lower cost not only provided a solution to Pakistan's electricity shortage,

which was a historic achievement for the country but also helped Pakistan improve its energy structure and reduce the cost of power generation.

According to official sources, the total installed capacity of CPEC energy projects, including that of coal, wind, solar and hydropower, stands at 6,570 MW. They generated 28,549.94 Gwh and 25,772.48 Gwh power respectively in FY 2020-21 and FY2021-22, accounting for 22.03% and 18.37% of the total generation in Pakistan.

As the CPEC energy projects replaced the costlier energy production from furnace oil and diesel to coal and renewable energy resources in the last five years, the energy needs of Pakistan have been fulfilled at lower prices, driving growth in the export-oriented industries.

The Karot Hydropower Plant, the first hydropower investment project under CPEC, and the second phase of the Thar Block II power station project both went into commercial operations in succession in year 2022. The hydropower plant provides Pakistan with clean yet low-priced electricity while the coal-power project taps into Pakistan's coal resources for power generation, economizing local precious foreign exchange resource.

Additionally, there are many other hydro-power projects which

are under construction. Suki Kinari Hydropower project with an installed capacity of 870MW is almost complete and will be operational at the end of this year.

Other CPEC-related hydropower projects include Kohala Hydropower Project and Azad Pattan Hydropower Project. Furthermore, Diamer Bhasha, Neelum Jehlum, Mohmand, and Dasu Dams are also contributing towards Chinese commitment to provide clean and affordable energy in Pakistan.

When renewable energy is talk of the town across the world, Belt & Road Initiative of China is not behind in contributing towards green revolution. On similar lines, CPEC energy investments from China are now focusing on green energy. It won't be an exaggeration if we say that 2023 brought a new era in Sino-Pak cooperation in renewable energy, as we have witnessed extremely encouraging signs in green energy sector between the two friendly nations.

Until now, renewable energy sources make up a very minor fraction of Pakistan's overall power generation mix. According to a recent report of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority, the installed capacity for wind and solar accounts for roughly 4.2% (1,831 MW) and 1.4% (630 MW) of a total of 43,775 MW, respectively.

China is already

the biggest investor in green energy in Pakistan. Currently, out of the \$144 million in foreign investment in solar PV plants in Pakistan, \$125 million is from China, accounting for nearly 87% of the total.

Thanks to Chinese investments, a few weeks ago Federal Power Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan inaugurated two new wind energy projects in Jhimpir, Thatta District, Sindh, with an aim to produce cheaper and clean electricity through indigenous energy sources. Wind projects in this region have been one of several renewable energy projects to have received Chinese investment in recent years. Around 90 kilometers from Karachi, Jhimpir is the heartland of the country's largest 'Wind corridor', which has the potential to produce 11,000 megawatts (MW) of energy from green resources.

Another major development took place in Wind Energy promotion when Beijing-based multinational wind turbine manufacturer, Goldwind Corporation launched the first-of-its-kind solution factory in Pakistan. The Solution Factory aims to develop localized solutions for Pakistani wind power plants.

In conclusion, CPEC energy projects have improved the power industry in Pakistan and contributed to economic growth by increasing power supply with high efficiency at lower cost.

Commerce News

State Minister says: Agricultural development vital for economic revolution

SARGODHA (APP): State Minister for Industries and Production Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi said on Sunday agricultural development was vital for bringing about an economic revolution in Pakistan.

Talking to APP here, he said the agriculture sector was facing various challenges including limited access to modern farming techniques, inadequate irrigation facilities, fragmented land holdings, and insufficient post-harvest storage and processing infrastructure.

He said these factors were affecting productivity and contributing to food insecurity. He said that food insecurity continued

to be a significant issue in many parts of South Asia as well. On the other hand, the region had made progress in recent years in reducing poverty and improving overall food security he added.

He urged that efforts must be made at the national and international levels to address food insecurity issue in South Asia, adding that the initiatives should include promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving irrigation and water management, enhancing infrastructure for storage and transportation, investing in rural development, strengthening social safety

nets, and supporting nutrition programmes to address malnutrition.

He said that Pakistan had a rapidly growing population, which placed significant pressure on food production and availability. "As the population increases, the demand for food increases, and meeting the nutritional needs of all individuals becomes more challenging," he added. Tasneem Qureshi said high poverty rate was a major contributor to food insecurity, not only in Pakistan but in South Asia as well, as many people in the region lacked financial resources to access an adequate and nutritious diet consistently.



LAHORE: Railway Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique Inaugurate Steel Shop at Mughalpur Railway workshop.

Delegation of Realtors calls on Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the direction of Minister for Finance and Revenue, a delegation of Realtors on Sunday called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, in order to address and resolve taxation issues concerning real-estate transactions.

The direction was issued by Finance Minister during the 90th meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, said a news release issued here.

The meeting was presided by the Chairman

FBR and attended by the delegation of Realtors led by Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President Federation of Realtors Pakistan, and the team of FBR officers.

Chairman FBR assured the participants that their concerns will be addressed and best possible facilitation will be ensured for removing difficulties arising on account of implementation of tax laws.

He directed his team to ensure proper coordination and consultations with the Realtors in this regard.

Global rice price index reaches record high in 12 years

LAHORE (APP): The world rice price index of the United Nations Food Agency (UNFA) experienced a notable 2.8 percent rise in July, as compared to June, reaching the highest level recorded in almost 12 years.

The overall world food price index also notably rebounded in July after experiencing two-year lows, said a UNFA report issued here.

This hike in prices was mainly driven by excessive demand in key exporting countries and India's decision to restrict its rice exports, it said. The Food and Agriculture Organisation's All Rice Price Index (ARPI), that tracks rice prices among major exporting nations, estimated an average of 129.7 points last month, a notable rise from June's 126.2 points.

Likewise, the score from July was much higher.



Leaders of Pakistan Business Forum along with Advisor to Investment Board Feroze Shah presenting souvenir to President Dr. Arif Alvi during a meeting.

Pakistan to achieve just, clean energy transition for future generations: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): "Pakistan will not just talk green but will achieve a just and clean energy transition; with or without rest of world for our future generations", said Dr Musadik Malik, Minister of State for Petroleum Division here on Sunday.

He was speaking at parliamentary consultation titled "Towards a Sustainable Future: Inclusion of Just Energy Transition and Election Climate Action in Election

Manifestos 2023", jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, a news release said. The State Minister said that Russia-Ukraine crisis caused unproportional energy inflation for the developing countries, thwarting the clean energy transition and access. Therefore, it is imperative that just and clean energy transition be supported with finance mobilization for developing countries to enable technology transfer and indigenous development, he said and stressed that accountability for clean energy transition should be extended equally across the table and not just on developing countries. Dr. Musadik emphasized that Petroleum companies in Pakistan including Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Pakistan State Oil (PSO),

down fuel import costs as even in India coal-fired power plants produce more than two third of total electricity," Amir Iqbal informed.

He said coal is considered a cheap energy resource in Pakistan to catch up with future energy requirements of domestic and commercial consumers as during the last five years coal-based power production had also witnessed a significant increase.

"We need to shift to local coal resources to scale

Need stressed for increasing UK-Pakistan bilateral trade to £ 10 billion

ISLAMABAD (APP): London-based prominent Pakistan businessman Raja Muhammad Adil on Sunday said that there are great opportunities to develop business relations between the UK and Pakistan which need to be exploited. The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) hosted a reception in the honor of Raja Muhammad Adil in which he shared his life long struggle in the UK and achievements in the field of business.

He said that he went to London in 1963 and started his professional life there as a bus driver. However, later he started business life from a small shop and achieved remarkable success in the field of business.

He said that all these achievements were the result of continuous hard work and struggle. In London, he has always helped Pakistanis and some of them have made a mark in politics and business. In his message to the youth, Raja Muhammad Adil said that today's youth is looking for shortcuts for success, but success in any field requires constant hard work and struggle with integrity.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry paid tribute to Raja Muhammad Adil for achieving numerous achievements in the field of business.



Federal Minister for interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan, inauguration various projects of Electricity supply to sadhar, Faisalabad.

Thar coal - a panacea to Pakistan's energy deficiency

ISLAMABAD (APP): Being 28th largest reserve, the Tharparkar coal can prove to be a panacea to Pakistan's energy deficiency by producing billions of tone oil and cheaper electricity for domestic, commercial and industrial consumers.

Blessed with 175 billion tons of coal, the reserve is equivalent to 50 billion tons of oil which is more than Saudi Arabian and Iranian oil reserves. These reserves are equal to 2,000 trillion cubic feet of gas which is 68 times higher than Pakistan's total gas reserves.

Since the outgoing coalition government had specifically focused on the

development of this project, experts pin hopes that its culmination would help overcome energy deficiency and save hefty and precious foreign exchange spent every year on the import of fossil fuels like coal, oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

In many countries, coal is used as a cheaper source for generating electricity as global coal reserves are estimated to be around one trillion tons, while coal-fired based power plants contribute nearly 37 per cent of global electricity generation.

Company (SECMC) Amir Iqbal, unlocking indigenous Thar coal reserves can generate approximately 100,000 megawatts (MW) electricity for the next 250 years. "This project alone can ensure energy security of Pakistan besides reducing power tariff significantly,"

He said coal is considered a cheap energy resource in Pakistan to catch up with future energy requirements of domestic and commercial consumers as during the last five years coal-based power production had also witnessed a significant increase.

"We need to shift to local coal resources to scale

down fuel import costs as even in India coal-fired power plants produce more than two third of total electricity," Amir Iqbal informed.

He said India import 200 million tons of coal annually besides utilizing 500-600 million tons of domestic coal while Pakistan's coal production stood at merely 14 to 15 million tons per annum.

"SECMC is extracting 7.6 million tons coal per annum from Block-II and its capacity is being expanded to 11.2 million tons," Amir said and informed that Thar coal has total of 13 blocks but only two blocks were being mined presently."

Termining coal reserves the future of Pakistan, Amir Iqbal said Thar coal could not only be used for power generation but also ferried to different parts of the country for use in cement and steel industries. "Once, Thar coal is connected with railway network, it would be open all across the country and pave the way for its economic prosperity."

Statistics show that the average coal consumption in power plants is approximately 0.62kWh. However, the new efficient power plants utilize 10% less coal as compared to ordinary plants.

Kundi inaugurates BISP Tehsil office in Paniala

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday inaugurated Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Tehsil office in Paniala.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the special assistant said the establishment of the BISP office in Paniala was the beginning of the first government office in this Tehsil.

Paniala was given the status of Tehsil several years ago, but till date no Tehsil level office of any provincial department has been established here, he astonished.

He said today a

promise made with the people of Paniala has been fulfilled as a fully equipped office has been inaugurated here.

He said that 28,000 deserving people were benefiting in Paharpur Tehsil which include women from Paniala. Now, the women of this area would have the facility at their door step, he said and vowed that a nutrition office would also be established here.

Faisal Kundi said that he had written a letter for establishment of NADRA and Passport offices in Paniala, adding, he himself would meet with Interior Minister soon for the purpose.

He said "we always

prioritized serving the people and make efforts for the development of the area and its people."

He regretted that the people of Paniala were deprived of CPEC interchange, adding, he would write a letter to National Highways and Motorway Chairman to build an interchange here on CPEC route.

Faisal Kundi said he would request to the prime minister to release funds for the mega projects which the premier had inaugurated in Dera Ismail Khan recently.

He said that he was always ready to join hands with his political opponents for the sake of regional development and prosperity.



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan is cutting ribbon to inaugurate Nadra Registration Centre at Union Council 117 Dhanola.

Justice Raza Ali takes oath as acting CJ of AJK

MIRPUR AJK (APP): Justice Raza Ali Khan on Sunday takes oath as Acting Chief Justice (CJ) of the Supreme Court (SC) of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry administered the oath of office to Justice Raza Ali Khan as Acting CJ of the apex court of the AJK State at a ceremony held at the President's House in the State metropolis.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended among others by Chief Justice High Court, Justice

Sadaqat Hussain Raja, Justice Sardar Liaquat Shaheen, Justice Mian Arif Hussain, Justice Syed Shahid Bahar, Justice Sardar Muhammad Ejaz, Justice Ghulam Mustafa Mughal, Chief Election Commissioner Abdul Rashid Salharia, Raja Tariq Javed Chairman Service Tribunal, Mushtaq Ahmed Tahir, Member Service Tribunal, Chaudhry Muhammad Munir Judge Election Tribunal, Raja Rashid Naseem Chairman Environmental Tribunal, Farooq Muhammad District and Sessions Judge Muzaffarabad and others.

Kundi grieved over Nawabshah Train accident

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Special Assistant to the prime minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the tragic accident of Hazara Express in Nawabshah district of Sindh. In a statement, the special assistant said the Hazara Express train accident has made whole the nation sad. He said Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was in constant contact with the Sindh administration and monitoring the relief activities.

Durrani inaugurates 'Kalam Bibi Intl Women Institute' at Bannu University

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): National Assembly Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani has inaugurated the 'Kalam Bibi International Women Institute' here at the University of Bannu in Bannu.

In this regard a ceremony was held wherein Zahid Akram Durrani was chief guest. On this occasion, the deputy speaker was accompanied by former MPs Fakhr-e-Azam and Qari Gul Azeem. Bannu University Vice Chancellor Dr Khair uz Zaman gave a briefing to the deputy speaker.

Addressing the ceremony, Durrani said it was a long standing demand of the people to have a university for women in the area and this institute would help to ensure provision of quality education to the female students of the area.

He acknowledged the role of Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in establishment of this institute. He said the institute established at a cost of Rs 25.4 million would be totally solarized. He said the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Bannu remained neglected during the last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as no funds were released for development of these areas.



KARACHI: Passengers sit worried at platform as trains are late from their original schedules after a Hazara Express accident near Nawabshah, at Cantt Station in Karachi.

SAPM says: PML-N believes in serving masses only

SARGODHA (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Gas and Energy Chaudhry Hamid Hameed has said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) believed in serving masses by launching public welfare and national development programmes.

While talking to APP here at Sargodha on Sunday, he said the PML-N initiated a number of development projects across the country including Sargodha to materialise the dream of

national progress and prosperity, adding that Pakistan was making progress speedily in 2018 when the PML-N government was toppled under a deep-rooted conspiracy. The minister said that petrol was available at Rs 65 per litre, sugar at Rs 52 per kg and US dollar rate was Rs 110 in 2018 when an incompetent person like Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was imposed on the nation.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Peoples Party Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB) are holding protest demonstration against the auction and excavation of Karoonjhar, at Hyderabad press club.

Three killed in separate incidents

ATTOCK (APP): Three persons including an employee of Punjab health department were killed in three separate incidents in various parts of Attock on Sunday, police and rescue sources said.

In the first incident, 38 years old Muhammad Saqib-an employee of the Punjab health department presently posted at district headquarters hospital was stabbed to death in the limits of Attock city Police station. The assailants managed to escape after restoring aerial firing. In the second, 50 years old, Afghan national was axed to death in Jallo area near Burhan motorway interchange in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station.

Police sources said that the deceased identified as Imrat Khan, who runs a small shop on GT road. On Sunday, when he was going to open his shop, unknown masked men intercepted him and attacked him with axes and killed him.

Later, the attackers throw his body at a vacant plot and fled away from the scene successfully.

Flood in river Sutlej Local communities, PDMA helping affectees to mitigate effects

MULTAN (APP): Feeling pain of those displaced, whose belongings are taken away by flood and who felt dejected to witness so much water after almost 36 years, the local communities and relatives came forward to lend helping hands by providing them shelters and food despite arrangements made by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for flood affected people around river Sutlej.

A ferocious flood is witnessed this year in river Sutlej submerging hundreds of acres of land leaving thousands of people

homeless, but the generous assistance of local community remained exemplary.

Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has also established relief camps, equipped with different sorts of facilities including availability of food, healthcare, fodder for animals and camps but most of the affectees sought shelter at their relatives' or friends' homes instead of camps so far.

During last three decades, the flow of water in river Sutlej was on decrease and the river had

almost dried up near Bahawalpur. Noticing this trend, people had constructed structures in low-lying areas of the river, which are now under water.

The flood water also entered into scores of adjacent "Mauzajat" and damaged hundreds of homes and crops on thousands of acres. Although, the majority of the farmers have picked crops, especially maize which is a popular crop of the region.

A citizen namely Sajjad Saldaira, a resident of Sahuka (Burewala)

talking to APP informed that a good number of flood-affected people left the river bed and sought shelter in relatives and friends' homes.

He informed that he himself managed accommodation for 15 families. Relatives, friends and other people were exhibiting kind gestures in this crucial time for flood-hit people, he said, adding the majority of displaced people were farmers and cattle holders whose animals had also been adjusted.

Another citizen, Qasim also spoke and

informed that he also provided residence facility to two families, while a good number of flood-hit families were living in their village.

Responding to problems in the areas, he stated that the government should increase number of medical professionals as some people were facing health complications. Similarly, the availability of fodder for cattle should be managed properly and the administration should provide "Wanda" to feed animals as due to flood, there was a shortage of fodder for cattle.

International News

Russia launches burst of missile and drone attacks, Ukraine says

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine said Russia bombed a blood transfusion centre near the front line in a wave of air strikes overnight while Moscow reported that it had shot down a drone heading to the capital on Sunday in the third such attack in a week.

Both countries have stepped up attacks on each other's troops, weaponry and infrastructure supporting the war as Ukraine seeks to dislodge Russian forces who have dug in across southern and eastern Ukraine since their invasion last year.

The Moscow-appointed head of Crimea said the Chonhar bridge to the peninsula, which was annexed from Ukraine by Moscow in 2014, had been damaged by a missile strike. Another of the three road links between Crimea and Russian-occupied

parts of mainland Ukraine, near the town of Henichesk, was shelled and a civilian driver wounded, a Moscow-appointed official said.

Ukraine calls Jeddah talks productive, Russia calls them doomed

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: A senior Ukrainian official said on Sunday that talks in Saudi Arabia to make headway towards a peaceful settlement of the war with Russia had been productive, but Moscow called the meeting a doomed attempt to swing the Global South behind Kyiv.

More than 40 countries, including China, India, the United States, and European countries, but not Russia, are taking part in the Jeddah talks that are expected to end on Sunday without any written concluding statement. Ukraine and its allies have said the talks are an attempt to secure broad international support for principles that Kyiv wants to be the basis for peace, including the withdrawal of all Russian troops and the return of all Ukrainian territory to its control. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said he wants a global summit to take place based on those principles later this year. Eighteen months after Russia invaded Ukraine, any prospect of direct peace talks between Kyiv and Moscow appears remote.



Mourners carry the body of Palestinian who was killed during clashes with Israeli settlers, in a hospital in Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Closing youth festival in Portugal, pope shares 'old man's' dream of peace

Monitoring Desk
LISBON: Pope Francis closed an international festival of Catholic Youth on Sunday with a huge outdoor Mass and his own "I have a dream" speech, saying it was for world peace, especially for Ukraine.

About 1.5 million people attended his closing Mass at a riverside park in the Portuguese

capital, the Vatican said, quoting local authorities. Many of the faithful slept outdoors, having attending a vigil there on Saturday night, and they gathered in sweltering heat.

Speaking after the Mass, the 86-year-old Francis urged the young people to take the fraternal experiences of the six-day jamboree back home.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain urge citizens to leave Lebanon after Palestinian refugee camp clashes

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Bahrain called on its citizens Saturday to leave Lebanon "for their own safety" hours after Saudi Arabia did the same without giving a reason.

The decision by the two Gulf nations came after days of fighting in the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon between members of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah group and militants of Islamic groups.

The four days of fighting in Ein el-Hilweh camp near the southern port city of Sidon has left 13 people dead and dozens wounded. Bahrain's Foreign Ministry said Bahrainis should abide by the government's previous decisions to avoid travel to Lebanon. The Saudi embassy in Beirut posted a statement late Friday night on X, formerly known as Twitter.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives field guidance at a major weapon factory in this image released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency.

Philippines says China blocked, water-cannoned boat in South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines on Sunday accused China's coast guard of blocking and water-cannoning a Philippine military supply boat in the South China Sea, condemning the "excessive and offensive actions" against its vessels.

China's coast guard countered that it had implemented necessary controls under the law to deter Philippine ships, which it accused of trespassing and carrying illegal building materials. China claims sovereignty

over almost the entire South China Sea, an assertion rejected internationally, while Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Taiwan and the Philippines have various claims to certain areas.

Beijing often irks its neighbours with maritime actions they call aggressive and with longer-term activities like building islands on reefs and equipping them with missiles and runways.

A Chinese coast guard vessel on Saturday blocked and water-cannoned the chartered Philippine boat

on a routine troop rotation and resupply mission, "in wanton disregard of the safety of the people on board and in violation of international law", the Armed Forces of the Philippines said.

It said in a statement the incident occurred near the Second Thomas Shoal, which Manila calls Ayungin Shoal, a submerged reef where a handful of its troops live on a rusty World War Two-era U.S. ship that was intentionally grounded in 1999.

N. Korean leader Kim tours weapons factories and vows to boost war readiness in face of tensions

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un toured the country's key weapons factories, including those producing artillery systems and launch vehicles for nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, and pledged to speed up efforts to advance his military's arms and war readiness, state media said Sunday.

Kim's three-day inspections through Saturday came as the United States and South Korea prepared for their next round of combined military exercises planned for later this month to cope with the growing North

Korean threat.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest level in years as the pace of North Korea's missile tests and the joint U.S.-South Korea military drills, which Kim portrays as invasion rehearsals, have both intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.

Some experts say Kim's tour of the weapons factories could also be related to possible military cooperation with Moscow that may involve North Korean supplies of artillery and other ammunition as Russian President Vladimir Putin reaches out to other countries for support in the war in Ukraine.



Belarus' exiled opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya gives an opening speech during The New Belarus conference in Warsaw, Poland.

2 dead, 57 rescued from migrant shipwrecks off Italy's Lampedusa

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italy's coastguard said on Sunday it had recovered two bodies and rescued 57 people off the southern island of Lampedusa, amid reports that more than 30 people were missing following two shipwrecks.

The Ansa news agency, citing survivors' accounts, reported that two migrant boats had set off from the port of Sfax, a hotspot for Tunisia's migration crisis, had sunk on Saturday on their way to Europe. One was carrying 48 people; the second 42, Ansa said, adding

that the coastguard found the survivors about 23 nautical miles (46 km) south-west of Lampedusa, as well as the two victims - a woman from Ivory Coast and her one-year-old child. A coastguard spokesperson said he could only confirm the number of survivors and the recovery of two bodies.

More than 2,000 people have arrived in Lampedusa in the last few days after being rescued at sea by Italian patrol boats and NGO groups, as strong winds further complicate the situation around the island.

Iran boosts navy with missiles, drones as US offers guards for Gulf ships

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran has equipped its Revolutionary Guards' navy with drones and 1,000-km (600-mile) range missiles, Iranian news agencies reported on Saturday, as the U.S. offers to put guards on commercial ships going through the Gulf's Strait of Hormuz.

Referring to the possible presence of U.S. guards, Iranian armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said the region's countries were "capable of ensuring Persian Gulf security" themselves.

"What do the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean have to do with America? What is your business being here?" Shekarchi was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

State news agency IRNA said the Revolutionary Guards' weapons include "various types of drones ... and several hundred cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 300.

Ukraine strikes Chonhar bridge to Crimea

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The Chonhar road bridge linking mainland Ukraine to Crimea was damaged by a Ukrainian missile strike on Sunday, Russia's RIA news agency cited the Moscow-appointed head of Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov, as saying.

RIA cited acting Kherson regional governor Vladimir Saldo - another Moscow appointee - as saying the strike on the bridge, one of three road links between Crimea and mainland Ukraine, involved an Anglo-French Storm Shadow missile.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering dua after unveiling plaque during the groundbreaking ceremony of PKLI University and Launching of the National Hepatitis C Elimination Campaign.

CPEC shifts focus of geo-political cooperation to geo-economic fruition

LAHORE (APP): The dedication and untiring efforts of the incumbent government and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) diplomatic, technical staff of both countries have shifted the focus of cooperation from geo-politics to geo-economics by bringing it to fruition, experts said on Sunday.

They said that CPEC was playing a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion-dollar projects. If one goes through analysis of one de-

cade, the start of CPEC was a concerted move by the then prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 to shift the focus of cooperation from geo-politics to geo-economics. Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashf Anwar told APP that today, the premiership of Shehbaz Sharif and leadership of Planning Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal – deserve the highest praise for having brought CPEC to its fruition. As of now, more than 150 countries, with 75 per-

cent of the world's population and half of the world's GDP, have signed up to the BRI. CPEC, a principal component of BRI, aims to connect Pakistan's Gwadar port city to China's Xinjiang region through a network of roads, railways, and pipelines, he said.

To a query Anwar said that CPEC has the potential to significantly impact the entire region. Under CPEC, both governments have decided to overcome the then energy crisis in Pakistan, he said, adding that to guarantee energy security, multiple projects.

PML-N to empower youth with info-tech skills: Ahsan Iqbal

NAROWAL (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry said on Sunday the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) wanted to empower youth of the country with info-tech skills and it was making all-out efforts in that direction.

Speaking as the chief guest at the 'Digital Narowal' event held at E-Library here, he said now his entire focus was on launch of modern-day projects for the youth of the country. He said recently the first convocation of the University of Narowal was held, which had been delayed for the past four years. He said the PML-N believed in merit

only. "It is very easy to talk of merit, but PML-N government is demonstrating through practical steps that it believes in merit and only merit. Laptop scheme for



brilliant students is the process of recognising the talent of our youth," Ahsan Iqbal said. The federal minister said that with the laptops given by the PML-N government, lakhs of students were freelancing from Pakistan and earning handsome amounts of money for their families.

Ex-MPA Prince Ahmad joins race for caretaker CM of Balochistan

QUETTA (INP): Former Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) Prince Ahmad Ali has thrown his hat into the ring for the highly contested position of caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan. According to sources, several members of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) have been actively lobbying to secure the candidacy of Prince Ahmad Ali for the caretaker CM position.

They have engaged in discussions with the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Prince Ahmad Ali,

who previously served as an elected member of the Balochistan Assembly from Hub Lasbela after the 2013 elections, brings with him experience and familiarity with the region's political dynamics.

On the other hand, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) has nominated former Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Usman Badini as its candidate for the caretaker Chief Minister position.

However, the race is far from one-sided, as other potential candidates have emerged from different political factions.



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan and Mili Yakjehti Council Pakistan Central President, Sahibzada Abul Khair Muhammad Zubair addresses during seminar on Ittehad-e-Ummat organized by Mili Yakjehti Council held at Quetta Press Club.

E-service centre to facilitate Quetta's dwellers

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has prioritized public welfare projects for providing facilities to the people and improves service delivery in the province.

The present government has taken historical steps and launched several development projects for the well being of people of province, a handout issued here on Sunday said.

According to the vision of Chief Minister, an e-service center in Quetta has been officially func-

tional under the Science and Information Technology Department to provide services to the citizens under a one-window operation.

The establishment of that facilitation centre in Quetta will reduce the burden on the district government while ensuring prompt service delivery for citizens. The aim is to streamline the work of different departments through a one-window operation for citizens. In the first phase of the project, the services of four departments would be provided at the e-facilitation centre to improve public services.

With the digitization of Revenue Department, the centre would provide services regarding the land record to the masses.

With the installation of e-service centre, the registration and submission of fee in the Excise and Taxation Department has been made easy and efficient.

The acquisition of birth certificate, character certificate and other necessary documents has been made very easy through e-facilitation centre.

A police desk is also set up at the e-service center and resolving public issues related to police.

Upper House clears HEC (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to strengthen higher education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate passed The HEC (Amendment) Bill, 2023 on Sunday with a majority vote, and the bill aims to strengthen and revitalize the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

The Bill was moved by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar with 23 votes in favour and 16 in opposition. The prime minister has been given the controlling authority of the Higher Education Commission.

The primary goal of the bill was to strengthen the higher education sector in the country and guarantee access to quality education for everyone.

The term of appointment for the Chairman of HEC has been extended to four years from the previ-

ous three years. This change aims to promote stability and continuity in the commission's leadership, leading to improved long-term planning and policy implementation.

The bill's objective is to rectify discrepancies present in the existing HEC Ordinance 2002. The 18th constitutional amendment has diminished the regulatory authority of HEC, leading to inadequate legal power for enforcing standardization in the higher education sector.

Earlier, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, presented the committee's report on the bill to amend the Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Dar asserts low possibility of error in unanimously approved digital census

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Finance and Revenue Muhammad Ishaq Dar Sunday emphasized that the digital census, which was unanimously approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI), has a lower possibility of error. Defending the digital census in the Upper House while speaking on a point of order, Leader of the House Ishaq Dar pointed out that the decision regarding the new census was made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. He informed the Senate that Rs 34 billion had been spent on the endeavor.

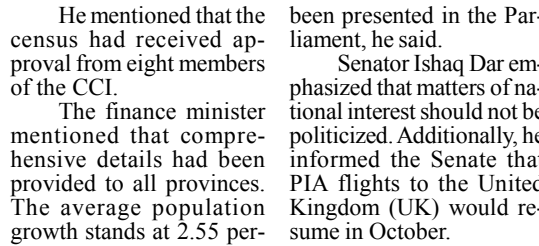
He mentioned that the census had received approval from eight members of the CCI.

The finance minister mentioned that comprehensive details had been provided to all provinces. The average population growth stands at 2.55 per-

cent, compared to 2.44 percent recorded in the 2017 census. Balochistan has the highest growth rate at 3.25 percent. The digital population census incurred an expenditure of 34 billion rupees, he told.

The finance minister also revealed that a minister from the previous government had caused harm to Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). He asserted that reforms were being implemented to enhance aviation and there was a focus on improving the performance of steel mills. Steps are being taken to reduce PIA's deficit and some aviation-related laws have been presented in the Parliament, he said.

Senator Ishaq Dar emphasized that matters of national interest should not be politicized. Additionally, he informed the Senate that PIA flights to the United Kingdom (UK) would resume in October.



QUETTA: Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail meeting with President BNP-Awami and Provincial Minister for Agriculture Mir Asadullah Baloch.

He also offered fataha for the departed soul.

Speaker BA grieved over death of 7 girls in Kech

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali has expressed deep grief and sorrow over death of seven children while swimming in a stream in Turbat area of Kech. In a condolence statement issued here on Sunday, the Speaker expressed heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved families of the girls who lost lives during picnic in the local stream of Turbat.

He said that we share the grief with the bereaved families of girls. He prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed souls into its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved families to bear the tragic loss.

AJK PM warns Matching response to every Indian misadventure at LOC

MIRPUR AJK (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister (AJK PM) Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that any aggression or misadventures by India on the Line of Control (LOC) shall be paid back in the same coin.

Addressing a special session of the AJK Legislative assembly held in connection with Youm e-Estehal in the State metropolis late Saturday, the PM, while referring to the highly provocative statement by an Indian minister, made it clear to India that any attempt of infringing the AJK's territorial integrity would be responded to with full force.

The PM said that India should take a lesson from recent history when an Indian Air Force jet violated our airspace in 2019.

He said that the whole world witnessed what hap-

pened in the aftermath and how the Indian warplane was downed by the PAF.

"If India attempts to repeat the mistake, then India will get a befitting reply on its own soil", the PM said. "So long as the custodians of Kashmir's freedom movement are alive, the caravan of the freedom movement will continue to march towards its destination", the PM said.

Reiterating his government's commitment to the Kashmir cause, the PM said that all available resources would be used to highlight the Kashmir issue both at national and international level.

He said that the ongoing liberation struggle against India would continue on all fronts unless the Kashmiri people achieve their cherished goal of freedom from India's illegal and forcible occupation.

Half million Muslim murders in post independence India

SRINAGAR (Online): From independence till now more than half million Muslims has been murdered in 93,647 incidents of killing muslims. Aljazeera report shows that quarter of million (250,000) muslims was killed in 16 riots and more than 700,000 became homeless.

Biggest Hindu-Muslim riot of India's history occurred in Ayodhya in 1992. On December 6, 1992 Babri Mosque was demolished and more than 3000 muslims were killed.

In 1989 extremists killed more than 9000 muslims in Baghalpur in Behar state of India.

In 2020 amid muslim killing riots more than 150 muslims were killed and hundreds were injured.

Massive rise was witnessed in anti muslim sentiments after 2014. Modi government made dozens of anti-muslim laws like citizen law, Gau Rakhshak, divorce and veil after coming in power. Huge rise was also witnessed in Bollywood in producing anti muslim movies in last decade. After India Pakistan division more than 50,000 mosques has been burned or changed into Temple.

In recent year Indian extremist organization Hindu Janjagriti Samiti also start campaign named 'Halal Jehad' to kill muslims. Regarding human rights it was told in report that from 2015 to 2018 Gau Rakshak more than 60 muslims were martyred inn more than 100 extremism incidents.

PM Shahbaz says Serving ailing humanity; a collective responsibility of all

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that all those who were tasked with the onus to serve humanity, should strive for the provision of free-of-cost health and education facilities to the poor and deprived segments of society. The prime minister was addressing a conference arranged here to create awareness about the elimination of Hepatitis-C in the country arranged at Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI).

Addressing the participants, the prime minister said it was their collective responsibility to serve the poor and deprived masses by setting up health facilities like the PKLI in line with the vision of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of the nation, and in accordance with the concept of the welfare state.

The event was attended by Governor Punjab

Muhammad Balighur Rehman, ministers, experts and relevant authorities.

The prime minister termed the event a historic and said that he always desired to see PKLI working on the pattern of Johns Hopkins of the USA.

He said the PKLI journey started in 2014, when he requested Dr Saeed Akhtar to set up a state-of-the-art institute for the kidney and liver diseases in Punjab province.

The prime minister said that the institute was established with an autonomous body to rid it of any official red tape.

The project was launched in 2015 and was completed in 2018 when the first kidney transplant was performed, he recollected.

The prime minister said that till this day, a total of 1000 transplants had been performed at PKLI which was another milestone.

The PKLI had now Rs 15 billion in the trust fund which would help in providing free treatment to the poor people, he added.

He observed that previously, they used to send liver disease patients to other neighbouring countries. PKLI was established in the country which entertained patients irrespective of class and without discrimination, he said, adding it was also an essence for the creation of Pakistan for which Quaid and a large number of people gave huge sacrifices.

He regretted that the poor people in the country suffered while the rich had all the resources to get treatment for themselves at the best facilities in the world.

The prime minister said during 2018, about 26 Hepatitis C filter clinics were established in the province under the umbrella of PKLI where patients were treated with great care and with free medicines.



NAWABSHAH: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah visit site after a train derailed as rescue operation is underway, at Sarhari Railway Station.

PTI threw "petrol bomb of inflation" on people: Marriyum Aurangzeb

KARACHI (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) four-year rule which triggered extreme inflation in the country due to wrong economic policies and massive corruption of its leadership.

"The people fully knows the difference between development, destruction and conspiracy," she said while drawing a comparison between the destructive policies of the PTI government, and development-oriented and public-friendly initiatives of the coalition government in the last 15 months.

Addressing a news conference at the Karachi Press Club, she recalled that

the PTI pelted petrol bombs on the police when the PTI chief's residence in Zaman Park was raided.

She said the PTI chief was the mastermind of May 9 incidents when the Law Enforcement Agencies' vans, mosques, ambulances, memorials of martyrs and sensitive installations were set on fire.

On the contrary, she said the three-time prime minister brought prosperity and development in the country by ending load-shedding and curbing terrorism. Nawaz Sharif launched China Pakistan Economic Corridor, made the country's defence impregnable and spread network of roads across Pakistan, she added.

Marriyum said curbs were imposed on the media

and freedom of expression during the four-year of the PTI, however, the press clubs across the country provided a platform to the then opposition leaders to spread their messages among the masses and highlight fascism of the previous regime. She said the PTI chairman was declared "predator" for media by the international organization, but Pakistan ranking in press freedom improved during the last fifteen months of the coalition government. She said the PEMRA Ordinance of 2002 was a "black law" which was enacted by a dictator, but it was the coalition government which introduced amendments after twelve months of extensive consultation.

Appeal right Intact for Imran: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law, Azam Nazeer Tarar, stated on Sunday that former Prime Minister Imran Khan still possesses the right to appeal the verdict, and the punishment awarded to Khan in the Toshakhana reference was in accordance with the law.

Speaking in the Senate, the Minister mentioned that the PTI chairman had been provided an opportunity to demonstrate his innocence, but now, since he has been convicted, he must face the consequences. The Minister further stated that out of 40 court summonses related to the reference, the PTI chairman appeared only three times, and these assets were the basis for his conviction.

He pointed out that, in contrast to Imran, former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani did not possess the right to appeal the verdicts issued against them.



ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor Mir Chakar Khan Rind University Sibi, Professor Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch meeting with Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtiar Ahmed.

Chairman PTI's arrest is reward for actions: Ghafoor Hydari

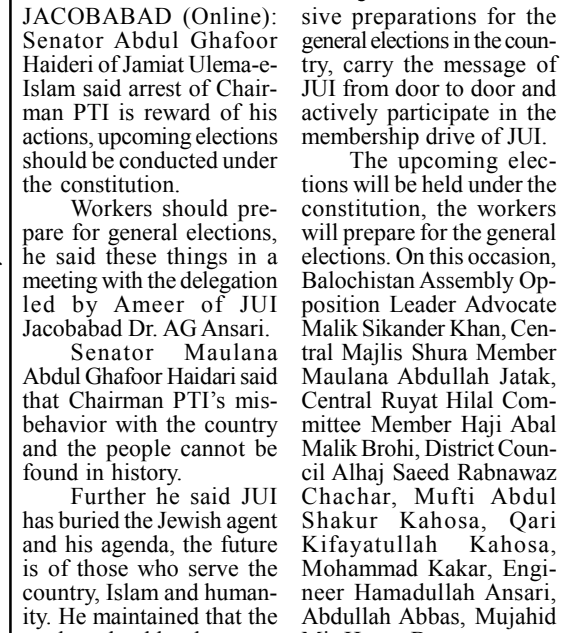
JACOBABAD (Online): Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam said arrest of Chairman PTI is reward of his actions, upcoming elections should be conducted under the constitution.

Workers should prepare for general elections, he said these things in a meeting with the delegation led by Ameer of JUI Jacobabad Dr. AG Ansari.

Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said that Chairman PTI's misbehavior with the country and the people cannot be found in history.

Further he said JUI has buried the Jewish agent and his agenda, the future is of those who serve the country, Islam and humanity. He maintained that the workers should make extensive preparations for the general elections in the country, carry the message of JUI from door to door and actively participate in the membership drive of JUI.

The upcoming elections will be held under the constitution, the workers will prepare for the general elections. On this occasion, Balochistan Assembly Opposition Leader Advocate Malik Sikander Khan, Central Majlis Shura Member Maulana Abdullah Jatak, Central Ruyat Hill Committee Member Haji Abal Malik Brohi, District Council Alhaj Saeed Rabnawaz Chachar, Mufti Abdul Shakur Kahosa, Qari Kifayatullah Kahosa, Mohammad Kakar, Engineer Hamadullah Ansari, Abdullah Abbas, Mujahid Mir Hasan Barro.



QUETTA: All Parties Hurriyat Conference Leaders, Zahid Safi, Azem Butt and Shahid Butt addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.