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Quetta

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Guilty of graft: Imran Khan arrested after court jails him for 3 years in Toshakhana case

Islamabad court rules Imran's dishonesty has been established beyond doubt; PTI chief's lawyer deems verdict "a murder of justice"; party announces country-wide protests; Imran Khan technically stands disqualified from holding any public office for five years under Article 63(1)(h) of the Constitution

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Saturday announced a three year jail term to chairman PTI Imran Khan along with fine worth Rs100,000 after convicting him in a criminal case pertaining concealing the details of gifts received from Toshakhana.

The court said that the charges against the accused for hiding assets from Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had been proved during the trial. The court also rejected the plea of former prime minister Imran Khan pertaining to the maintainability of case.

Additional District and Session Judge Hamayun

Dilawar announced the verdict into the case and later also issued a four-page written order. The order said that no one had given arguments from the accused side in a case against admissibility of the criminal case. The plea was being terminated on the basis of arguments given on May 5, and July 8, into the matter.

The order said that the complainant had presented satisfactory and solid evidences against the accused, which had proved the charges. It further said that the chairman PTI had submitted the false record to the ECP during the years of 2018-19 and 2019-20

regarding his assets.

It said that the accused had also submitted false record pertaining Form-B in 2020-21. It said that the record pertaining to the Toshakhana gifts had proved as false and there was no doubt that chairman PTI had committed dishonesty.

The order said that keeping in view the crimes, the accused is awarded a three year imprisonment sentence and is imposed Rs100,000 fine. The accused had to face six month jail more if he failed to submit the amount of fine.

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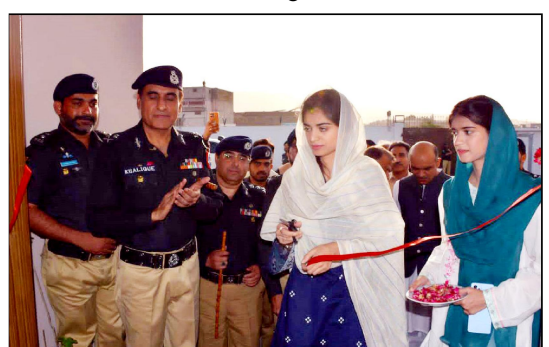


ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, MNA Mir Khalid Khan Masi, Ehsanullah Reki and Senator Agha Umar Ahmedzai meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo

Pak Army vows to continue support of Kashmiris struggle

RAWALPINDI (APP): On the eve of Youm-e-Istehsal, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), Services Chiefs and Pakistan Armed Forces on Saturday expressed solidarity with the brave and resilient people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their just struggle for right to self determination according to the UN resolutions.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the continuation of inhumane military lockdown, illegal measures to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory and the gross and systematic transgressions of human rights were all manifest violations of international law.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh formally inaugurating Serious Crimes Investigation Wing (SCIW) by cutting ribbon from daughter of Shaheed DSP Ameer Muhammad Dasti

IGP inaugurates serious crimes investigation wing having seven units in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh inaugurated the serious crimes investigation wing here in Quetta on Saturday.

The wing comprises seven units including kidnapping for ransom, CIA, crime scene, car lifting and others.

More than 40 women police personnel would serve in the serious crimes investigations wing.

Speaking on occasion of inauguration of the wing, the IGP said that it is our

endeavor to get the buildings of police inaugurated by the children of police martyrs. He said that we are making efforts to improve quality of the investigations.

He said that it is responsibility of the police force to prevent crimes and criminal activities, and as such we also need to pay more attention on the investigation.

The IGP said that investigation is left because of the engagement of police personnel for law and or-

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President visits Governor House, reviews ration bags

KARACHI (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Saturday visited the Governor House and met with the Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori and reviewed the bags of ration.

According to a Governor House communique, the President also visited the site of 'Bell of Hope' located in the Governor House.

The Governor briefed the President about the purpose of the bell.

The President lauded the efforts of the Governor to distribute ration bags among the poor people and conduct

the tests for Information Technology courses.

The President also planted a sapling in connection with the plantation campaign in the lawn of the Governor House.

Imran facing consequences of his misdeeds: Rana Sana

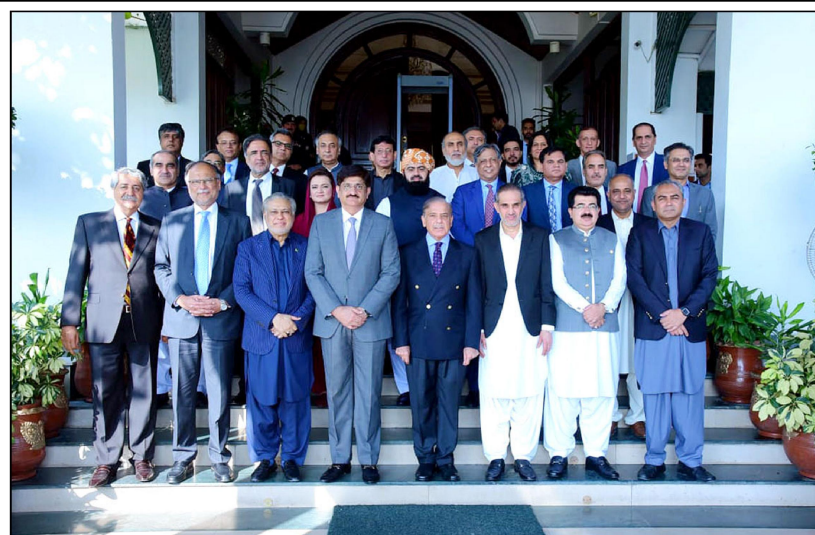
FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan on Saturday said that PTI chairman Imran Khan was facing consequences of his misdeeds and malice.

Talking to the media after addressing laptop distribution ceremony at University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), he said that district and sessions judge had given him full opportunity for

7 months to come in the court and present proofs of his innocence but Imran Khan failed to comply with the court orders.

He said that Imran Khan remained away from appearing before the court, hence, the court completed legal requirements of the case and announced its verdict. The court decision was made under a systematic manner, he added.

He further said that Imran Khan should file an appeal against the court decision as forum of the High Court and Supreme Court was open for him. If he proved himself innocent, he would be released, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with members and special invitees of the 50th meeting of the Council of Common Interests

CCI unanimously approves 7th digital census, Pakistan's population rises to 241.49 mln

Approval of 7th digital census to fortify federation: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Council of Common Interests (CCI) Saturday unanimously approved the 7th digital census in the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the 50th meeting of the CCI in which the approval was given after detailed consultation and decision-making.

The four provincial ministers and the representatives of all political parties completely agreed with the results of the census. Dr

Khalid Magsi of Balochistan Awami Party, Syed Aminul Haque of Muttahida Qaumi Movement, Maulana Asad Mahmood of Jamiat Ulema e Islam and Qamar Zaman Kaira of Pakistan Peoples Party besides the members of CCI attended the meeting on special invitation.

The prime minister in his remarks said the Council of Common Interests was an important constitutional institution for strengthening the federa-

tion. He said the first digital census in Pakistan was completed in the best manner which was a good step for the country.

The provincial governments and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics played an important role in this very vital national responsibility, he added.

He said all national institutions and provincial governments should take

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Governor Balochistan addresses FPO seminar: Strong check & balance mechanism must for bringing transparency and accountability in Govt. institutions

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that it is very important to ensure accountability, transparency and responsibility in all the government institutions for the strong check and balance mechanism is first condition.

The Governor said that there is very ambiguity about harassment in provision of justice, which needs debate and research.

He said that it is responsibility of the legal experts to make harassment more clear so as to meet the requirements of justice.

The Governor was ad-

ressing a seminar on the theme "role of ombudsman institution in ending bad governance in the government institutions" organized under the auspices of Forum of Pakistan Ombudsman (FPO) here the other day.

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QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing participants of a seminar on "Role of Ombudsman institution in ending bad governance in the government institutions"

"Kashmir to become part of Pakistan": Youm-e-Istehsal-Kashmir observed against Indian atrocities in IOK

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir was observed against the Indian forced occupation in Occupied Kashmir, here in Quetta and other parts of the Balochistan province as elsewhere in the country on Saturday.

Different rallies were taken out and protest demonstrations were held against the Indian occupation on Kashmir showing complete solidarity with the Kashmiris.

A rally organized by the Quetta district administration was led by the Kashmiri Huriyat leader, Zahid Safi in the metropolis.

All the assistance com-

missioners of Quetta, representatives of the civil society, government employees and people from other segments of the society participated in the rally.

Addressing the rally, the Huriyat leader said that India had occupied Kashmir through a black law four years ago the same day.

He said that the entire Pakistani nation condemns the Indian action of ending the special status of Kashmir. He urged the nation to pray for their Kashmiri brothers and sisters. He also urged the people not to forget the sacrifices rendered by Kashmiris for their freedom and getting right of self-determination and plebiscite.



PESHAWAR: Police personal arrest the activities of PTI during protest against arrest of former Prime Minister and Chairman PTI Imran Khan in the Toshakhana. Case

Killer highways: Balochistan's road accidents exceed terrorist fatalities

QUETTA (INP): Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, known for its rugged landscapes and natural beauty, has been grappling with a rising death toll on its national expressways.

Over the past five years, the province has witnessed a staggering 881 lives lost and more than 44 thousand injured in various accidents on the N25, N50, N85, and N70 highways, turning the once promising routes into deadly corridors.

According to data compiled by the Medical Emergency Response Center (MERC), more than 32 thousand traffic accidents have occurred on these national highways during this period, leaving an indelible mark on the province's transport safety record.

The N25 Quetta-Karachi highway, in particular, emerged as the deadliest stretch, accounting for most of the accidents and fatalities.

The alarming statistics have drawn comparisons between traffic accidents and terrorist incidents in the region. During the same five-year period, the number of lives lost in road mishaps surpassed those lost to terrorist activities.

Chief Minister describes approval of digital census from CCI as important development

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has described the approval of the first digitalized and 7th population and housing census from the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

In an policy statement issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that the provincial government ensured holding of the population census in Balochistan in transparent manner in spite of that there were big challenges of long distances, communication means and lack of internet and other modern facilities. Still the government machinery and population census staff achieved the goal of census effectively under leadership of the provincial census commissioner, Noor Muhammad Pirani.

The Chief Minister said that development planning can be done according to the public requirements only through the real population census. By doing so, it can

be made possible to provide education, health, water and other basic facilities of life to the people, the Chief Minister maintained.

He said that an increase of 3.20 percent has been recorded in the ratio of population of Balochistan in the recent population census. As per the ratio, over 2.5 million people were increased in the overall population of the province.

While the ratio of population increase was 3.37 in the last population census conducted in 2017, adding he mentioned. Moreover, Mr. Bizenjo said that there would be improvement in the share of Balochistan in the NFC Award and the quota of employment in the federal departments with the correct figures of population.

While on the other hand, there would also be transparency in the electoral process and public facilitation with new electoral rolls besides the political and administrative benefits of the census, he concluded.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi presenting painting of PNS TARIQ, to Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during the decommissioning ceremony of PNS

Pakistan Navy bids farewell to last Type-21 Ship, PNS TARIQ

KARACHI (APP): In a simple yet impressive ceremony held at PN Dockyard Karachi, Pakistan Navy decommissioned the last Type-21 Class Ship PNS TARIQ that remained in active service of the Pakistan Navy for 30 years.

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was the chief guest at the ceremony.

Upon arrival, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan

Niazi, said a Pakistan Navy news release issued here on Saturday.

While addressing a special ceremony, the chief guest acknowledged the meritorious service of the ship towards the defense of the motherland over the last three decades.

He admired the daring Search & Rescue Mission undertaken by PNS TARIQ in the Maldives during the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2005 rescuing the precious lives of 377 tourists of various nationalities, a feat acknowledged at the international level.



QUETTA: Hurriyat leader Zaid Safi addressing participants of a rally organized by District Admistration Quetta on eve of Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir

Corrupt person sentenced for crimes Imran's arrest nothing to do with election, politics: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday strongly refuted the impression that the arrest of chairman PTI Imran Khan was linked to politics or upcoming elections.

"Imran Khan was not arrested by the government, only court's verdict was implemented when he was sentenced in Tosha Khana case," she said while addressing a press conference here.

The minister said that the investigation of PTI chairman's crimes had been going on for over one year,

more than 40 hearings were done in the Tosha Khana case, but PTI chairman appeared only three times.

She said that it was a simple case of a thief punished for his crime and any effort to link it with politics or elections was unjustified. "All the legal requirements have been met and after the trial is over, the court has given its verdict, in the case of Tosha Khana and his theft has proved," she said.

The minister read the court verdict which said, "It has been successfully

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Awn briefs D-8 ministerial meeting on Pakistan efforts to promote tourism

MURREE (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Tourism and Sports Awn Chaudry on Saturday briefed the third D-8 Ministerial and fourth senior officials' meetings on Pakistan's efforts to promote its tourism. Chairing the D-8 ministerial meeting and fourth senior officials' meetings, the adviser further emphasized the important and crucial role of the tourism sector in the sustainable development and economic growth of the Member States.

He also encouraged the Member States to further strengthen their existing cooperation in the tourism sector.

The incumbent government convened the Third D-8 Ministerial and Fourth Senior Officials Meetings on Tourism in Bhurban, Murree on Saturday. The PTDC was the leading institution in hosting both the meetings in cooperation with the D-8 Secretariat.

D-8 ministers, ambassadors in Islamabad, senior officials from D-8 Member States as well as key representatives from private sec-

tor of Pakistan participated in the meetings. They engaged in fruitful discussions on advancing tourism cooperation among D-8 Member States.

D-8 Secretary-General Isaiqa Abdulqadir Imam presented the progress of the D-8's tourism cooperation and recalled the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on various aspects, particularly on tourism cooperation.

He also underscored the importance of implementing the D-8 Comprehensive Strategy on Tourism Cooperation and the Crescent Moon Initiative, which the D-8 ministers responsible for tourism adopted in their Second meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 2019. He emphasized the novelty of those initiatives in turning the challenges posed by the pandemic into opportunities.

Underlining that tourism is one of the D-8's priority areas, the D-8 Secretary-General elaborated further on tourism's significance for D-8 Member States' economic recovery. He provided an overview of the Secretariat's efforts at

promoting tourism cooperation, such as establishing collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and other international and regional organizations.

He also lauded the idea of D-8 Designated Airports by the D-8 Member States as a means to promote people-to-people and business-to-business interactions and facilitate tourism and travel among all Member States.

The D-8 Secretary-General requested the ministers to provide policy guidelines to support the organization's objective in the tourism sector. He suggested tangible programs, such as exchange of information, ideas, and best practices and increasing member-state cross-border investments to develop the tourism sector. The ultimate goal, he added, is to create world-class tourist destinations in all of the D-8 Member States. Bangladesh recalled the proposition of devising thematic tourism guidelines such as ecotourism, riverine tourism, wildlife tourism.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people participates in rally under the leadership of Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira from Radio Pakistan Chowk to Parliament House to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal (Exploitation Day), Jammu Kashmir falling on 5th August.

Senate body passes 'Zakat, Ushr (Amendment) Bill, 2023'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety in its meeting on Saturday deliberated upon crucial matters concerning poverty alleviation and social safety.

Chaired by Senator Kamran Murtaza, the Committee unanimously passed 'The Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill, 2023,' a legislative proposition introduced by Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri.

The Bill aims to address longstanding legal impediments that have hin-

dered the efficient re-allocation of the 'Zakat and Ushr' subject from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to the recently established Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, a transition initiated in 2019.

During the session, Yusuf Khan, Secretary Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety provided valuation insights into the challenges faced during the transfer of the 'Zakat and Ushr' subject.

He said that this amendment was timely and crucial to overcoming these

legal hurdles as the proposed amendment was seeking streamlining the process and ensuring a smooth transition of responsibilities to the Ministry.

Distinguished attendees at the Committee's meeting included Senator Danesh Kumar and Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad, who contributed insightful perspectives to the discussion.

Additionally, Secretary Yusuf Khan, along with other senior officers from relevant departments, were actively engaged in the proceedings.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the spillways of the Rawal Dam as open by authority after massive rain in morning hours in Federal Capital.

India snatching their identity from Kashmiris: Mashal

ISLAMABAD (Online): Mashal Malik, wife of Hurriyat Leader Yasin Malik has said India is snatching their identity from Kashmiris. "No one comes forward to stop India nor any action is taken. It is still time the world should wake up and halt Indian terrorism, she said in her message on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal.

She reiterated Kashmiris should be given the right to self-determination.

Modi made Kashmiris refugees on their land on August 05, she remarked. Modi sent Kashmiris to

camps besides making underground torture cell, she added.

Modi government jailed million of Kashmiris, she observed. Ashraf Sehrai was poisoned and Syed Ali Gilani was martyred. Indian government wants to execute Yasin Malik.

She underlined UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) exposed Indian brutalities by issuing reports twice, she underlined.

India is subjecting the entire humanity and Kashmir population to genocide, she remarked. Domiciles of Kashmir have been given to over 5 million Indians.

Rivers Indus, Sutlej run in low flood: FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that Indus flows at Guddu and Sukkur have receded from medium flood to low flood besides this, River Sutlej is also in a low flood in Suleimanki-Islam Reach.

According to the daily FFC report on Saturday, Rivers (Jhelum, Chenab & Ravi) are discharging normal flows.

Tarbela and Mangla Reservoirs have attained more than 90% of their respective maximum live storages (Tarbela: 93.56%, Mangla: 91.10%). Tarbela Dam Management and Mangla Dam Flood Mitigation Committee (FMC) are exercising maximum vigilance and care in further impounding these reservoirs well in accordance with the existing SOPs including Dam Safety Guide-

lines. Bay of Bengal Monsoon Low earlier over Northeastern Madhya Pradesh (India) has become insignificant for Pakistan.

Yesterday's trough of Westerly Wave over Northeastern Afghanistan today lies over Northern parts of Pakistan whereas Seasonal Low lies over Northern Balochistan.

Light to moderate moist currents from the Arabian Sea are penetrating into upper parts of the country up to 5,000 feet and are likely to be intensified during the next 24 hours.

The present wet spell of Moderate Intensity with Heavy Falls is likely to continue at isolated places over upper catchments of all the major rivers of IRS till 7th August 2023 and would decrease thereafter.

IRSA releases 322,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 322,900 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 388,100 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1543.50 feet and was 145.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 211,100 cusecs and 185,200 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1233.65 feet, which was 183.65 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 39,300 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

2hrs power load management being carried out

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has started two-hour temporary power load management across its all circles due to a gap in the demand and supply of electricity.

The power shortfall stood at 187 MW as the company was getting 2,000 MW against a demand of 2,187 MW from the national grid system, the IESCO said in a statement issued here on Saturday.

He said the load management would be ended once the power supply from the national grid became normal. Staff remained available at the concerned field office to address individual complaints.

Protest rally held on 'Youm-e-Istehsaal'

ISLAMABAD (APP): A protest rally against the continuous military siege and human rights violation by Indian occupying forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) was held here on Saturday on Youm-e-Istehsaal, being observed every year on August 5.

The rally was led by Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira which was participated by large number of people particularly officials and students of various educational institutions. Addressing the par-

ticipants, Qamar Zaman Kaira thanked the people for expressing solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren and urged the international community to put pressure on India to curb state terrorism, continued military siege since 5th August 2019 and other atrocities in IIOJK. Pakistan will not allow India to succeed in its nefarious designs of turning the Muslim majority into the minority in the IIOJK, he added.

He termed the freedom of Kashmir as inevitable to make the freedom of Pakistan complete.

Heat, wildfires, floods make summer of extremes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The summer of 2023 is "a summer of extremes," resulting in major damage to people's health and the environment, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said. Clare Nullis, spokesperson for the WMO, said that dangerous weather, including intense heat and devastating rainfall, has impacted large parts of the world in this "summer of extremes."

She said many new station temperature records around the world were broken in July.



ISLAMABAD: People are facing trouble due to the maneuvering of bikers on the over head pedestrian bridge at Kernal Sher Khan Shaheed road, in Federal Capital.

Sanjrani expresses solidarity with Kashmiris on Youm-e-Istehsal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has expressed his firm solidarity with the Kashmiri people on the eve of Youm-e-Istehsal, a day dedicated to commemorate the struggle for justice and freedom of Kashmiri people.

This day marks the solemn remembrance of the illegal actions taken by the Indian government on August 5, 2019, which disregarded international law and the United Nations' resolutions. In his message on Saturday, the Chairman Senate reiterated the commitment of the Pakistani nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with Kashmiris residing on both sides of the Line of Control, as well as those dispersed across the world. He deplored the unlawful annulment of Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution, which stripped away the special status of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Furthermore, the Chairman condemned the unprecedented military

siege imposed on the region in 2019, causing immense hardship to the Kashmiri populace. The message serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by Kashmiris and their ongoing struggle for self-determination. The Chairman Senate called upon the international community to uphold justice and adhere to the principles of international law. He emphasized the importance of a peaceful resolution in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

It added that most of the arrested youth were booked by the Indian authorities under black laws like Public Safety Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The report pointed out that the killings by the troops since 05 August 2019 have rendered 52 women widowed and 128 children orphaned.

It said, the troops damaged over 1,106 houses and structures and molested or disgraced 129 women and arrested 21,263 people including aged woman and half a dozen girls during CASOs across the occupied territory in the period.

The report maintained that the life of Kashmiris has been particularly made economically, politically and socially miserable since India repealed the special

stratus of the territory. The move, the report added, was aimed at changing the Muslim-majority status of the occupied territory into a minority.

As the entire occupied Jammu and Kashmir has been turned into an open-air prison for its inhabitants, thousands of Hurriyat leaders and activists, religious and political leaders, businessmen and civil society members and youth were arrested after or before 5 August 2019 and they still continue to remain in different jails of India and IIOJK.

Prominent among them are: APHC chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen, Ayaz Muhammad Akbar, Peer Saifullah, Raja

Youm-e-Istehsal Sherry expresses solidarity with brave Kashmiris of IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Saturday expressed solidarity with the brave Kashmiris of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on Youm-e-Istehsal being observed on August 5.

In her statement on the occasion, the federal minister said four years ago on this day, the Modi government usurped the rights of Kashmiris by abrogating Article 370 of the Indian Constitution.

Senator Rehman said the Modi government has created a new history of exploitation and brutality.

After the revocation of Article 370, the Modi government has made occupied Kashmir the biggest prison in the world.

"Atrocities are still being inflicted on innocent Kashmiris by the Indian forces due to the fear of rebellion. Hundreds of Kashmiri leaders who opposed the Modi government's decision are still imprisoned in Indian jails," the Minister said.

Senator Sherry Rehman said on the other hand, former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the head of the most incompetent government in Pakistani history, was sharing pictures of his previous condemnation statements.

Campaign for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Following the special orders of Islamabad Capital City Po-

lice Officer (ICCP), the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants is in full swing, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, during this campaign various teams of Islamabad Capital Police are going to the streets and door-to-door to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers as well as to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens. In this regard, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has

registered a data of 128 house servants of 306 houses from Sumbal police station jurisdiction.



The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by maintaining law and order in the federal capital adding that the registration of tenants and domestic workers could not only keep a close watch on miscreants but also prevent the elements involved in any kind of suspicious activity.

He said citizens are also requested that they can ask for the identity of a person if someone dressed in civil clothes comes to their house in order to collect the data.

Pakistan Post launches summer internship program

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Post has launched its summer internship program at a vibrant opening ceremony held here at ECO Postal Staff College on Saturday. The 6-week internship program, received an overwhelming response, from over 500 young graduates from top universities of Islamabad/Rawalpindi. Initially only 50 students with exceptional competencies and potential have been selected for the program.

These future leaders would enjoy valuable hands-on work experience on various key areas. This program

will facilitate youngsters to set the stage for successful commencement of their professional careers ahead.

Sharing his thoughts at the opening orientation ceremony, the Director General Pakistan Post said, "We are thrilled to launch the Summer Internship Program 2023, which is designed to ignite the careers of Pakistan's highly talented graduates.

The internship program aligns with sustainable practices by investing in the long-term growth and success of individuals in the postal sector.



ISLAMABAD: Police and journalist outside the District judicial complex where a court sentenced Imran Khan, the former Prime Minister and the Chairman of PTI for three years in prison in the Toshakhana case.

792 Kashmiris martyred since August 5, 2019 in IIOJK: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The grave human rights violations including killings, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, torture, and destruction and snatching of property witnessed a surge to an alarming proportion in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir after the Narendra Modi-led Hindutva Indian government's illegal move of repealing the special status of the territory on August 5, 2019.

The Kashmir Media Research report on the completion of four years of the Modi regime's illegal and unconstitutional move, revealed that Indian troops have martyred 792 Kashmiris including 16 women during the period.

It said that senior Hurriyat leader, Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai and Altaf Ahmed Shah were among dozens of Kashmiris

who died in the custody of Indian police.

It said that at least 2,369 people were critically injured due to the use of brute force including the firing of bullets, pellets, and teargas shells by Indian troops, paramilitary and police personnel on peaceful demonstrators and mourners in the territory. The report pointed out that the killings since 05 August 2019 have been higher than those in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2019.

It said, most of the victims were killed in fake encounters and in custody in the garb of violent cordon and search operations in the length and breadth of the territory. It said, many youths were picked up from their houses and then eliminated after being labeled as mujahideen or over-ground workers of

mujahid organizations.

It added that most of the arrested youth were booked by the Indian authorities under black laws like Public Safety Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

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As the entire occupied Jammu and Kashmir has been turned into an open-air prison for its inhabitants, thousands of Hurriyat leaders and activists, religious and political leaders, businessmen and civil society members and youth were arrested after or before 5 August 2019 and they still continue to remain in different jails of India and IIOJK.

Prominent among them are: APHC chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen, Ayaz Muhammad Akbar, Peer Saifullah, Raja

Merajuddin Kalwal, Shahid-ul-Islam, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Syed Shahid Yousof, Syed Shakeel Yousof, Muzafar Ahmad Dar, Ghulam Muhammad Butt, Mushtaqul Islam, Ameer Hamza, Maulvi Bashir Irfani, Bilal Siddiqi, Zafar Akbar Butt, Muhammad Yousof Mir, Muhammad Yusuf Falahe, Muhammad Rafiq Ganai, Hayat Ahmed Butt, Dr Muhammad Qasim Fakhtoo, Ghulam Qadir Butt, Muhammad Shafi Shariati, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Maulana Abdul Majid Dar, Maulana Mushtaq Veeri, Abdul Rashid Doodoo, Maulana Abdul Wahid Kishitwari, Showket Hakeem, Mehrajidin Nanda, Waheed Ahmad Gojri, Mehmood Toopewali, Feroz Adil Zargar, Dawood Zargar, Noor Muhammad Fayaz, Engineer Rasheed, human rights activists.



ISLAMABAD: A street vendor is arranging his setup along the Jinnah Avenue to sell National Flags and other stuff during the celebrations of Independence Day in Federal Capital

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Independent
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Election intrigue

A new period of uncertainty begins on Wednesday, Aug 9, 2023 — the date when Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will formally recommend to President Arif Alvi that he dissolve the 15th National Assembly.

The president will have 48 hours to comply, failing which the Assembly will automatically stand dissolved. This would mean that, at most, the current Assembly will disband sometime this coming Friday — a day before its five-year term expires on Aug 12.

This premature dissolution will, if we go by the book, give the Election Commission 90 days to hold general elections, which will mean polls latest by Nov 9.

However, with the ECP having once ignored the Constitution to delay elections for the KP and Punjab assemblies, the expectation is that anything could happen.

The government's allies do not seem to be in agreement over their candidates for caretaker prime minister, and the decision still has to be taken in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, Raja Riaz, who has so far held his cards close to his chest.

Shunned by his own party, it is no secret that Mr Riaz has been shopping for a ticket that may give him another term as MNA.

However, other powers, too, have a lot riding on the decision he has to make, and he is likely to face pressure from both the government and unelected quarters over the choice he has been empowered to make.

Due to these reasons, the appointment is being scrutinised from all angles and speculations are rife.

Another question has risen after the PM said he would want to see the elections held on the basis of the latest census, even though his allies refuse to accept its findings.

A decision to use the new census now could push the election back by months. The perception that there are layers upon layers of intrigue at play is giving rise to a palpable sense of unease among the general public.

The upcoming general elections were supposed to be a breakout point for the country — a fresh start after months of turbulence triggered by the ouster of the PTI government.

Unfortunately, all signs right now indicate extensive pre-poll engineering is being done to avoid any 'undesirable' outcome of the exercise.

It is important that the stakeholders realise that denying the people their right to choose — including by controlling the choices they have available — will only cause the prevailing sense of disenfranchisement to become entrenched.

Disinvesting the public and blocking its participation in decision-making will not help turn Pakistan around.

It is critical, given our fraught context, that Pakistanis be allowed to exercise their unfettered right to choose whatever candidates they feel are best suited to their needs.



Pervez Hoodbhoy

What PM Shehbaz Sharif blurted out recently isn't quite a national secret. Though none in high office can admit it publicly, in a moment of despair he admitted that wherever he visits, disdain is written on the faces of hosts.

Respecting those who keep asking for loans and rollovers is hard. This, said he, is no way to live and so, "today we have to decide whether to live uprightly or by begging".

Begging is a foul word. But a second whammy followed: "India has progressed ahead but we have been left behind due to our own faults."

This understated the truth: Pakistan is seen everywhere as problematic even as major world powers cosy up to India; foreign companies are fleeing

skill-empty Pakistan but high-tech semiconductor manufacturers woo India; and Pakistan's space programme has faded away even as Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan elevated India to the world's top four space-faring nations.

Those without blinders had seen this coming. No 21st-century country can function on tribal values, an 11th-century Arab-origins education system, and a 19th-century colonial administrative apparatus.

Proof: Pakistan is desperate to outsource its airports, cannot run its railways, state industrial enterprises are major liabilities, and it exports mostly primitive items like textiles and leather.

Political instability and corruption are important factors but not decisive. How we educate our young is at the core of our backwardness.

Snuffing out reasoning capacity and rewarding mediocrity means that even college graduates are unable to read, comprehend, calculate, or innovate. Many become Careem captains and pizza delivery boys.

As for Pakistani PhDs: nobody wants them.

Last year, overseas work permits were issued mostly to drivers and construction workers. The brain drain of earlier decades has become brawn-drain.

To fix it all, the Sharif brothers — expected back in the saddle soon — want more useless universities, more highways and roads, buy more Chinese power plants, and, of course, distribute more free laptops. The PM pledged another 100,000 would be given away this year. What the last 100,000 accomplished, no one knows.

So let me propose a different fix. Outraged readers may want to practise hurling an inkpot. Others can have a good chuckle. All will agree — I included — that it cannot fly. Still, here it goes:

Let's close down the federal and provincial ministries of education, give the officers and staff a golden handshake, and send them to wherever they can make an honest living.

Accustomed to the good life of pushing papers from one desk to another, that won't be easy. All compassionate citizens will be called upon to pray for them.

Next: invite tenders from Finland, Singapore, Japan, China, Vietnam and five other countries. The successful bidder for a 10-year contract must reconstruct Pakistan's primary, middle, and high school system. The TORs will include implementing a space-age curriculum, examination system, training teachers and arranging for textbooks, teaching materials, school infrastructure, and school management systems.

Contract renewal will hinge upon enhanced performance of students evaluated through standardised tests which measure reading, comprehension, and math skills. Students may opt for Urdu, English or five to seven regional languages. Performance will be assessed using best international practices. Equally important will be enhancing subject knowledge of teachers, pedagogical practices, and all that is expected of a teacher.

Reaping the dividends will need a generation or two. After that, the sky will turn blue. Pakistan, the sick man of Asia, will be cured and can then race towards becoming the

subcontinent's most vibrant country. India will be left trailing behind in a friendly-unfriendly competition between normal countries. But here's the rub. Pakistan is not a normal country with normal aspirations. Belief in blind memorisation is unshakable. All subjects including science and math are taught and evaluated as though they were holy texts. Securing high marks is paramount.

But if successful memorisation is all that's needed for good marks, why master concepts? Public demand for change is weak and so most schools are below mediocre.

Recently, I met some remarkably enlightened principals of schools for lower-middle-class children. Risking disapproval from ministry officials and parents, they strive to make education useful. Even those from semi-rural areas are dismayed by what the Single National Curriculum (SNC) requires them to do. Some are quietly resisting.

Proposed by Imran Khan, SNC was turbo-charged by Sharif's government. To accommodate a massive amount of religious

materials within school hours, many schools have been forced to drop their library period. On one child's report card I saw 'Art' scratched out and replaced by 'Nazira'. On another, computer classes had been sacrificed.

The principal of a school in Chakwal told me his teachers, including female ones, were recently herded to rural "teaching centres". To fulfil SNC's tajweed requirement, for days they practised the proper pronunciation of Arabic words.

Elsewhere magistrates and police are strictly enforcing other religious parts of SNC. That most schools don't have labs, libraries, or fans matters not.

This being Pakistan, laws work differently for the rich and the poor. British-linked 'O'-'A'-level schools for the upper and upper-middle classes largely evade SNC.

Greasing the palms of magistrates, police officers, and school inspectors is part of the game. But it works because Pakistan's ruling classes agree that children — all except their own — must be obedient robots. -- Courtesy Dawn

The Anglo-Saxon burden



Aqdas Afzal

We live in an Anglo-Saxon world. In a broad sense, this means that a combination of UK-US institutions has come to encompass our lives. For starters, many people around the world speak English, an Anglo-Saxon language. The dispensation of justice and contract enforcement in many countries is also based on Anglo-Saxon legal traditions visible in the precepts of the common law.

Additionally, capitalism, the dominant economic system today, truly came of age in Anglo-Saxon nations with first British and now American economic domination. Specifically, the story that explains exponential economic growth during the Industrial Revolution focuses on the institution of Anglo-Saxon property rights within capitalism as these are said to

have created the right incentives. Even cricket is said to have Anglo-Saxon connections given that the name of the sport possibly derives from the Anglo-Saxon word 'cricce' meaning a crooked staff.

But, where Anglo-Saxon institutions have come to dominate the world through language, law, commerce and sport they have been able to do so through tremendous agility, flexibility and dynamism, always evolving to address changing social, political and economic ground realities.

Recently, the cricketing world's attention was focused on the somewhat controversial dismissal of an English batsman during the second Test at Lord's. The English cricket team and English cricket fans were up in arms against this dismissal as it was deemed to have gone against the norms or the 'spirit of the game'. It even led to an interesting though good-humoured exchange between the prime ministers of UK and Australia as they met on the sidelines of a recent Nato summit.

The English reaction was so intense because the English-speaking people pride themselves on meticulously adhering to the formal rules and norms — or the institutions — of this sport. 'It's not cricket' is used in the English language to denote unfair behaviour.

This was all well and good. But, 90 years ago, the English cricket team was responsible for introducing new tactics in cricket that had been earlier considered unfair and had resulted in serious acrimony between England and Australia that lasted until World War II.

In 1932-33, the English team's efforts at regaining the Ashes came up against a fortress called Donald Bradman. Bradman was, and probably his record still stands, the best batsman that ever played the game averaging around 100, twice that of other world-class batsmen. English bowlers closely studied Bradman to identify chinks in his armour. Even though it was considered unsportsmanlike to target batsmen, Douglas Jardine, the English captain, concluded that Bradman appeared vulnerable against short, bouncing deliveries aimed straight at the body. Jardine directed his pacers to specifically target the Australian batsmen, while placing a ring of fielders on

the leg side. As the 'bodyline' series got under way, Australian batsmen were often dismissed cheaply in attempts to shield their bodies from dangerous deliveries. Predictably, England won the Ashes series of 1932-33 four Tests to one.

In the same vein, the Anglo-Saxon nations have never shied away from changing their economic policies in their continuous quest for more prosperity. Ever since the implosion of the Soviet Union, the bulk of economic policy advice coming from international financial institutions such as the IMF has focused on the Washington Consensus. Washington Consensus policies drove a wedge between the state and the market, arguing that economic production and redistributive outcomes had to be left to the whims of the free market with a minimum, if any, input from the state.

This thinking was also extended to global trade, with the WTO asking countries around the world to open up their borders to goods and merchandise. At the turn of the century, China's entry in the WTO was hailed as a significant win for the Washington

Consensus as it was proclaimed that free trade would eventually force China to become a Western-style liberal democracy.

According to the IMF's April 2021 WEO database, China's GDP amounted to barely 13 per cent of US GDP in 2001.

Twenty years later, this number is around 73-75pc. This spectacular economic, and the resulting geopolitical, rise of China has forced Anglo-Saxon policymakers to reject their own free trade ideas in favour of state-sponsored industrial and innovation strategies that in the case of the US, interestingly, have been conceived by Jake Sullivan, the national security adviser. In a sense, the US is gearing up for a serious economic fight with China by providing massive industrial subsidies in order to rejuvenate industrial hubs. The Financial Times labelled these momentous changes as "the new era of big government".

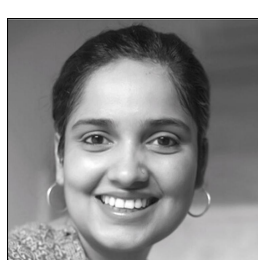
As a caretaker government in Pakistan is about to unfurl its wings, the new finance minister would be well advised to use the period to bring together the relevant experts to evaluate what has not worked and how Pakistan can develop

economic policies that address its social, political and economic ground realities.

Perhaps, the new finance minister would need to follow in the footsteps of Anglo-Saxon policymakers to modify free trade policies that have not worked in Pakistan's favour. Where India has gained tremendously from free trade after opening up its economy in 1991, Pakistan has not fared well with persistent balance-of-payments crises and consequent exchange rate depreciations despite accepting assistance from the IMF 12 times since 1993.

It should now be clear that given Pakistan's abysmal state of human capital, Pakistan's economy cannot prosper in a free trade regime unless a systematic two-pronged strategy is employed. This will involve simultaneously picking winners and providing them with state support in the shape of cheap capital and energy — the IT sector is a good candidate — while channelling massive investment into health and education for Pakistan's young population so that overall productivity in the economy can go up. -- Courtesy Dawn

Lactation & work



Hareem Sumbul Bari

World Breastfeeding Week is upon us. Once again we see policymakers, institutions and communities step out of the void that breastfeeding support exists in all year and speak about it.

It's good because at least it gets us talking without running to hide at the mere mention of 'breast'. It's not that good because a breastfeeding family is in that process for much longer than a week if they can help it. Some actual changes in policies — government and organisational — as well as focused community support would give us a lot more to talk about this week.

This year the governing theme is 'Enabling breastfeeding: making a difference for working parents'. Maternity leave in Pakistan was 90 days of paid leave but the recent Maternity and Paternity Act, 2020, gives us 180 days for the first child, 120 days for the second and 90 days for the third child from the date of inception. It also has a clause for paternity leave. This comes as a great relief for working parents if they have been able to initiate breastfeeding and are to hold on to it for as long.

I often say that breastfeeding is natural but it may not come naturally to a new mother. It is indeed a skill that like any other needs to be learnt and taught. A few generations ago when breastfeeding was more common, learning mostly came by proximity to the action. That's not the case anymore. The US has

an initiation rate of over 90 per cent, but most barely make it to a few months of breastfeeding — mainly owing to their maternity leave of up to 12 weeks — and more commonly just a few weeks post birth.

Pakistan is teetering at the edge with a 15pc breastfeeding initiation rate despite our very strong religious and social inclinations to want to breastfeed. At this rate, most parents won't be breastfeeding once they return to work. In order to enable breastfeeding for working families, we must ensure they're breastfeeding in the first place. They need to be supported with lactation-trained and skilled professionals before birth and for as long as their breastfeeding journey lasts. Every medical practitioner they come into contact with should have at least a basic understanding of lactation so as to not inadvertently jeopardise the patient's breastfeeding journey. Then perhaps we'll have more parents returning to work and being able to continue to breastfeed. Having said that, many mothers even today are cut short in the effort, because of lack of support at work and home once their maternity leave ends. I cannot stress enough that breastfeeding is not a one-person job. It is the responsibility of the community to preserve it.

A mother returning to work before her breastfeeding journey ends will need to pump to maintain supply every three hours for around 10 to 15 minutes. Having worked in the corporate sector for over two decades even before having a child of my own, I clearly observed men taking longer and more frequent smoking breaks than that.

It is an easy win for any organisation to support their new mothers on board. All a mother needs is access to a comfortable, private room that isn't a

bathroom, and a 15-minute break every three hours. That's not at all disruptive — if smoking hasn't been for years!

Breast pumps can be imported tax-free in the US and most insurance programmes cover free provision. However, in Pakistan, it took the local franchisee of an international breast pump company months to even explain why a breast pump is not a luxury item. It is still taxed at over 50pc and is classified as a water pump instead of medical equipment. No health insurance plan covers it, which takes it out of the reach of the common man completely.

The FBR needs to re-evaluate its policies regarding the unfair taxes that take breastfeeding out of the game altogether for most parents. Misleading advertising of artificial nipples and breastmilk substitutes needs to be curbed as they lead to the cessation of breastfeeding.

We must provide more information to the masses on how best to support a mother going back to work, ranging from knowing breastmilk handling and storage protocols, having the correct tools to give the child expressed milk without compromising the latch, to moral support for a mother who is double-teaming.

For whoever is reading this, there is so-much in here each one of you can do to empower breastfeeding families and sustain a breastfeeding-friendly environment in work life.

Whether it is getting them access to breastfeeding support while they're pregnant or initiating policies where-ever you have the power you can make those changes. Without everyone pit-ching in, breastfeeding cannot truly be supported and we are here to change just that. -- Courtesy Dawn

Walking the talk



Aisha Khan

The planet remains in turmoil and global warming is on the ascendancy. Stabilisation of the climate regime remains a major concern for the international community but conversations taking place on the need to accelerate commitments and reexamine financial architecture are lagging behind.

Despite 27 years of negotiations and the Paris Agreement of 2015, differences have increased and hostilities intensified. The party positions at the Bonn climate talks and the many disjointed attempts at financial reform are not reassuring signals for a reset.

This approach of duality with agreement on intent and laggard movement in action is very disturbing. Historic heatwaves, changes in weather patterns and disruptions in hydrologic regime are now sweeping the world. Once the process of destabilisation kicks in it will be difficult to control its dynamics.

The stock-take organised by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination on Aug 3 highlighted the challenges faced by the country. With Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as the chief guest and attended by government officials, Senate and National Assembly members, parliamentarians, diplomats, civil society and media, the event provided the perfect platform for sharing Pakistan's climate journey.

While the achievements and contributions of the ministry made in the

short span of 15 months leave behind an impressive track record, the daunting challenges and multiple constraints with no imminent solution, are a matter of grave concern.

The Conference of Parties this year will take stock of the Nationally Determined Contributions and pitched battles on finance and financial architecture will be fought in Dubai.

The Loss and Damage Fund will also draw considerable attention. In the lead-up to COP28, many asks will need a push to gather support for building momentum.

With visible impacts of climate change accompanied by losses and fatalities, it is the right time to seek expansion of de-risking finance facilities controlled by multilateral development banks and greater incorporation of climate risks.

This is also the time to lobby for increasing the voices of developing countries in multilateral institutions more effectively. The UNSG climate ambition summit in September will provide yet another opportunity for bridging distrust and using the multilateral platform to move towards concrete landing points.

Similarly, the IMF/World Bank annual meeting in October in Marrakech can be leveraged for discussions to convey a stance on ending fossil fuel financing and the need for aligning high-level policy to ensure fiscal space for climate investments, not austerity.

As we get closer to the red line of 2030 for emissions reduction, the tensions and competition for resources between the SDGs and Paris Agreement goals will also increase.

This time should be used for reiterating the individual nexus between climate, nature, and development goals with emphasis on adequate financing for both.

Pakistan's recently launched National Adapta-

tion Plan provides a vision strategy for strengthening resilience. The action plan will not be of much use without a timebound approach and access to finance.

It is time for the country to accept the home truth that reliance on external finance alone will not provide relief from climate change. The window for effective response is shrinking fast.

It is time to broaden our understanding of adaptation and use it as a step change to keep pace with new realities. This applies as much to managing the unsustainable-increase in population to empowering women and exploring opportunities for regional social, economic and ecological integration.

Just as our national security policy has shifted its pivot from political to economic, we need to alter the way we look at climate change. Unfortunately, it is a subject that has not been embedded in public consciousness.

Experts deal with it technically, governments bureaucratically and electronic media with low emphasis.

Given the keen interest taken by people in politics, economics and food security, it should be used as the entry point for integrating climate into every conversation by linking it with the subject under discussion. Climate advocacy like climate diplomacy cannot be effective without sustained engagement.

We need to change but real change requires strong political leadership and a sharp focus on the reform agenda as part of the stock-take at home and at COP28. Inaction is not an option.

As the tenure of the present government comes to an end, it is important to highlight the need for the interim government to keep climate high on the agenda and provide strong leadership to carry the momentum built by Minister Sherry Rehman. -- Courtesy Dawn

Naqvi reviews complaint cell performance

Punjab zoos set for a thrilling transformation, CM initiatives approved

Independent Report
LAHORE: A meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, to assess the performance of the Chief Minister's Complaint Cell. In the meeting, suggestions and recommendations were reviewed to optimize the functioning of the Complaint Cell, with a strong emphasis on formulating an efficient and fool-proof procedure for immediate resolution of public issues, from complaint registration to application disposal, ensuring continuous updates to the concerned individuals.

During the meeting, it was agreed to hold weekly

sessions to monitor the Chief Minister's Complaint Cell. The Chief Minister was apprised that the Additional Secretary would serve as the focal person in each department, dedicated to resolving problems swiftly. The application process would be facilitated through the Complaint Cell's web page, channeling it directly to the respective Secretary. In case of unresolved public complaints within the specified timeframe, appropriate action against the relevant authorities would be taken.

Notable attendees included Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir, Chief Secretary, Special Secretary from the

Chief Minister's Office, Punjab Information Technology Board, Special Monitoring Unit, and officials from the Chief Minister's Complaint Cell. Meanwhile, a significant meeting chaired by the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, was held in the Chief Minister's Office. During the meeting, in principle approval was granted for the upgradation of zoos in Lahore, Gujranwala, and Faisalabad, along with the introduction of an e-ticketing system.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi directed the implementation of family packages, summer packages.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-Ur-Rehman leads the rally along with others at Al-Hamra Arts Council to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal Jammu and Kashmir as it is the fourth year of the Indian military siege of occupied Kashmir and against illegal, immoral, and unconstitutional step to strip IIOJK of its special status.

KP Governor leads Kashmir Exploitation Day's rally

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Haji Ghulam Ali led a big protest rally in connection with 'Kashmir Exploitation Day' here Saturday.

The rally was attended by people of all walks including caretaker provincial ministers, advisers, special assistants, politicians, local government representatives and officials were started at Chief Minister House and culminated at the Governor House.

Holding placards and banners, the rally raised slogans against the oppression and cruelties of the fascist Modi Government on innocent Kashmiris of the occupied valley.

The participants strongly condemned the lockdown and illegal occupation of Indian

illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and revoking the special status of the held Valley four years ago on August 5, 2019.

The Governor said that the oppressed Kashmiris had become victims of India's oppression and cruelties for several decades.

He said that a message was passed in the world that the moral, political, and diplomatic support of oppressed Kashmiris would continue till they achieved the right of self-determination as promised to them by the UNO.

He said that today was a black day in the history of Kashmir as four years ago on this day Modi Government had illegally revoked the special status of IIOJK and broken all records of cruelties and human rights violations there.

Sindh CM Advisor breaks ground for constructing new building for 1122 service

BADIN, Aug 05 (APP): The establishment of the emergency service 1122 station in Distt Badin is a milestone achievement and indicates the commitment of the Sindh government to combat disasters to ensure safer and risk-free living for inhabitants in the whole province. This was stated by Advisor to CM Sindh for Relief and Rehabilitation Haji Rasul Bux Chandio while performing the groundbreaking for the construction of the new building to house the 1122 service in its new premises in Badin.

He said that the provision of this service to

a far-flung area like Badin was proof enough that the Sindh government was serious about achieving that goal, a press release issued here on Saturday said. The advisor said that the ambulance service is already operating in 29 districts of Sindh while the emergency service for accidents, building collapse and fire is being provided at six divisional headquarters along with the ambulance service.

While appreciating the role of Rescue Service, the advisor said that it has always stood the test of time in providing medical and emergency service.



SARGODHA: State Minister for Interior Division Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju and Vice Chancellor University of Sargodha Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas distributing Laptop among meritorious students under the Prime Minister National Laptop Scheme Phase III at the University of Sargodha.

GB Assembly passes resolution condemning the Bajaur incident

GILGIT (APP): The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Assembly unanimously passed a resolution condemning the Bajaur incident, here Saturday.

During the 23rd session, the resolution presented in the Assembly by the member of Jamiat-i-Ulema-e-Islam (F), who is the Minister of Excise and Taxation, Zakat, Usher, was unanimously approved by the Assembly members.

It has strongly condemned the tragedy and has strongly demanded from the government that the terrorists involved in this tragedy should be targeted and given severe punishment so that the grieving families get justice.

In this resolution, sympathy has also been expressed with the families of martyrs and the injured.

SBCA assistant director kidnaps, tortures driver

KARACHI (INP): Reports have revealed that the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) assistant director kidnapped and subjected his driver to a harrowing ordeal of torture. The victim, identified as Fahad, reported the incident to the authorities, leading to the registration of a case at the New Karachi police station. According to the victim's account, the assistant director had allegedly been involved in sending extortion demands to builders.

When Fahad, the driver, refused to partake in such illegal activities, he claimed to have faced severe repercussions.



KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi planting a mango sapling at Governor House.

PPP always faced courts, no one is above law: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit of Sindh, Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized that in the eyes of the law, no one is above the law, and no one can be allowed to violate it.

The leadership of the People's Party has consistently prioritized the supremacy of law and has consistently appeared before the courts.

Addressing a press conference at the Archives Complex in Clifton, Karachi, he stated that every Pakistani citizen is subject to the law; no one is exempt from its provisions.

Sharjeel Memon said

that our esteemed founding leader and beloved figure among the people, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was unjustly executed in a fabricated case. Numerous false charges were leveled against Benazir Bhutto, leading to her persecution. Despite these challenges, the People's Party has consistently advanced with a commitment to upholding the supremacy of law.

The Minister for Information stated that political parties unequivocally condemn the use of petrol bombs in attacks on the police, and they do not engage in fear-mongering, the individual who once baselessly labeled others as thieves

and criminals has now abandoned the facade of falsehood.

He pointed out that during the tenure of the former prime minister, former president Asif Ali Zardari was arrested, and Faryal Talpur was transferred from the hospital to jail on the night of Eid.

While, we would never wish for women from any household to be involved in political opposition, this individual disregarded even basic societal norms, he added.

This person attempted to tarnish the country's reputation by exploiting the no-confidence motion.

Governor inaugurates pictorial exhibition on 'Kashmir Exploitation Day'

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori and former president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Mohammed Yaqoob Khan on Saturday inaugurated a pictorial exhibition on 'Kashmir Exploitation Day' here at the Arts Council of Pakistan - Karachi.

While addressing the exhibition ceremony, the Governor said that the revocation of Article 370 to end special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) could not undermine the struggle of Kashmiri brothers and sisters for

their right to self-determination.

While paying tributes to Kashmiris, he said that Indian atrocities were widely condemned.

The Governor said that Pakistan stood shoulder to shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters.

Speaking on Governor's initiative, he said that 0.1 million successful candidates would be provided with Information Technology courses.

He said that the youth would be provided with courses including Artificial Intelligence (AI).

FIA arrests 3 men involved in hawala hundi business

PESHAWAR (INP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Commercial Banking Circle Peshawar on Saturday claimed to have arrested three men for their alleged involvement in hawala and hundi business.

According to the details, the suspects were found in possession of 750 euro, 3100 Chinese yen, 105 ringgit, \$20 US dollars, and Rs 5,500,000 in cash.

The suspects failed to provide satisfactory explanations to the authorities regarding the source of the currency, which raised concerns.

As per the FIA statement.

Baligh condemns Indian atrocities against Kashmiris

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman has termed August 5 the darkest day of Kashmir history when India forcibly, unlawfully revoked special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in 2019.

Addressing a seminar held at Alhamra Arts Council in connection with Kashmir Exploitation Day (Youm-e-Istehsal) here on Saturday, he said: "Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan and people of Pakistan stand with the Kashmiris in their struggle for the right to self-determination."

The governor strongly condemned the oppression and atrocities being committed against the people of Kashmir, adding that India had not been able to suppress the spirit of freedom of Kashmiris despite the oppression and persecution. He also pointed out ongoing human rights violations due to which the supremacist

Indian forces made life hell for Kashmiri people, as they crossed all limits of barbarism and inhuman acts.

He said that the United Nations should take notice of the violation of human rights in the valley. If the international community could come together on the issue of Ukraine, why not on the issue of Kashmir, he questioned. He said that today the Pakistani nation expresses full solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers and sisters who were making history with their blood for their legitimate right to self-determination and struggle for freedom.

Hurriyat leader Muhammad Mushtaq Shah said that ironically the human rights organisations and world powers adopted a callous approach toward the brewing human crisis in the IIOJK and did not take any action against Hindutva regime.

He said inhuman forces neither spared Kashmiri leaders nor women and children.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information and Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses a press conference.

Istehsal day being observed against Indian atrocities in IIOJK :Ashrafi

LAHORE (APP): Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Affairs Maulana Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said on Saturday that Kashmir Exploitation Day (Youme Istehsal) was being marked against illegally change of status of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

Addressing a press conference here at Jamia Manzoorul Islamia, he said that Kashmir was an integral part of Pakistan and India could not change its demographic status illegally. He said the stance of Pakistan and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was that Kashmir issue should be resolved according to the UN resolutions. He said that it was right of Kashmiris to decide whether they wanted to live with India or Pakistan.

Ashrafi said: "It is unanimous decision of the armed forces, the people and the government that

the issue of Kashmir should be resolved according to the resolutions of United Nations". A propaganda was being resorted to on the Kashmir issue that the OIC had changed its position on Kashmir, which was entirely untrue, he said.

Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said that Pakistan had never refused to dialogue, adding that more than 1.5 billion people live in the region and due to the Kashmir issue, the world peace was in danger.

"If India wants dialogue then the way of dialogue passes through Kashmir and talks are not possible without it," Ashrafi said.

He said the IIOJK had become the largest prison where aggression was continued, rape was common and sanctity of mosques was violated.

He said that India should immediately follow the UN resolutions and withdraw the decision of August 5.

August 5 move exposed India's dual secularism: CM Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday said that August 05, 2019 move of Modi's government exposed the India's double standard about secularism before the world.

While terming Indian atrocities against Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), he said that India's brutal

actions were the dehumanizing move.

He said that the evil face of India had been exposed to the world.

The chief minister said that the international community would have to raise its voice against Indian brutalities in the IIOJK. He said that IIOJK was an inevitable part of Pakistan and Pakistanis would become voice of IIOJK at all forums.

'Cantt people's problems being solved at their doorsteps'

SARGODHA (APP): Chief executive Officer (CEO) Cantonment Board Malik Zafar Mehmood Awan said on Saturday that people's problems were being solved at their doorsteps. Talking to APP, he said that his doors were open for all people. He said he was committed to solving people's problems. He said without the support of people living in cantonment areas, the department could not fulfill its responsibilities. He asked people to point out their problems and give suggestions for their solution.

He said that people living in Cantt area were also facing problems like sanitation, sewage, road repair, illegal encroachment, maintenance of filtration plants, etc., and all-out efforts were being made for solving them. The Cantt Board chief executive officer said that after his deployment in Sargodha, he had continuously been engaged with people for solving their problems.

He said that orders had been issued for desilting drains around the University Road so that rainwater could not accumulate on the road.

13 vehicles impounded for overcharging

SARGODHA (INP): Thirteen commercial vehicles were impounded in Sargodha district on Saturday for overcharging and carrying illegal gas cylinders.

According to the media reports, the crackdown was launched by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sargodha, Cap @ Shoaib Ali, and senior district administration officials. The vehicles were impounded at different bus stops in the city.

DC Ali said that the crackdown would continue without any discrimination and that strict action would be taken against vehicles that overcharge passengers or carry illegal gas cylinders. He added that the crackdown was part of the government's efforts to ensure the safety of passengers and to prevent accidents.

The impounded vehicles included vans, buses, and trucks. The drivers of the vehicles were fined and the vehicles were released after the fines were paid.

This is not the first time that a crackdown has been launched against overcharging and gas violations in Sargodha. In recent months, there have been several accidents involving vehicles that were carrying illegal gas.



PESHAWAR: Police personal stand alert for any situation after arrest of former Prime Minister and Chairman PTI Imran Khan in the Toshakhana.

CM KP condemns Indian govt oppressive actions in IIOJK

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan in connection of Kashmir Exploitation Day, on Saturday denouncing the Indian government's tyrannical and unjust measures in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a statement issued here the Chief Minister expressed solidarity with the who have endured state-sponsored terrorism from India over the past seven decades.

He accused the Indian government of depriving the people of Kashmir of their fundamental right to self-determination, emphasizing that the actions taken on August 5, 2019, have only added to

the tale of suffering of the innocent Kashmiri people. Muhammad Azam Khan highlighted the grave violations of human rights in the occupied territory, calling for the attention of international human rights organizations to take immediate action.

He reaffirmed his commitment to continue supporting the ethical, political, and diplomatic struggle of the Kashmiri people for freedom.

He urged the international community, including the United Nations and other human rights organizations, to take note of the oppression faced by the Kashmiri people at the hands of the Indian government. CM KP emphasized that lasting peace.

Bilawal links economic stability to trade promotion

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday said that the progress of the country is impossible without facilitating the business community, as the economic stability cannot be established without the promotion of trade.

While referring to the former President Asif Ali Zardari's tenure, he said that no economic policy was formulated without consulting the business community.

Addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of FPCCI Tower and annexe at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry House, he said that the effective economic diplomacy can contribute to sustained economic growth, stabilize self-sustaining growth

trajectory, and expand commerce.

Bilawal said that the global economic landscape is constantly evolving. "I have always advocated that businessmen and women possess unique qualities that make them effective ambassadors in certain contexts. Their expertise in international trade, commerce and business enables them to bridge gaps between nations and foster economic cooperation," he added.

The PPP Chairman said that he believes that business people can find their own ways to connect with each other and form strong economic partnerships, promoting cross border investments which can sustain geopolitical shocks, adding that as the Foreign Minister, during his overseas visits, he made efforts to protect and

promote entrepreneurs business and their integration into global value chain. "In Iraq, we signed an MoU between the FPCCI and its Iraqi counterpart and established the Business Council. You should all benefit from these arrangements," he added. The Foreign Minister said that he was happy to note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is making its utmost efforts to facilitate the businesses and resolve their concerns, adding that to address delays in attestations of documents, businessmen have now been allocated exclusive time slots at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at our Camp offices.

"I'm confident that our collective efforts would help us realize the dream of transforming Pakistan into an economic powerhouse," he hoped.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar chairing the meeting of ECNEC

Malawi wants to promote bilateral trade with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Younos Abdul Karim, High Commissioner of Malawi to Pakistan said that his country wants to promote bilateral trade with Pakistan as both countries possess good potential to do trade with each other in many items.

He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) along with a delegation. Ch. Karamat Ullah, President, Trade Federation for East Africa also accompanied them.

The High Commissioner said that Malawi is taking many initiatives to create an enabling business environment and is looking for investment in various sectors of its economy including hotel industry, construction, tourism and agriculture sectors to ensure sustainable economic growth. He said that Pakistani investors should explore Malawi for joint ventures and

investment.

He said that the Chief Executive of Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI) would visit Pakistan and ICCI should sign an MoU with him to promote business linkages between the private sectors of both countries in order to explore untapped areas of mutual cooperation.

He also said that ICCI should take its delegation to Malawi to interact with Malawian counterparts and explore business collaborations.

He assured that his High Commission would facilitate them in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Malawi is a landlocked country of Southeast Africa and we would like to strengthen trade relations with it to get easy access to the African market.

Pakistan, China to set up joint lab for crop pest management

BEIJING (INP): University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) and Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (IPPCAS) signed here Letter of Intent for establishing Pakistan-China joint laboratory for crop pest management.

The two sides will kick start the operation of the joint laboratory and carry out tests, demonstrations and joint research on integrated disease control technologies for crop pests and diseases of common concern, as well as technical personnel training and personnel exchange and training, according to IPPCAAS, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on

Saturday.

"Pakistan suffers a lot from the pest problem. For example, the white fly is affecting cotton, citrus, guava, etc. When our fruits and vegetables are being exported to different Middle East countries, sometimes they are rejected due to the presence of these fruit flies and residues of pesticide. Out of the 1,300 molecules of the pesticides registered in Pakistan.

Not a single molecule is able to control the white fly," Prof. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Chairman, Department of Entomology of UAF told CEN.

He said that Pakistan is also facing the issue of economic threshold level (CEN) reported on

Makhdoom says: Survey of Thar land continued despite of limited resources

MITHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Revenue Makhdoom Mehboob-u-Zaman on Saturday said that the survey work of the land of Tharparkar was being carried out despite of limited resources, however it would be completed in stipulated time.

He expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of survey and settlement of desert areas of Kaloi and Islamkot here in the office of Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar. The provincial minister said that this survey work had been started from Kaloi area however it would be extended to Islamkot and other deserted areas of Sindh. He said that the provincial government was also paying attention to

city survey and old city survey records would be refreshed and in this connection, Sindh Finance department has released some funds but more funds were also needed.

He said that it would be conducted in three types including Field, Block and city survey which had been started from Kaloi and later from Islamkot which would help to boost economic activities in arid zones.

Members of Sindh Assembly Rana Hameer Singh, Faqir Sher Muhammad Balalani, Senator Krishna Kumari, Director Settlement Survey and records Hyderabad Mushtaq Ahmed Shaikh, DC Tharparkar Lal Dino Mangi and other officers were also present on the occasion.

PCGA chairman for adapting cotton quality on modern needs

MULTAN (APP): Chairman Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), Chaudhary Waheed Arshad, said that it was dire need to adapt the quality of cotton on modern requirements keeping in view its importance in country's economy.

He expressed these views while addressing the ongoing training course at Pakistan Cotton Standards Institute as a special guest here on Saturday.

He further said that cotton grading was a

fundamental process in our industry which determines the quality of cotton fibers and added that the demand of quality products increasing rapidly at the international level so it is not possible for Pakistan to remain indifferent to these changes.

PCGA chairman said that solid steps were being taken at the government level in view of the increasing importance of standard and quality of cotton and its products in order to strengthen country's economy.

Kundi says: BISP payments to be made more transparent through bank accounts

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday said the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) payments to the beneficiaries were made more transparent through new disbursement mechanism of transferring amount through bank accounts.

He expressed these views while addressing as a chief guest the launching ceremony of Benazir Social Protection Accounts held here at a private marriage hall. The special assistant said the bank cards were introduced with the efforts of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as there were complaints regarding deduction of amounts

which would be addressed now.

He said there were also complaints of deduction by the banks as the devices of only two banks were distributed. Now, the payment facility through bank accounts with the support of State Bank of Pakistan was being provided in seven districts of the country. It was a pilot project, after which the facility would be provided at all the banks registered under State Bank across the country.

He said the distribution of Benazir cards to the transgender persons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been started. On this occasion, the aid amount was also handed over to first ever registered transgender of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa named Jahanzeb alias Aroosa. Besides, the Bank Al-Falah's ATM cards of Benazir Social Protection Accounts were distributed among other deserving women.

He said all the transgender registered with NADRA would be able to get BISP cards.

Faisal Karim Kundi said that when he assumed the charge of ministry, the number of BISP beneficiaries in Dera Ismail Khan was 126,000. A dynamic survey was conducted after the last years flooding in the area and now the number of registered BISP beneficiaries was 165,000 in the district and the registration process was yet underway.



KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari laying the foundation stone of FPCCI Tower at the Federation house.

Increased POL, power prices to make local products uncompetitive in market

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) while rejecting the frequent increase in prices of electricity, gas and petroleum products has said that the massive jump in electricity base rates and petroleum products prices would make local products uncompetitive in the international market.

In a statement on Saturday, APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood remarked that at a time of unsatisfactory export volumes and low industrial growth, the hike in electricity base tariffs for the industry, especially for the SMEs, was really surprising. If the decision was not withdrawn, it will prove dangerous for the country's SME sector, he stressed.

He said that the ever-increasing cost of production in the country was the real threat to both large-scale manufacturing (LSM) and small-scale

businesses (SMEs), as frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in price against dollar were posing further challenges for the economy.

Chairman APBF Ibrahim Qureshi while describing the government's decision to increase electricity tariffs by Rs7.50 per unit as an incorrect move, urged the government to reverse the proposed increase. The government's decision to increase the electricity tariff is anti-industry, and the APBF strongly condemns the government's decision and calls on it to withdraw this move.

He said that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been negatively affecting running businesses, many of which have closed their operations.

Chinese prosecutors sue 167 for infringing on business secrets in H1

BEIJING5 (Xinhua/APP): Chinese prosecutors sued 167 individuals for infringing on business secrets in the first half of the year, up 89.8 percent year-on-year, said the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP).

The perpetrators are often employees within an enterprise, especially key technicians and executives, who choose to work for another employer, according to prosecutors.

The data was disclosed as part of a review of intellectual property right infringement in China between January and June.

Prosecutors also saw new types of intellectual property crimes and an

increasing number of tricky and complicated cases, said the SPP, warning that these crimes can cause significant harm to consumers' interests and disrupt the order of the market economy, as well as the society.

In an increasingly digital world, the dissemination of written works, audiovisual works, musical works, and computer software has become incredibly convenient and swift. However, this has also resulted in a rise in rights violations and high-tech crimes, said prosecutors.

Prosecutors sued 1,122 individuals for copyright infringement between January and June.

State minister inaugurates industrial zone in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): State Minister for Industries and Production Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi laid the foundation-stone of Sargodha Small Industrial Zone at Asianwala, Kandiwai Road, here on Saturday.

Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi, while addressing the ceremony, said that it was need of the hour to convert Sargodha division into mini economic and industrial zone after providing all sorts of facilities there. He said that after completion of the project, a large number of people would get employment.

Seniors officials from Pakistan Industries & Development Corporation, members of Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a large number of people attended the ceremony.

While giving a briefing on the project, Operations Manager Fahad Naseer from Pakistan Industries & Development Corporation said that the project would be built on 800 kanals.

Gold rates up by Rs 1,300

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,300 and was sold at Rs.222,800 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs 222,500 on the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.1,115 to Rs.191,016 from Rs.189,901 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 Karat gold increased to Rs174,076, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs 2750 and Rs2357.68 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$4 to \$1,932 from \$1,936, the association reported.



ISLAMABAD: Whole sale traders are bargaining with importers to buy imported engine and Car parts of vehicles at Kacha Stop area near Mandi Morr as due to the extremely hike of automobile industry, people are attracting to the second hand imported stuff across the country.

Two-day Mango Festival-2023 from Aug 6

LAHORE (APP): The Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (PTDC) will organise a two-day Mango Festival from August 6 to 7, here at a local hotel.

The mango show will be arranged at the Kohinoor Hall of the Pearl Continental hotel from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

According to the PTDC sources, different types of mangoes would be placed at the festival. The show will be arranged in collaboration with the Agri-tourism Development Corporation.

The festival is being organised with an aim to promote business network and community outreach while showcasing stalls with different varieties including seedless mangoes.

Govt will ensure supply of cheap sugar to people: SM Tanveer

LAHORE: A meeting was held in the Chief Minister's Office under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister of Industry and Trade SM Tanveer. During the meeting, prices of sugar in Punjab, the problems faced by the sugar industry and other issues were reviewed. Secretary Food Muhammad Zaman watto, Additional Secretary Commerce, DG Industries and related officers attended the meeting.

Javed kiani, Chaudhry Waheed and others of Pakistan Sugar Mills Association participated in the meeting. The delegation informed about the difficulties arising from the registration of the existing warehouse within the

factory walls and demanded not to harass the business community by registering cases.

The provincial minister assured the delegation to solve problems of Ethanol and Sugar industry. Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer while addressing the meeting said that the government will ensure the supply of cheap sugar to the people. Effective measures will be taken to prevent smuggling of sugar. SM Tanveer said that such a policy will be made that the factories will run throughout the year when the wheel of factory will run continuously, the government will get tax and people will job, he concluded.



FAISALABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan is presenting a cheque to the farmer during the laptop distribution ceremony in University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

Farmers given advice for canola cultivation from Sept

FAISALABAD (APP): Agriculture experts have advised growers to prepare their lands for cultivation of canola from September.

A spokesman for the Agriculture (Extension) Department said on Saturday that September was the most suitable month for canola cultivation. However, its sowing should be completed before October 20 to get maximum yield.

He said that canola was a cashable crop and it would play a dynamic role in mitigating financial sufferings of the growers due to its high value in the market. Therefore, the farmers should cultivate canola crop at maximum space of their lands by using seed of approved canola varieties including Rainbow, Biola-401, Biola-43, Abaseen, Bulbal, Canola Raya, Pacola, etc. More information and guidance in this regard.

Aggressive economic measures adversely affecting trade, industry: PIAF

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been adversely affecting the trade and industry as many of them have closed their operations.

Chairman PIAF Faheemur Rehman Saigol in a joint statement along with Senior Vice Chairman Nasrullah Mughal and Vice Chairman Tahir Manzoor Ch on Saturday said that the ever-increasing cost of production in the country is the real threat to both large-scale manufacturing and small-scale businesses, as frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar are posing further challenges.

They said that the government does not have any pragmatic plan to

address this liability, apart from asking for more loans to repay existing debt. Likewise, the target for current financial year's exports is too low to meet the country's revenue.

According to the data, the pace of growth in LSM industries is suffering because of restrictions imposed on imports that have caused a shortage of imported raw material. The steep currency devaluation has also made raw material expensive and business models unviable.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) assessed that the pace of negative growth in big industries could have been slower had the government not imposed restrictions on imports. The central bank has issued the guidelines to commercial banks about the allocation of foreign currency for import purposes. Faheem Saigol said that the LSM trend indicates that this year.

US discussed 'creative ways' to help landlocked Mongolia export rare earths, officials say

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: U.S. and Mongolian officials this week discussed "creative ways" to ensure the landlocked country, dependent on goodwill from its neighbors China and Russia, could get critical minerals onto the world market, a U.S. State Department official said.

Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene told Reuters on Wednesday after meeting U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris in Washington that Mongolia would deepen cooperation with the United States on mining rare earths and other minerals with high-tech applications.

On Friday, he met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and signed an "Open Skies" civil aviation agreement, and both sides pledged further economic cooperation.

A U.S. State Department official briefing reporters said the national carrier MIAT Mongolian Airlines would be able to fly direct to an as-yet-undecided U.S. airport by next year.

The two sides also discussed how to follow up on a memorandum of understanding signed in June by the State Department and Mongolia's ministry of mining and heavy industry. "The many discussions that we've had over the last few days were talking about specific areas where we can help Mongolia understand what it has, ways where it can extract it, and ways where it can produce it," the official said. "We certainly are eager to help the Mongolians find creative solutions by which it can help take

more control over mining, exploring, extracting and producing critical minerals and rare earth elements."

Asked about how to ensure that Mongolia could export such commodities without hindrance, the official said it was in a "tough geopolitical situation," being landlocked. "So we talked about... very creative ways where we can get that... available to the market."

Rare earths and copper are vital for high-tech applications, including defense equipment, and for U.S. President Joe Biden's efforts to electrify the auto market to help stave off climate change. The United States is keen to secure sources beyond its main global rival, China, which last year accounted for more than 70% of world rare earth production.



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris meets with Mongolia's Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai at her ceremonial office, in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, on the White House campus in Washington, U.S.

Fighting has plunged Sudan into a humanitarian catastrophe, senior UN officials say

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The conflict in Sudan has left 24 million people — half the country's population — in need of food and other assistance, but only 2.5 million have received aid because of vicious fighting and a lack of funding, two senior U.N. officials said.

Eden Worsornu, director of operations for the U.N. humanitarian agency, and Ted Chaiban, deputy executive director of the U.N. children's agency UNICEF, who just returned from

Sudan, painted a dire picture of devastation and upheaval in Sudan, with no peace talks in sight. Worsornu said hotspots, such as the capital of Khartoum and the southern Kordofan and western Darfur regions, "have been shattered by relentless violence." Nearly 4 million people have fled the fighting, facing scorching heat up to 48 degrees Celsius (118 F), and threats of attacks, sexual violence and death, she said.

The now nearly four-month conflict has killed more

than 3,000 people and wounded over 6,000 others, according to the last government figures, released in June. But the true tally is likely much higher, doctors and activists say. "Before the war erupted on the 15th of April, Sudan was already grappling with a humanitarian crisis," Chaiban said. "Now, more than 110 days of brutal fighting have turned the crisis into a catastrophe, threatening the lives and futures of a generation of children and young people who make up over 70% of the population."



Pope Francis attends the "Stations of the Cross" procession with young people at Parque Eduardo VII during his apostolic journey to Portugal on the occasion of the XXXVII World Youth Day, in Lisbon Portugal.

Biden order curbing investments to China likely next week

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden is expected to issue his long-awaited executive order to screen outbound investments in sensitive technologies to China early next week, according to people familiar with the matter.

A White House spokesman declined to comment.

The goal of the order is to prevent US capital and expertise from accelerating the development of technologies that would support China's military modernisation and threaten US national security.

The order is expected to target private equity, venture capital and joint venture investments in China in semi-conductors, quantum computing and artificial intelligence. Most investments captured by the order will require that

the government be notified about them.

Some transactions will be prohibited, sources said. "It fills a gap in our current regime," said Cordell Hull, a former US Commerce Department official. "We have prohibitions on exporting the technology. We have restrictions on in-bound investment. This will help to plug that gap on funding and know-how and give the government visibility into these capital flows."

The regulations are not expected to take effect right away and the administration will solicit comment on its proposals, according to sources. It has already conducted meetings with stakeholders and has been consulting allies. It also came up during US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's recent trip to China.

Lebanon waits for accountability three years after Beirut tragedy

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanon marked three years since one of history's biggest non-nuclear explosions rocked Beirut with hundreds of protesters marching alongside victims' families on Friday to demand long-awaited justice.

Nobody has been held to account for the tragedy as political and legal pressures impede the investigation.

On August 4, 2020, the massive blast at Beirut port destroyed swathes of the Lebanese capital, killing more than 220 people and injuring at least 6,500. Authorities said the disaster was triggered by a fire in a warehouse where a vast stockpile of ammonium nitrate fertilizer had been haphazardly stored for years. Three years on, the probe is virtually at a standstill, leaving survivors still yearning for answers.

Protesters, many of them wearing black and carrying photographs of the victims, marched towards the port shouting slogans including: "We will not forget".

China to attend talks on Ukraine in Saudi Arabia that exclude Russia

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: China on Friday said it would send a senior official to Saudi Arabia for weekend talks on finding a peaceful settlement to the war in Ukraine, a forum that excludes Russia, in a diplomatic coup for Kyiv, the West and the Saudi hosts.

Ukrainian and Western diplomats hope the meeting in Jeddah of national security advisers and other senior officials from some 40 countries will agree on key principles for a future peace settlement to end Russia's war in Ukraine. Chinese Special Envoy for Eurasian Affairs Li Hui will visit Jeddah for the talks, China's foreign ministry said on Friday.

"China is willing to work with the international community to continue to play a constructive role in promoting a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine," Wang

Wenbin, a spokesperson at the Chinese ministry, said in a statement. China was invited to a previous round of talks in Copenhagen in late June but did not attend.

Since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February last year, China has kept close economic and diplomatic ties with Russia and rejected international calls to condemn Moscow. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Wednesday he hoped the initiative will lead to a "peace summit" of leaders from around the world this autumn to endorse the principles, based on his own 10-point formula for a settlement.

Zelenskyy's formula includes respect for Ukraine's territorial integrity and the withdrawal of Russian troops, anathema to Moscow which claims to have annexed occupied Ukrainian territory forever.



Thousands of anti-sanctions protestors gather in support of the putschist soldiers in the capital Niamey, Niger.

3 people killed, houses set ablaze in fresh violence in India's Manipur state

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Three people were killed and houses set ablaze in fresh violence in India's Manipur, police officials said late on Friday, as sporadic violence and killings continue in the remote northeastern state.

The three people killed belonged to the majority Meitei community in the state's Bishnupur district, a police spokesperson said.

The months-long outbreak of violence began on May 3 after a court ordered the state to consider extending to the majority Meitei population special economic

benefits and quotas in government jobs and education that up to now have been reserved for the tribal Kuki people.

A spokesperson for a Kuki civil society group said it did not have an immediate comment on the latest killings.

Over 180 people have been killed and thousands have fled their homes, since the violence started in Manipur, a state of 3.2 million that borders Myanmar.

On May 3, members of the hill tribes including Kuki launched a protest against the possible extension of their benefits to the dominant Meiteis.



People take part in a mass rally in Meitei dominated Imphal, amidst the conflict with Kuki tribals in the remote northeastern state of Manipur, India.

A wildfire near Iran's capital triggers an explosion of mines planted around a high-security prison

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: A wildfire on the outskirts of Iran's capital triggered an explosion Friday of mines that had been planted around a high-security prison that houses political prisoners, but there were no injuries, state media reported.

The official IRNA news agency said the incident happened around noon at the Evin prison on the northern outskirts of Tehran, but that it caused no damage or casualties, and that firefighters extinguished the blaze. The report blamed the fire on the country's current

heatwave. Temperatures in Tehran around noon Friday were about 38 C (100 F).

Iranian media in the past have mentioned the mines, which apparently are anti-personnel mines planted to deter escape attempts. In October a blaze in the prison led to death and injuries of several inmates. In online videos that circulated at the time, gunshots and explosions could be heard in the area of the prison. State media said at the time that there were clashes in one of the wards between inmates and prison personnel, and authorities blamed the fire on rioters.

Police hunt for suspects after blasts at Washington, D.C., retail outlets

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Police in Washington are offering a reward of up to \$20,000 for information that could lead to the arrest of those involved in three explosions within a 15-minute span at retail outlets in the U.S. capital.

No one was killed or injured in the early hour blasts in Washington's Northeast neighbourhood, but all three places were damaged, police said in a statement. In one of the blasts,

someone threw "a Molotov cocktail style object" at a Safeway store before fleeing in a vehicle, police said.

The other two explosions took place outside an ATM and in front of a Nike store. All of the establishments were closed at the time.

It was not immediately clear how many suspects police were looking for but officials released an image of one suspect and of a vehicle that could have been used in the attack. The suspect's back was turned to the surveillance camera in that image and the face was not visible.

Permanent Mission of North Korea to UN defends Pyongyang's nuclear weapons as sovereign right

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: The Permanent Mission of North Korea to the United Nations has criticized the U.S. for having nuclear weapons and urged it to stop "sharing nuclear" or "beefing up extended deterrence," state media KCNA reported on Saturday.

While criticising the U.S. over the AUKUS alliance and the Nuclear Consultative Group with South Korea, Pyongyang defended its nuclear weapons as an "exercise of sovereignty."

The crowd, which police estimated at about 800,000, listened to 14 meditations at each of the "stations of the cross" that were written by young people reflecting concerns such as war, mass shootings, domestic violence, child abuse, environmental degradation, bullying, cell-phone addiction, depression, eating disorders and burnout.



Police officers detain a person after popular live streamer Kai Cenat announced a "giveaway" event that drew chaotic, prompting police officers to respond and disperse the crowd at Union Square and the surrounding streets, in New York City, U.S.

Saudi Arabia urges its citizens to quickly leave Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia called on its citizens to quickly leave Lebanese territory and to avoid approaching areas where there have been armed clashes, the Saudi embassy in Lebanon said in a statement posted late on Friday on X, formerly known as Twitter.

The kingdom did not specify which areas in Lebanon it was advising its citizens to avoid. The embassy stressed "the importance of adhering to the Saudi travel ban to Lebanon," the statement added.

No public event to mark first anniversary of the Queen's death, palace spokesperson says

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Britain's King Charles will not mark the first anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth with an official public event or a private family gathering, a royal spokesperson said.

Charles, 74, ascended to the throne on Sept. 8 after the death of his mother Elizabeth. The death of the 96-year-old monarch, Britain's longest-reigning king or queen, prompted an outpouring of emotion around the globe, a 10-day mourning period and a state funeral with crowds of thousands of people lining the streets of central London.

West African leaders thrash out plan to intervene in Niger

Monitoring Desk
ABUJA: West African defence chiefs have drawn up a plan for potential military intervention if Niger's coup is not overturned by the weekend, a leader from the regional bloc said on Friday, after mediation failed in a crisis that is troubling global powers.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has given Niger's coup leaders until Sunday to step down and free elected President Mohamed Bazoum.

The bloc has taken a hard stance on last week's takeover: the seventh coup in West and Central Africa since 2020. Given its uranium and oil riches and pivotal role in the war with militants in the Sahel region, Niger has strategic significance for the United

States, China, Europe and Russia. Under the intervention plan, the decision of when and where to strike will be made by heads of states and will not be divulged to the coup plotters, Abdel Fataou Musah, ECOWAS commissioner for political affairs, peace and security, said.

"All the elements that will go into any eventual intervention have been worked out here, including the resources needed, the how and when we are going to deploy the force," he said at the close of a three-day meeting in Nigeria's capital Abuja.

The 15-nation body has already imposed sanctions on Niger and sent a delegation to its capital Niamey on Thursday seeking an "amicable resolution".



The defense chiefs from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries including Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea and Niger pose for a group photo during their extraordinary meeting in Abuja, Nigeria to discuss the situation in Niger.

In Portugal, thousands reflect with pope on modern worries, endangered planet

Monitoring Desk
LISBON: Hundreds of thousands of young people reflected on their anxieties, enslavement to the "tyranny" of social media and yearning to save the planet at a huge outdoor rally with Pope Francis.

It took nearly an hour for the open vehicle carrying the 86-year-old pope to drive slowly through the crowd at Lisbon's Edward VII Park as it was mobbed by people taking part in a Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) retracing the last hours in Jesus' life.

The pope arrived on Wednesday to preside at World Youth Day, a festival that takes place every two or three years in a different city and has been dubbed the Catholic Woodstock.

"All of this is linked to disordered lifestyles that cause some to starve while others get sick from over-eating".



The pope arrived on Wednesday to preside at World Youth Day, a festival that takes place every two or three years in a different city and has been dubbed the Catholic Woodstock.

Oceans set new record for surface temperature

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: The world's oceans set a new temperature record this week, raising concerns about knock-on effects on the planet's climate, marine life and coastal communities.

The temperature of the oceans' surface rose to 20.96 degrees Celsius on Friday, according to European Union climate observatory data.

The previous record was 20.95C in March 2016, a spokeswoman for the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service said. The samples tested excluded polar regions.

Oceans have absorbed 90 per cent of the excess heat produced by human activity since the dawn of the industrial age, according to scientists.

This excess heat continues to accumulate as greenhouse gases — mainly from burning oil, gas and coal — continue to accumulate in the Earth's atmosphere. Globally, the average ocean temperature has been besting seasonal heat

records on a regular basis since April.

"The ocean heatwave is an immediate threat to some marine life," said Piers Forster of the International Centre for Climate at the University of Leeds.

"We are already seeing coral bleaching in Florida as a direct result and I expect more impacts will surface."

The overheating of the oceans is predicted to have other effects on marine plant and animal life too, including on the migration of certain species and the spread of invasive species.

This could threaten fish stocks and thus undermine food security in certain parts of the globe.

Warmer oceans are also less capable of absorbing carbon dioxide (CO2), reinforcing the vicious cycle of global warming.

And higher temperatures are likely to come, since the El Nino phenomenon, which tends to warm waters up, has only just begun.

India's actions in IIOJK cannot legitimate illegal occupation, suppress Kashmiri's rights: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday said that India's actions in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) could neither accord legitimacy to its occupation nor suppress the true sentiments of the Kashmiri people as coercion and intrigue could not replace legitimacy.

In a message on 'Youm-e-Istehsal' being observed Saturday, the foreign minister stressed that the international community must demand an end to India's gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK; reversal of its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019; repeal of draconian laws; and implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan wants good relations with all its neighbors, including India. However, good relations can only be achieved through dispute resolution and not through dispute denial. The durable peace in South Asia remains contingent upon the settle-

ment of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," a press release on Saturday quoted the foreign minister as saying.

As a party to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, he said Pakistan stands ready to play its role to ensure a free and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"Our strong and steadfast moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people will continue till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination," he reiterated.

The foreign minister further said that 'Youm-e-Istehsal' was a somber occasion to recall India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). That day, India scrapped the special status of IIOJK and bifurcated it into two so-called 'Union Territories' to alter its internationally-recognized status and undermine the right to self-determination of the

Kashmiri people. The Indian actions triggered a process of demographic change and political engineering. As a result, the Kashmiri people were confronted with the danger of becoming a disempowered minority in their own land, he added.

Foreign Minister Bilawal further said that India had unleashed a new reign of oppression in IIOJK since 5 August 2019. Efforts were being made to muzzle the media and silence the genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people. Lately, the Indian authorities have sought the death penalty for one of the most renowned Kashmiri leaders, Yaseen Malik.

"The harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, cordon and search operations, and extra-judicial killings have become a matter of routine. The Kashmiri people remain deprived of their fundamental freedoms of expression, assembly and religion. Above all, they are unable to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination," he added.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar offering Dua on sad demise of Nawabzada Haroon Raisani, nephew of Nawab Aslam Khan Raisani and Bramdagh Lehri, son of Mir Daulat Lehri at their residences

ECNEC approves mega social sector uplift projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Saturday considered and approved a Punjab Government project titled "Developing Resilient Environment and Advancing Municipal Services (DREAMS-I)" at a cost of Rs64,480,646 million including Asian Development Bank loan of Rs51,584,517 million and local component of Rs12,896,129 million by the Punjab government.

The project will enhance climate resilience and urban living and health conditions for about 2.9 million in Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur cities of Punjab province, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The ECNEC met with Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator

Mohammad Ishaq Dar in chair, where as Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, federal secretaries and other senior officers from federal ministries and provincial departments participated in the meeting.

The ECNEC also considered project regarding Prime Minister's National Programme for Solarization of agriculture Tube wells in Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan provinces and allowed to include Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) rural areas into its scope. The ECNEC considered and approved a revised/updated project of Sindh Government titled "Karachi Neighborhood Improvement project (KNIP)" at the cost of

Rs18,805,577 million including World Bank loan of Rs16,709,389 million. The revised/updated project envisages the improvement/up gradation of infrastructure of Karachi City in Karachi South, Korangi and Malir districts. The ECNEC considered and approved a project of Gilgit-Baltistan Government titled "Rural Development and Climate Resilience Project" at updated cost of Rs16,264 million with foreign financing of Rs1,1067 million. The project envisages to improve sustainability of living conditions and resilience to climate change and natural disasters of Gilgit-Baltistan households and communities. The ECNEC also considered and approved dualization of Sialkot-Eminabad Road upto Kamoki.



QUETTA: Members of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration against arrested former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan, at Quetta Press Club.

OIC calls for revocation of illegal measures of Aug 5 in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Saturday reiterated its call regarding the revocation of all the illegal measures initiated on and after 5 August 2019, which aimed at changing the demographic structure of the disputed territory of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In a press statement issued from the OIC Secretariat, Jeddah, the organization also renewed its soli-

darity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their quest for the right of self-determination. The OIC general secretariat expressed its concerns over the situation in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, four years after the unilateral alteration of the internationally recognized status of the territory. "Furthermore, the General Secretariat refers to the decisions and resolutions of the Islamic Summit and the OIC Council.

The ex-premier filed an application in apex court against IHC ruling through his legal team. The petitioner pleaded with the court to declare the Toshakhana case against him non-maintainable.

The Islamabad High Court on Friday set aside a session court's verdict that declared the Toshakhana reference against the PTI chairman as maintainable. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq had ordered the lower court to rehear the case. The court also rejected the PTI chairman's appeal to transfer the case to another court and issued a notice for next week on the appeal to restore the right of defence.



MUZAFFERABAD: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat holds protest against India to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal Jammu and Kashmir as it is the fourth year of the Indian military siege of occupied Kashmir and against illegal, immoral, and unconstitutional step to strip IIOJK of its special status.

Mariyum Aurangzeb says PEMRA Bill 2023 passed unanimously with consultations of all stakeholders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said that the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Amendment Bill 2023 was passed by the National Assembly with unanimous vote after detailed deliberations with all stakeholders.

She said, it was unjustified that the people who prepared the said bill were irrelevant although all the media organizations and stakeholders were consulted on the bill.

"PEMRA Bill 2023 remained in the public domain for 20 days and under

discussion in Parliament. If anybody has any objection on the bill, he may highlight that loophole and suggest the amendment," the minister said while briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting.

PEMRA Bill 2023 was reviewed in the meeting presided over by the convener of the committee Fauzia Arshad.

It was decided in the meeting that the committee members would submit their amendments by August 7.

During the briefing, she said, under the PEMRA law 2002, the chairman PEMRA had au-

thority to suspend or cancel the license of any TV channel but the amended law empowered the Council of Complaints by curtailing the power of chairman PEMRA.

"We all have suffered a lot due to the draconian PEMRA law 2002 which was introduced by the then President Pervez Musharraf," she added.

Mariyum Aurangzeb said that the PEMRA Bill 2023 protects the rights of media workers and journalists as all the media house owners would be bound to clear their all dues including salaries within two months under the new bill.

Provincial Ombudsman maintains: Protection of public rights, resolving complaints against govt. institutions is priority

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan, Nazir Muhammad Baloch has stated that it is included in our top priority to protect the rights of general public and resolve their complaints against all the government and semi-government institutions.

The Provincial Ombudsman was addressing a seminar organized by the Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan secretariat here the other day.

The President Forum of Pakistan Ombudsman and Federal Tax Ombudsman, Dr. Asif Mehmood Jah and ombudsmen from other provinces and concerned

high ups participated in the seminar. Addressing the seminar, the Provincial ombudsman said that the objective behind the annual conference of the FPO is to gather the federal ombudsman and provincial ombudspersons and provide necessary awareness to the people about registration of complaints and relief against the federal and provincial institutions in the province. Meanwhile, the President of FPO and Federal Tax Ombudsman and other ombudsmen informed the participants about the platform of FPO and steps taken and being taken for provision of justice to the masses.



QUETTA: Resident of Jhal Magsi hold pretrial against killing of Imdad Joyia.

Secretary Health to set up RHC, BHUs in each district as model health centres

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Health Balochistan Asfandiar Khan Kakar on Saturday informed that one Rural Health Centre (RHC) and two Basic Health Units (BHUs) would be set up as model medical centres in each district with round the clock availabilities of all facilities.

The health secretary said that the availability of doctors in all District Headquarter Hospitals and all facilities in emergency department should be ensured to facilitate the masses.

The secretary in a meeting with Commissioner Sibi Division, Deputy Commissioner, District Health Officers of Sibi Division and other officers has ordered that to take measures for the improvement of health sector with provision of missing facilities, said a news release.

Asfandiar Kakar said that medicines should be provided in the emergency department within a week, if received any complain

action would be taken against medical superintendent of the hospital.

Secretary Health issued instructions to the District Health Committees to work in collaboration with MERC to improvise the ambulance services in the areas. Asfandiar Kakar said issued direction to recruit people on the vacant posts of doctors, nurses, paramedics on ad-hoc basis to fulfill the shortage of staffs in hospitals. Addressing the meeting, Secretary Health said that the District Health Committee should immediately initiate departmental action against the absent staff and those who are negligent in their work in hospitals and medical centres. The health secretary said that all medical campuses should be organized under the supervision of the district health committee.

Psychological daises should be given special attention in medical campuses and organize a special counseling program in this regard, he directed.

NASTP major landmark, multi-layered project based on hybrid model: Air Chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal, Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu Saturday declared the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) as a major landmark, a multi-layered project based on a hybrid model which would cover the private sector and aerospace clusters across all major cities of Pakistan.

He expressed these views while addressing the initial opening before the inaugural ceremony of NASTP.

Sidhu said, "We live in a challenging time in the wake of evolving global and regional environment. This is an era of transition that has induced the need to induct niche and disruptive technologies, which has subsequently affected the traditional concept of national security and defense," said a Pakistan Air Force media news release issued here.

"In order to address the contemporary challenges, the national leadership of Pakistan has envisioned the establishment of a Special Investment Facilitation Council so as to create desired linkages and provide opportunities to different platforms for bringing Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan," he emphasized.

"PAF has also planned to play its role in the ongoing national building projects under the umbrella of SIFC, predominantly in the Aerospace and IT domains," he highlighted.

"The biggest hallmark of the NASTP project is its Aviation Design and Innovation Center comprising of Techno Parks, IT clusters, Nurseries, and Basic Incubation Centers making the project diversified and unprecedented in the history of Pakistan."

"Moreover, the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park has also focused on the much-needed triple helix model in order to embed a culture of sustainability, since its core objectives include the building of local industry and creating an interface between the public sectors."

"Through the NASTP project, PAF is bringing all organic setups to one place including Nano Technology, Space, Cyber, Artificial Intelligence, Super Computing, Networking, and Algorithms in order to facilitate entrepreneurship and technological skill development in the country," Sidhu highlighted.

In his concluding remarks, Air Chief Marshal commended the efforts of all the stakeholders for the accomplishment of this mega project in a record time of one year.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Health Asadyr Kakar meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

Keep Kashmir alive: Masood urges community members, activists

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, Saturday called for "keeping the issue of Kashmir alive" at all forums, including the United Nations, despite the lack of adequate attention paid to it by the world community.

"Although we are passing through a very dark period of the history of Jammu & Kashmir—don't lose heart," he said in his remarks at a special event held to mark the fourth anniversary of India's brutal siege of the disputed territory.

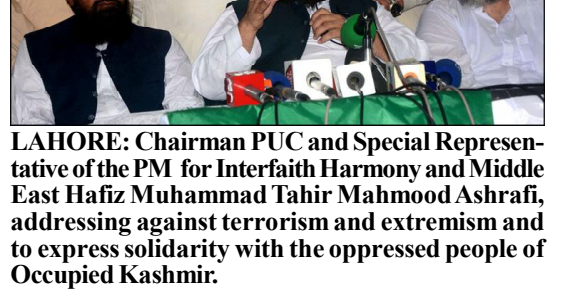
"Your despondency would also be weaponized by those who want to deny Kashmiris their right to self-determination," the Pakistani envoy told the Pakistani-American diaspora, Kashmiris, members of civil society and human rights activists gathered to observe 'Youm-e-Istehsal'.

Ambassador Masood Khan assured Kashmiris that the people of Pakistan were the custodians of their

UN-pledged inalienable right to self-determination. The illegal and unilateral act of the Indian government of revoking special status of Jammu & Kashmir, he said, was driven by the fear of the international momentum towards a resolution of the decades-old dispute generated before August 2019. The Pakistani envoy encouraged the youth to establish their own 'information ecosystems' to promote the Kashmir dispute.

"Today, the existing digital ecosystem was not so hospitable to the Kashmir issue because of the hostile forces. You need to have your own information ecosystem to highlight the right of self-determination," he said.

Pointing out that Pakistan asked India to engage in a meaningful dialogue on the issues of concern between the two countries, Masood Khan, said, "There should be some resonance of reciprocity from New Delhi as well—It takes two to tango.



LAHORE: Chairman PUC and Special Representative of the PM for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, addressing against terrorism and extremism and to express solidarity with the oppressed people of Occupied Kashmir.

Rallies, protests organized to mark exploitation day in AJK

MUZAFFERABAD (APP): Rallies and protests were organized in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Saturday by the different political parties to mark "Exploitation day", the day of 2019 when Indian government abolished the special status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and sieged the whole valley till now to suppress the peaceful struggle of people for their just right to self-determination.

A special sitting of the AJK legislative was convened on the occasion to condemn Indian unilateral acts and gross human rights abuses by India since that ignoring all international norms and laws while legislators led by Prime Minister Anwar Ul Haq also staged a protest rally in front of Supreme Court building and march to UN

observer's office to handover a memorandum for the UN to implement its resolutions on Kashmir.

A big protest rally also organized here in front of the Press club attended by all the leaders of major political groups of AJK where speakers condemn Indian act to withdraw the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and repeal of citizenship laws to settle non-residents in the Muslim majority region in a bid to alter the demography for ulterior motives.

Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, a refugee organization of 1989 onward of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, also organized a protest procession in which hundreds of women, children, youths and elders gathered at Gharipan Chowk and de-

clared 5th August as "Black Day" beside and Exploitation Day" of the people of Kashmir.

Protestors marched on the main highway carrying black flags and handed over five resolutions of condemnation regarding Indian illegal acts in occupied Jammu and Kashmir to the United Nations' Military Observer Group of India and Pakistan.

The protesters shouted slogans against the Indian government, Indian Army and in favor of the freedom of Kashmir.

The protesters carried banners and placards with demands from the United Nations, including the annulment of the Indian acts of August 5, 2019, and providing an opportunity for referendum according to the UNSC passed resolutions.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Agriculture Mir Asadullah Baloch, Secretary Tayyab Lehri and others addressing inaugural ceremony of Agricultural College Auditorium