

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd XXV No 06, Safar 09, 1445 AH Sunday August 27, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15



QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting to review security situation in the country, especially Balochistan.

PM Kakar says Protection, security of masses, country among govt's top priorities

Caretaker PM emphasizes upon enforcing effective strategy to increase means of income & employment in Balochistan; says maintaining safe environment for masses topmost priority; formation of modern and ingenious strategy is unavoidable for mobilizing resources of country effectively

Independent Report

QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday said that protection and security of the country and nation, besides maintaining secure environment for the public, were among the top priorities of the government.

The prime minister chaired a meeting to review the law and order situation in the country, especially in Balochistan province, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release issued here.

The meeting was attended by Caretaker Ministers Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Shahid Ashraf Tarrar, Sami Saeed, Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mardan Khan Domki and the senior civil and military officials.

During the meeting, the prime minister also stressed upon further improvement of legislative framework with regard to strengthening of the state response on security matters.

He also reiterated that people would be provided with the financial and economic opportunities at the federal and provincial levels, adding for the effective utilization of resources, the formulation of latest and innovative strategy was indispensable.

The prime minister also lauded role of the provincial government and the law enforcement agencies for maintaining law and order situation in the province.

Continued on page 2

Caretaker PM to play basic role in timely execution of federal dev. projects, believes caretaker CM

Caretaker Prime Minister would play effective role in payment of dues of billions of rupees against federation and PPL besides ordering concerned to release desired funds for implementation on federal funded projects in province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has believed that the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar would play basic role in the timely execution of ongoing federal development projects in the province.

He also hoped that work would be started on the Pinjra Bridge in Bolan soon besides expediting work on expansion of the Khuzdar-Chaman highway. While the pace of project of Zhob-Kuchlak highway would also be expedited and rehabilitation of the affected bridges on Quetta-Karachi highway would also be ensured.

These views were expressed by the caretaker Chief Minister while speaking on occasion of the dinner hosted in honour of the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar here on Saturday.

Also participated in the dinner was by the caretaker provincial ministers, advisors, senators and former members of provincial and national assemblies besides the political and tribal elders.

In his welcoming remarks, the caretaker Chief Minister said that it is an important historic day for the province that caretaker Prime Minister has visited the province. He said that it is our good luck that the caretaker Prime Minister

belongs to Balochistan and he is well aware of the issues of the province.

He said that there are certain good news for the people of Balochistan in the visit of caretaker Prime Minister.

He said that caretaker PM has been briefed about the law and order situation as well as the ongoing development projects and other related matters.

In addition to this, he has also been briefed about the improvement in the reservoirs of water and issue of water in Quetta, adding Mr. Domki mentioned.

He said that certain important decisions have been made in the meeting chaired by the caretaker Prime Minister.

Solangi, Power Division Secretary briefs media on electricity tariff

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi along with Federal Secretary of the Power Division Rashid Mahmood Langrial held a media briefing on Saturday to explain the current state of electricity tariffs.

At the outset of the briefing with anchorpersons and bureau chiefs from various media outlets, the minister acknowledged the difficulties faced by the people due to the escalating electricity prices.

In response, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar had called a high-level meeting on Sunday to address concerns related to electricity pricing, he added.

He said all stakeholders within the power sector would participate in the meeting.

The Secretary of the Power Division informed the media that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) determined electricity tariffs using three distinct methodologies.

The three-month tariff adjustment was meant for new power plants, he said, adding electricity prices were subject to fluctuations based on the Consumer Price Index.

Moreover, he elaborated on the necessity of tariff alterations due to the upsurge in KIBOR rates. However, fuel price adjustments also impacted electricity costs.

In the fiscal year 2023, the tariff was initially set at Rs 195 per dollar, but the value of the dollar surged to Rs284.

"We initially aimed to set the price of RNLG at Rs 3,183 per MMBTU, however, the actual price ranged between Rs 3,000 and Rs 3,800," he noted.

Traders threaten nationwide strike over exorbitant electricity bills

Monitoring Desk
KARACHI: Demands are mounting for the government to retract the additional tax imposed

The business community has issued a stern warning to the government, indicating that if the current electricity bills are not substantially reduced, they will initiate a nationwide strike. Prominent business leaders hailing from Karachi have outlined their plan of action, detailing an upcoming demonstration outside the Governor House and all K-Electric offices. This display of disunity is aimed at voicing their discontent regarding the exorbitant electricity bills.

Sharjeel Gopani, President of the Timber Market, asserted that he is prepared to escalate the matter to an international level. He plans to draft letters to various global organizations, including the United Nations, to spotlight the perceived injustice.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar in a meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Caretaker CM takes notice of closure of Quetta-Karachi highway at Mastung

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has taken notice of the closure of Quetta-Karachi highway at Mastung.

According to an official hand out issued here on Saturday, the caretaker Chief Minister directed the Deputy Commissioner Mastung to open the highway after holding dialogue with the protestors immediately.

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki was concerned that the passengers were facing hardships due to closure of the highway.

He directed the Deputy Commissioner to convince the protestors to end protest at the highway conveying them about the hardships being faced by the passengers. He said that protest is not solution to any issue, which affect and harm the people.

He also urged the protestors to come to the solution of issues through understanding and dialogue.

Governor Balochistan calls on caretaker PM; discusses various matters

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar called on the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar here on Saturday.

During the course of meeting, the Governor discussed with the caretaker Prime Minister about administrative



affairs of Balochistan. The overall situation of law and order was also discussed during the meeting.

Domki apologizes citizens on inconvenience caused to citizens due to roads closure

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has apologized to the citizens on the inconvenience caused to the citizens due to the closure of roads during the VVIP movement in Quetta.

The caretaker Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to close the roads for the least time during the VVIP movement.

He also asked the high ups to adopt such a strat-

egy that neither security is affected nor the general public face hardships.

Needless to mention here is that the people faced problems due to the closure of Zarghoon and adjacent roads during the VVIP movement the other day.

While the roads remained closed for some time, the traffic remained stuck there causing hardships to the people and putting them on wait until the roads were opened and traffic restored.

6 dead, 5 injured after van falls off bridge in Mansehra

MANSEHRA (Online): Six people — including two women — died and five were injured when a passenger van fell off a bridge while travelling on the route connecting the Thakot area of Battagram to Hazara Motorway in Mansehra — which was constructed as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor — on Saturday, according to a Rescue 1122 official.

The van was heading from Battagram's Allai teshil to Mansehra. The accident took place in Mansehra's Hathimera area when the vehicle's driver "lost control of the steering wheel", he said, adding that 13 people were in the van.

The official said a rescue team reached the site after the accident and pulled out dead bodies and the injured from a ditch the bus had fallen in.

PM directs NHA to restore Pinjra bridge

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Saturday directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to complete the reconstruction of the Pinjra bridge as soon as possible so that citizens travelling from Quetta to Jacobabad could be facilitated.

In a post on his X handle, he said work on the reconstruction of the Pinjra bridge was continuing at a fast pace.

In another positive development, he said an alternative concrete bridge was completed from which heavy traffic was passing.

Electricity tariff, consumers bills: PM calls emergency meeting today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar has called emergency meeting in connection with electricity tariff and consumers bills.

The emergency meeting will take place here today (Sunday).

The care taker PM has directed ministry of power and power distribution companies to present detailed briefing on this matter in the meeting.

Consultation will be made for providing maximum relief to the people to consumers with regard to electricity bills.

Jan Achakzai visits OPC; meets senior journalists: Every possible steps to be taken for resolving issues of media persons: Interim Minister for Information

Maintains journalists of Balochistan have seen very tough time; says Govt. has been focusing their welfare under leadership of Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai visited the Quetta Press Club on Saturday.

The President Quetta Press Club, Abdul Khaliq Rind along with other senior journalists welcomed Jan Achakzai upon his arrival at the Club.

Also present on the occasion were the former President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, Shahzada Zulfiqar, besides other office bearers and senior journalists.

During the visit, the Information Minister inspected different sections of the Quetta Press Club. The President Abdul Khaliq Rind informed the Information Minister

about the issues and hardships being faced by the working journalists.

Speaking on the occasion, Jan Achakzai assured that every possible steps would be taken to resolve the issues of journalists besides for their welfare under leadership of the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

He said that journalists happen to be eyes and ears of the society and they can play remarkable role in revival of the society by doing positive reporting.

Jan Achakzai said that media persons of Balochistan have seen very difficult time and they have highlighted the issues of general public and their areas quite efficiently and

dedicatedly. The interim provincial government acknowledges and appreciates their endeavours in this regard, the caretaker Information Minister maintained.

He assured that our government has especially been focusing on welfare of the Press Club and those associated with it.

He on the occasion also said that conducting peaceful elections is task of interim government, for every possible steps are being taken. In addition to this, it is also top priority to resolve issues of the remote areas, he maintained.

Meanwhile, the Interim Minister also visited the Media Academy and inspected its different parts.



He said that we present salute to the Pak Army and FC who contributed and rendered sacrifices for establishing peace in the province.

He said that terrorists would never succeed in their nefarious designs.

He reaffirmed that more steps would be taken to route out terrorism.

He also appreciated the anti smuggling role of the FC in the province.

British HC says: Pak Army sacrifices are for world peace

LAHORE (Online): British High Commissioner Jane Marriott said that sacrifices of Pakistan Army are for world peace and Pakistan Army is paying heavy price in form of lives for sake of peace.

There is deep concern over the activities of banned TTP and other terrorist groups in Afghanistan.

While talking to Private TV channel Jane Marriott said that Taliban, Haqqani group and other organizations be controlled.

If the terrorists in Afghanistan are not stopped, it will be a threat not only

to Pakistan but also to the whole world.

British High Commissioner said that Pakistan is our most important ally and frontline country in the war against terrorism.

Jane Marriott said that eyes of world are still on the problem and situation of Afghanistan.

We will support the role of Pakistani construction companies.

Skilled manpower in Pakistan can work there for reconstruction of Ukraine.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai visiting Media Academy



QUETTA: Secretary Energy Bashir Ahmed Khan briefed Caretaker Minister Prince Ali Ahmedzai about departmental affairs

Pak whitewash Afghanistan to top ODI rankings

Sports Desk
COLOMBO: Pakistan defeated Afghanistan on Saturday in the final match of the series to complete a whitewash and rise to the number one spot in the one-day international (ODI) rankings. Chasing a target of 269 runs, Afghanistan were dismissed for 209 runs in 48.4 overs.

Leg-spinner Shadab Khan was the pick of the Pakistan bowlers with figures of 3-42 in 10 overs. Muhammad Nawaz, Faheem Ashraf and Shaheen Afridi claimed two wickets each. Earlier, Pakistan handed a target of 269 runs to Afghanistan after winning the toss and opting to bat first.

Pakistan finished at 268-8 in 50 overs. Mohammad Rizwan (67) and Babar Azam (60) scored fifties for the Men in Green. Pakistan have already won the series 2-0 and will be looking to make a clean sweep in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where Afghanistan is hosting the series.

Ahead of the match today, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam remarked that the first 10 overs would be tough. "We will increase the pressure on the Afghan team by setting a huge target," he said, adding that four changes had been made to the playing eleven.

He added that Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Nawaz, Faheem Ashraf and Mohammad Wasim Jr are playing today in place of Usama Mir, Ifthikhar Ahmed, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf. On the other hand, Afghanistan suffered a blow when all-rounder Azmatullah Umarzai was ruled out of the third ODI match due to side strain.

All-rounder Gulbadin Naib has been brought in to replace Azmatullah, the Afghanistan Cricket Board said. During the last match, both sides went head-to-head in an intense clash.

The Men in Green continued their superb form, even as the match seemed lost at one point. However, Naseem Shah — who led Pakistan to a victory against the same opposition in Asia Cup 2022 — once again guided Pakistan to a thrilling victory in the last over, helping the side score the much-needed 11 runs off 6 balls.

Babar Azam adds another ODI feat to his name

Sports Desk
LAHORE: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam continues to add titles to his name one after another.

The latest feat Babar has achieved is the distinction of highest run scorer in the first 100 one-day internationals (ODI) innings after he scored 5142 runs in the format.

The prolific cricketer, who tops the International Cricket Council's (ICC) ODI batters ranking, achieved the feat after hitting his 27th half-century in the second match against Afghanistan in Hambantota on August 24.

The title of the most ODI runs scorer was earlier held by South Africa's Hashim Amla, who scored 4946 runs in his first 100 ODI innings. Sir Vivian Richards is placed in the third position with 4607 runs.

In May, the 28-year-old cricket star became the fastest batter to score 5,000 ODI runs.

Babar is the first batter to achieve this feat in less than 100 innings, as he crossed this milestone in just 97 innings, becoming the 14th to score 5,000 runs.

Under Babar's captaincy, the national squad rose to the top slot in the ODI team rankings when the Men in Green successfully defended their mammoth target of 334 runs during the fourth ODI match in the recent series against New Zealand.

However, the loss of one match in the five-match series made Pakistan lose the spot.

Protection, security of masses...

Continued from page 1

different minerals in Pakistan especially in Balochistan, which can be utilized for overall development of the country.

However, we can take benefit of the minerals of Balochistan only when there present proper communication infrastructure in the mineral rich areas.

Earlier, the caretaker Prime Minister chaired high level meeting on the security situation in Balochistan the same afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Anwaarul Haq Kakar said that it is our top priority to protect the country and nation besides maintaining safe environment for masses.

In this regard, the Prime Minister applauded the role of provincial government and law enforcement agencies.

He, however, stressed the need to improve further the legal structure for strengthening the state response in protective matters.

He said that the people would be provided more opportunities of economic development at the federal and provincial level.

He said that it is unavoidable to form modern and ingenious strategy for mobilizing resources of the country effectively.

Meanwhile the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar has emphasized upon enforcing effective strategy to increase the means of income and employments in Balochistan province.

He stressed the need to create a well balance in the budget and expenditures for better planning in future.

The interim Prime Minister was chairing a high level meeting on the development projects in Quetta on Saturday.

The meeting was also attended by caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, Federal Minister Interior, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Federal Minister Communications, Ashraf Tarar and Federal Minister Planning and Development, Sami Saeed, besides other concerned federal and provincial high ups.

The Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan briefed the caretaker Prime Minister about the proposed and ongoing development projects in the province.

The caretaker Prime Minister emphasized on the most effective utilization of the resources and their least wastage.

He was of the strong view that there is a vast potential of mining of

Pakistan welcomes Danish govt's proposed law outlawing burning of Holy Quran, divine books

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Saturday welcomed a reported decision of the Denmark Government to propose a bill, which would outlaw the burning of the Holy Quran and other divine books, believing it as 'a step in the right direction'.

"Pakistan has always maintained that desecration and burning of holy scriptures constitute a serious act of religious hatred, which must not be permitted under the guise of freedom of expression, opinion and protest," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

As stipulated by the international human rights law and called for by the UN Human Rights Council, such provocative acts must be prevented and prohibited through legal means, it was further stressed.

"We hope the step taken by Denmark today would culminate in effective legislation to curb the desecration of the Holy Quran and other divine books," it was added.

"We also hope that other countries will emulate and undertake similar steps to outlaw such hateful acts," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said the recurrent incidents of the Holy Quran's desecration during the last few months had hurt the sentiments of over 1.6 billion Muslims worldwide.

"Such abhorrent acts intend to create friction among communities and harm inter-faith harmony and mutual respect. It is the responsibility of national governments to take all measures necessary to prevent these acts of religious hatred, xenophobia and Islamophobia," it was added.

In his interaction with Danish Foreign Minister, Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, while appreciating the Danish government's proposed legislation, expressed the hope that the bill, when passed, would create interfaith harmony and bring an end to an environment of hatred amongst the people of different religious faiths.

Two Al Qaeda commanders among 8 terrorists arrested

LAHORE (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed on Saturday to have arrested eight terrorists, including two commanders of Al Qaeda.

The arrests were made during intelligence-based operations (IBOs) carried out in several cities of Punjab. According to the CTD spokesperson, the operation was carried out in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala and Multan.

Two Al Qaeda commanders, Kashaan and Hassan, were arrested in Lahore during the operation. The team also recovered explosives, detonators, IEDs, mobile phones and cash from the suspects.

Other terrorists have been identified as Liaquat, Gul Karim, Ayub Khan, Ameer Muavia and Rizwan. Cases had been registered against them and an investigation is underway. Over 135 suspects were arrested by the CTD in 336 combing operations last week while 16,784 people were interrogated by the law-enforcement agency.

Citizens protest against sending heavy electricity bills continues

PESHAWAR (APP): The Citizens' protest against the sending of heavy electricity bills continues for the second day with people of the inner city blocking the main circular road, causing problems and huge traffic jams on both sides.

The protesters marched from various localities of the inner city gathered near Gunj Gate on main Circular Road, chanted slogans against PESCO and other concerned quarters for sending huge bills and demanded from the government to set up a probe committee to see the actual riding of the electricity bills.

The protesters while recording their protest also set on fire their electricity bills. "It is injustice on the part of the concerned authorities wherein sending bills of thousands and millions of rupees to even very poor families, which is a gross abuse," the protesters said.



QUETTA: Commander ANF Brig. Adnan presenting shield to caretaker Provincial Minister for Mineral Umair Muhammad Hasni during a meeting

فیڈرل گورنمنٹ ایمپلائز ہاؤسنگ اتھارٹی

پہلی مرتبہ اور سیز پاکستانیوں اور جنرل پبلک کیلئے رہائشی پلاٹس

اسلام آباد کے منظور شدہ پرائیم سیگٹرز G-12 اور F-12

اہلیت

- جنرل پبلک کوٹہ :- تمام پاکستانی شہری جو شناختی کارڈ کے حامل ہیں۔
- اور ریز پاکستانی کوٹہ :- پاکستانی افراد جو POC/NICOP/ Dual Nationality/ Resident Permit کے حامل ہوں۔

خصوصیت

- جنرل پبلک کیلئے 20 فیصد اور اور ریز پاکستانیوں کیلئے 15 فیصد رہائشی پلاٹس کا کوٹہ مخصوص کیا گیا ہے۔
- درخواست گزار بریکنگری میں ایک سے زیادہ درخواستیں جمع کر سکتا ہے بہر حال ایک سے زائد پلاٹس قرض اندازی میں نکلنے کی صورت میں درخواست گزار اپنی مرضی کا ایک پلاٹ لے سکتا ہے۔
- تین سالہ آسان اقساط کے تحت پلان کے ساتھ۔
- درخواست فارم بعد نامنا قابل واپسی نہیں نیچے دئے گئے ٹھیل کے مطابق عسکری بینک لمیٹڈ یا بینک آف پنجاب کی کسی بھی برانچ میں جمع کرایا جاسکتا ہے۔
- اور ریز پاکستانی/جنرل پبلک آن لائن Visa/Master کارڈز کے ذریعے بھی پلاٹ لے سکتے ہیں۔

جدید سہولیات کشادہ سڑکیں، بجلی، پانی، گیس، پلے گراؤنڈ، پارکس، کمرشل سینٹرز مین مرکز، سکول، مساجد سے آراستہ ہوگا۔

فاسم جمع کرانے کی آخری تاریخ
10 اکتوبر 2023 ہے

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272	G-12 / F-12	10,000	16,320,000	3,264,000	1,088,000
356	G-12 / F-12	15,000	21,360,000	4,272,000	1,424,000
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Sultan urges world to take cognizance of worsening HR situation in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmoed Chaudhry Saturday urged the international community to take immediate cognizance of the worsening situation of human rights in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Talking to Chairperson of "Be the Merciful", Samira Farrukh here, he said the international com-

munity must play its due moral and much needed diplomatic role to stop India's brutality against Kashmiris, particularly Kashmiri women, who have been worst victims of Indian state terrorism.

Barrister Sultan Mahmood said the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir are going through a difficult situation.

He said due to the

massive troops' concentration in the region, the Kashmiri women have suffered enormously. He maintained that the Kashmiris living all over the world should become the voice of the women of occupied Kashmir and expose the violation of human rights perpetrated by India before the world community.

"Women and children in IIOJK are being targeted

with pellet guns by the Indian occupation forces," he said, adding that rape is used as a weapon of war against Kashmiris by the Indian occupation forces.

He said, despite the relentless suppression, the women of occupied Kashmir have significantly contributed to the ongoing freedom movement while fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Kashmiri freedom fighters.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with a delegation of Harvard University Students.



ISLAMABAD: People holds their electricity bills block the road at Sector G-7 during protest against the extremely over billing, as the common people are now helpless for paying such huge amount, in Federal Capital.

APHC says: Kashmiris being jailed for raising voice for right to self-determination

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders (APHC) have said that those who raised their voice for their right to self-determination and peace in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were being put in jails.

According to Kashmir media service, the APHC leaders including Saleem Zargar, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, Farooq Ahmed Tawheed, Mir Shahid

Saleem and Maulana Musab Nadvi in their joint statements said, "Anyone who speaks or raises voice against the Indian atrocities, injustice and for resolution of the Kashmir dispute by peaceful means is being put behind bars."

They said, "The BJP regime after usurping all political, economic, religious and social rights of the Kashmiri people is claiming so-called peace in the territory."

The APHC leaders said, "Over four thousand Hurriyat leaders, activists and youth are facing illegal detentions in fake cases under black laws in different jails of IIOJK and India since long time and are being punished for speaking truth." Meanwhile, Democratic Youth Forum paid a rich tribute to martyred Umer Qayoom who was killed by Indian troops in custody on August 20, 2010 in Srinagar.

Sedition case: ATC adjourns hearing of bail after arrest plea of Ali Wazir, Imaan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad had adjourned hearing of bail after arrest plea of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) leader Ali Wazir and Human Rights lawyer Imaan Mazari till August 28 in sedition case.

The bail after arrest plea of Imaan Mazari and Ali Wazir came up for hearing before ATC Saturday.

Duty judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan took up bail after arrest plea for hearing.

Duty judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan heard the bail plea being the judge of

ATC Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain on leave.

The duty judge adjourned the hearing of the case without proceeding till August 28.

The court summoned the arguments on bail plea of the accused on next hearing.

It is pertinent to mention here ATC Islamabad had sent Imaan Mazaari and Ali Wazir to Adiala jail on judicial remand on August 24 in sedition case.

The court has sent Ali Wazir and Imaan Mazari to Adiala jail on 14 days judicial remand.



ISLAMABAD: Daily wages workers with their tools waiting for costumers at roadside in the Federal Capital.

Experts, analysts urge UN to honour its commitments on Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): Political experts and analysts have urged the international community, particularly the UN, to stand up for the oppressed people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, who are facing the worst and brutal violations of their human rights in the internationally recognized disputed territory.

According to Kashmir media service (KMS) report on Saturday, the political experts and analysts, while talking to media men in Srinagar, said that every democratic and justice loving person must raise voice for the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir who are under Indian military and police repression for the last 76 years.

They said, supporting the beleaguered Kashmiris is to support humanity, peace and truth. "It is time

to stand up for the Kashmiri people before it is too late. It is time to raise voice for the voiceless people of occupied people. It is time to stop Hindutva BJP/RSS ideology regime and their establishment from targeting Kashmiris in false cases. It is time to halt demographic changes being made by BJP government in IIOJK," they said.

The political experts and analysts said, the world community must shun its double standards and help the people of Jammu and Kashmir who are demanding their right to self-determination guaranteed to them by the UN resolutions.

They asked India to remember that its cruel methods in IIOJK are bound to backfire. They urged the UN to honour its commitments regarding the Kashmir dispute.

Heroin recovered from passenger travelling from I'abad to Doha

ISLAMABAD (Online): Staff of Airport Security Force (ASF) recovered packets full of heroin and ice crystal white heroin from possession of Doha bound passenger during an operation at Islamabad International Airport.

According to spokesperson, total of 1.996 kilogram of heroin and crystal ice have been seized from recovered packets.

He said that passenger Tajzer Khan had skillfully hidden these packets containing heroin in the bottom of bag but ASF staff showed great professionalism during search of goods and failed the smuggling attempt by recovering the drugs.

Spokesperson also said that accused has been handed over to ANF authorities for further legal action along with recovered drugs after initial investigation.

Capital Police Dolphin Squad play vital role in eradicating crime

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police dolphin squad is working under the Safe City Islamabad centralized system, which is deployed in different areas of the city for patrolling and crime prevention, a public relations officer said.

He said that the Islamabad Capital Police dolphin squad is actively performing a crucial role against criminal elements. During routine checking the Dolphin Squad has checked over 10,000 suspected individuals, more than 3,000 vehicles and nearly 7,000 motorcycles, among which 12 firearms with ammunition and one stolen vehicle were recovered. Additionally, 21 snatched vehicles and 24 individuals involved in car, motorcycle, and theft activities, two suspected individuals and one drug dealer were transferred to police stations for legal proceedings.

IHC issues orders for desealing over 100 car show rooms

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued orders for desealing over 100 car show rooms.

Justice Babar Sattar of IHC issued order for hearing the petition filed by over 25 owners of show rooms. Director Building Control of CDA could not give satisfactory explanation for sealing the show rooms.

It has been said in written order Director Building Control could not tell under what law the show rooms were sealed. CDA lawyers filed

copies of five years old public notice. No show cause notice was given to any person before sealing his show room.

IHC ordered CDA all the show rooms be desealed forthwith. Director building control should explain as to why the action be not taken against him. Director CDA should give affidavit as to why action be not taken against him on misuse of powers.

The court while directing CDA to file reply till September 3 adjourned the hearing of the case till September 11.

LG by-polls in KP: ECP establishes Central Control Room

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has established a central control room in Islamabad to oversee the local government by-elections taking place in 21 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Sunday. The control room has been set up and will operate continuously until the final results are received.

The control room's role includes addressing any polling-related complaints that emerge during the elections.

Complaints can be submitted 24/7 through phone, fax, or email. As per an ECP spokesperson, the election process will be monitored by senior officers from the control room. The Control Room maintains continuous communication with District Monitoring Officers and Monitoring Teams in KP. Setting up the central control room showcases the ECP's proactive approach to ensuring a smooth and equitable local government election process in KP.



ISLAMABAD: People are buying books from vendor at G-8 Markaz as due to the modern technology such ambitions are now decreasing day by day across the country.

Intl Day against Nuclear Tests to be marked on Aug 29

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Day against Nuclear Tests will be marked on August 29 (Tuesday) across the globe including Pakistan that brings public awareness and education about the effects of global nuclear weapon tests.

The day aims to end nuclear testing and to promote peace and security.

International Day Against Nuclear Tests aims to educate and bring awareness about the effects of nuclear testing.

The International Day against Nuclear Tests aims to raise people's awareness of the need to prevent nuclear catastrophes to avert devastating effects on humankind, the environment and the planet.

Many people use the day as an opportunity to share their perspectives on the issue of nuclear weapons and testing.

Different organizations may host educational and public activities to bring awareness of the use of nuclear weapons and the dangers involved with

nuclear weapons testing and usage.

The history of nuclear testing began on July 16, 1945, when an atomic bomb was used at a desert test site in Alamogordo, New Mexico, in the United States. More than 2000 nuclear tests were carried out worldwide between 1945 and 1996.

Nuclear weapons tests are generally broken into different categories reflecting the test's medium or location, Atmospheric tests, Underwater tests underground tests.

Over the years, there have been calls to ban nuclear tests to ensure the protection of people's lives and the environment around them.

The UN approved a draft resolution in late 2009 for an international day against nuclear tests to raise public awareness about the threats and dangers of nuclear weapons.

It was also hoped that the UN's member states would move towards the idea of nuclear disarmament.



ISLAMABAD: CDA worker busy in trimming grass on roadside greenbelt.

It's time to embrace technology, adopt new ways of doing business: Raja

KARACHI (APP): Former Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Saturday said, it was the time to embrace technology and adopt new ways of doing business.

While addressing as a chief guest at Brands of Year Awards Ceremony at a local hotel, he focused on the importance of businesses in making great contribution towards economy of Pakistan.

According to a communique, he said it's very encouraging to see that busi-

ness community is playing its role in the betterment of the country. Ashraf reiterated that times have changed.

He said that previously one has to sell by going to the market physically and find customers but now this can be done through click of button.

Ashraf said that he has also made it mandatory that such IT skills should be taught to young people in his constituency so that employment can be generated.

He said that the government is willing to extend its full support to businesses of various categories so that foreign exchange can be generated which will generate employment considering the fact that even in developed countries only 4% of employment can be generated by public sector otherwise it will end in loss making entities adding burden on National exchequer.

Later, he distributed awards to brands of different categories.

Wanted member of criminal gang held: cash recovered

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Capital Police Lohi Bher police team has arrested a wanted member of a criminal gang involved in numerous snatching activities and recovered cash Rs 07 lakh from his possession, a Public Relation Officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens.

According to the details, a Lohi Bher police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending a wanted member of a criminal gang. The accused were identified as Najeeb Ullah.

Two members of snatchers gang held

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Capital Police Shalimar police station team has arrested two wanted members of a criminal gang known as Qari gang involved in numerous snatching and motorbike lifting activities and recovered motorbike and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relation officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens. According to the details, a Shalimar police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending two wanted members.

Increase in dengue cases in Federal Capital

ISLAMABAD (Online): Dengue cases have started increasing continuously in Federal Capital.

As many as 5 new cases of dengue have been reported in Islamabad in last 24 hours. According to District Health officer, total number of dengue patients has reached 45 in Islamabad.

Total number of dengue cases in rural areas of Islamabad has reached 30. 15 cases have been reported from urban areas of Islamabad and 2 dengue patients are under treatment in PIMS hospital.

Twelve dengue patients are under treatment in Holy Family Hospital and 10 dengue patients are under treatment in DHQ hospital. 76% of dengue patients are male and 24% are female.



ISLAMABAD: Skilled laborer busy in work to enhance the beauty of underpass wall at 7th Avenue during development work in Federal Capital.

IHRA continues operation against illegal HCEs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has sealed six Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) in different areas of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

The IHRA inspection teams carried out inspections of 47 Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) in different areas of the Islamabad Capital Territory during the past two weeks.

Quest Medical Complex, Zia Dental Clinic, Abbas Clinic, First Aid Medical Center, Sana Clinic and Subhan Clinic were sealed due to malpractices like the absence of qualified medical staff, unhygienic conditions and absence of a proper waste management system and non-registration with the IHRA.

The Authority suspended the services of two Healthcare Establishments

over different medical non-compliance.

Hassan Dental Cosmetic and Quality Labs were suspended while 27 Healthcare Establishments were served notices for minor non-compliance and instructed their managements to comply with the directions given by the inspections team.

Eight HCEs were found closed upon arrival of inspection teams while four Healthcare Establishments were recommended for registration and revocation of suspension.

The IHRA inspection teams also visited the Blood Bank of KRL Hospital and Islamabad Medical Complex (Nescom) and instructed their managements to comply with the directions given by the inspection teams for improvements.



ISLAMABAD: Workers are busy in their work of installing over head pedestrian bridge at Srinagar Highway in Federal Capital.

PIMS new emergency block to be expanded

ISLAMABAD (APP): The management of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has decided to expand the new emergency block project of the hospital with the addition of one more floor to ensure the provision of the best emergency services to the citizens. According to an official of the hospital, the decision was made on the direction of the Planning Commission of Pakistan as with this new plan, 75 additional beds will be added to the project.

He said that after the approval from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, the documents of the projects had been

sent to the Planning Commission for allocation of funds. He said that with the addition of 75 beds, the total number of beds would be 239 in the new emergency block of the hospital with state-of-the-art facilities including a laboratory, operation theatre and x-ray.

He said that the new Emergency Block project would be completed next year. The project will be helpful in providing quality emergency services to patients of not only Islamabad but also from surrounding areas, he said and added the Executive Director PIMS has already directed the hospital administration to provide standard medical services to incoming patients.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Sunday August 27, 2023

Scant regard

The chief election commissioner, Sikandar Sultan Raja, seems to be holding the Constitution in very scant regard.

With the unlawful and unjustifiable delay of long overdue elections to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab assemblies already to his credit, it is clear the constitutional timeline for general elections will not be followed either, thanks in part to the PDM government's 'timely' approval of census results and the excuse of fresh delimitation of constituencies it has provided.

Perhaps one may have viewed these deviations from constitutional timelines a little more charitably had there been a greater sense of obligation to the people and their rights on display. Instead, the ECP under Mr Raja continues to act as if it has no inclination to restore order to the political arena at the earliest possible.

Mr Raja had been extended a meeting invitation on Wednesday by President Arif Alvi so that the two could sit down and work out a date for the upcoming general election.

The Constitution accords the president this privilege under Article 48(5): he must appoint a date for general elections to the National Assembly within 90 days of its dissolution.

However, Mr Raja curtly turned down the invite the next day, dismissing the president's overture as being of "scant consequence" after recent changes to the election law.

Was there a need to be so confrontational? He could have met the head of state out of simple courtesy and conveyed the same in person. Mr Raja seemingly felt his time would be better spent discussing Pakistan's elections with the US ambassador instead.

It must be pointed out that the recent changes to the Elections Act, which Mr Raja cited in his letter as justification to turn down the president's invitation, can and will be contested.

Some legal observers have pointed out that the amendment to Section 57 of the law — which the commissioner "understands and believes" gives the ECP exclusive power to set a date for general elections — remains subject to and subservient to the Constitution, which explicitly gives this power to the president of Pakistan.

In the presence of this glaring contradiction, should the commissioner not have exercised more prudence? One is inclined to recall the Supreme Court's admonishment of the ECP in the Punjab elections delay case.

In its detailed judgement on the matter, the country's top court had chided the election watchdog for confusing its duties with 'non-existent' powers when it acted out of order to delay elections beyond the 90-day deadline prescribed in the Constitution.

It appears that those confusions have yet to dissipate. Mr Raja should realise that he is under a heavy obligation. The ECP cannot continue to dodge the Constitution and expect to get away with it. It must submit to the law.



Pervez Hoodbhoy

Visit any part of Balochistan and you'll see what's considered abnormal elsewhere, is normal here. Along highways and major roads, hilltops bristle with Omani-style forts with machine guns peering down from the heights.

On the plains, bunkers and checkpoints abound. In my low-end rented car with a local driver, time after time we were stopped and interrogated until I lost my cool. Why must I repeatedly prove my credentials in my own country? Which foreign power is occupying us? Thereupon a Frontier Corps officer was summoned to deal with a noisy case.

The remainder was pleasant enough. An avid YouTube watcher, Captain X from Kharian ordered tea and biscuits. As trucks

laden with fuel smuggled from Iran were waved on by his men below, we entered a long conversation. He was here for protecting us all. Gesturing towards distant Khuzdar which had recently seen a bomb attack, he said he was on a two-year deputation. Protection was needed against Baloch separatists and TTP terrorists.

Why, tasked, not leave security matters to the Baloch Levies and local police? He sighed. Yes, this should happen sooner rather than later. He did not relish being viewed by the locals as a Punjabi occupier and wanted to be home asap. As for stopping fuel smuggling, that was above his pay scale. It made sense. We parted with a handshake and traditional hug.

Checkposts thickly dot Abbottabad as well. My last visit was years before Osama bin Laden magically popped up in 2011 and put this KP city on the world map. The checkpoints looked new to me. Why now? Are we near the military academy? Has something bad happened recently?

No, said my host, the barriers are new and this is

demonstrated against inflation, doling out mining rights, and the acquisition of large tracts of land by the army for cadet colleges and CPFC projects. But these were peaceful protests. Why is such heavy, assertive presence needed in our so-called 'smaller provinces'? Why is Lahore, which is just a stone's throw away from the Indian border, practically free from checkpoints and the overbearing presence of uniformed soldiers?

To seek an explanation, let's revisit the Melian Dialogue. Held between the soldiers of Athens and people living on the island of Melos, this classic exchange of 2,000 years ago showcases the clash between power and morality. The Athenians say that they would be justified in occupying Melos because they are stronger. The Melians, who are an older culture, argue for self-rule as their right.

The Athenians contend that the strong invariably do what they can and the weak suffer what they must. In international relations, there is no such thing as justice, only power. Therefore the Melians

would be better off surrendering now rather than suffering a worse fate later. In turn, the Melians plead that they have done nothing wrong to the Athenians. Athenians: What we shall do now is to show you that it is for the good of our own empire that we are here and that it is for the preservation of your city. We do not want any trouble in bringing you into our empire, and we want you to be spared for the good both of yourselves and of ourselves.

Melians: And how could it be just as good for us to be the slaves as for you to be the masters?

Athenians: You, by giving in, would save yourselves from disaster; we, by not destroying you, would be able to profit from you. Melians: So you would not agree to our being neutral? You can invade elsewhere if you want.

Athenians: No, because it is not so much your hostility that injures us; it is rather the case that, if we were on friendly terms with you this would be seen as a sign of our weakness, whereas your hatred is evidence of our power. This dialogue, re-

peated in various shapes and forms over the centuries, remains instructive. Rulers assert their power through highly visible means such as checkpoints and barriers. Of course, Pakistan is not the only country in the world with a strong centre and weaker opponents in the periphery.

For them to be effective, it is essential that the state machinery provide effective governance, demonstrate fairness, and show indifference to ethnic origins. Insensitivity to this has had tragic consequences for Pakistan. The lessons of 1971 were never learned.

The Pakistan Army, as the name says, is Pakistan's army. Needed for defending national borders, its allegiance must be to all the peoples of Pakistan and not just to those of one province. Its footprint across the country should be only as big as strictly necessary and no more. Unnecessary checkpoints suggest a ruler mentality. Those in uniform must be seen less often, stay away from meddling in politics, and do more to fight the rising tide of TTP terrorism. -- Courtesy Dawn

Why these checkpoints?

Can Pakistan manage modernity?



Javid Husain

Pakistan, like most of the Muslim world, is faced with the existential challenge of modernity. The challenge was initially posed around the beginning of the 19th century when the Islamic world, weakened by outdated dogmas and rituals that were at variance with the teachings of Islam and its real spirit, collided with a resurgent West which had been awakened by Enlightenment and fortified by the industrial revolution and scientific and technological advancement.

The decadent Muslim states from Indonesia to Morocco collapsed in the face of an expansionist West so that by the beginning of the 20th century most of them had been colonized by one Western state or the other. The defeat of the Ottoman Empire during World War I and its subse-

quent disintegration were virtually the last nail in the coffin of the decadent Muslim world.

What caused the Muslim world, with a distinguished past both in terms of physical expansion and scholarly achievements, to cave in so ignominiously in front of an expansionist West? The answer to this question may provide us with guidelines for the revival and progress of the Muslim world in the future.

The Renaissance in Europe starting from the 15th century gave birth to free and critical enquiry leading to the questioning of received dogmas and advancement in human knowledge. It laid the foundation for the Age of Enlightenment of the 17th and 18th centuries which emphasized the use of reason for understanding the universe resulting in revolutionary progress in different branches of knowledge especially sciences and leading to the industrial and technological revolution from the 18th century onwards. In politics, the Enlightenment gradually led to the organization of the state on democratic lines.

New scientific discoveries and the industrial and

technological revolution enormously increased the power of the Western nations as they set out to conquer distant lands and exploit their resources for their own benefit. By way of contrast, the Muslims, who in their earlier years of glory and progress spanning about a thousand years since the advent of Islam were the torch bearers of human learning, had lost interest in the advancement of knowledge especially sciences. This was tragic particularly because of the emphasis that Islam places on gaining knowledge through observation and scientific enquiry as repeatedly enjoined by the Holy Quran and several sayings of the Prophet (pbuh).

Instead of inculcating the spirit of free and critical enquiry, Muslims were content with practicing received dogmas and rituals which deviated from the true spirit of Islam. It was not surprising, therefore, that Muslim states, which lacked the vigour of intellectual dynamism, the unity and solidarity derived from the political organization on democratic principles, and the strength of scientific advancement and industrial revolution, were

easily defeated by Western nations.

The pace of modernization has gathered speed since the beginning of the 20th century. Modernity as we understand it now is marked by intellectual readiness to question received dogmas and consider new ideas, religious moderation and tolerance, scientific progress, development of new products and technologies, innovative managerial practices, fast means of transportation, instantaneous communications, and accelerated financial exchanges. In essence, the modern era is both knowledge-based and knowledge-driven, that is, knowledge mainly determines the position and the pace of progress of a state in the comity of nations.

Unfortunately, Pakistan as a nation fails in meeting most of the criteria of modernity. For instance, instead of encouraging critical inquiry in our search for knowledge, we are prone to accept received doctrines in different branches of knowledge without questioning their rationale and validity in the modern age. This approach leads to intellectual stagnation with a negative impact on

humanity's march forward on the road to progress and prosperity. This flaw is particularly prominent in the way we deal with social, political, and economic issues confronting society. Contrary to the teachings of Islam and the demands of modernity, our society also suffers from growing religious extremism and intolerance as evidenced by the tragic events witnessed at Jaranwala recently.

Pakistan regrettably also falls in the category of those nations which have assigned a low priority to education in general and to science and technology in particular despite the importance of knowledge in the modern era. Historically, Pakistan's total expenditure on education has been far below the international standards. As against the UNESCO recommended ratio of 4.0 per cent of GDP, Pakistan's expenditure on education has rarely exceeded 2.0 per cent of GDP and was as low as 1.7 per cent of GDP in 2021-22. Consequently, our literacy percentage is at the shamefully low level of about 60 per cent which means that out of a population of about 250 million according to the latest es-

timates, 100 million are illiterate.

Finally, Pakistan's political thought and practices have failed to catch up with the evolution of democracy that has taken place in the modern era. We still have to resolve the continued tension between the elected institutions of the state and the military establishment which has ruled the country during almost half of its history while controlling the other state institutions from behind the scene during the remainder half. Consequently, Pakistan has suffered from continued political instability which has in turn prevented our governments from performing well. The continued hold of feudalism is another factor preventing Pakistan from entering the modern era.

Pakistan's leaders and policymakers need to ponder over these issues with a view to drawing the right lessons from our history while keeping in view the demands of the modern era. It is only thus that we will be able to correct our past mistakes and put the country on the road to progress and prosperity. -- Courtesy TheNews

A dying lake



Naseer Memon

Once glorified as Pakistan's largest freshwater lake and a pristine wetland ecosystem, Manchar Lake has degenerated into a polluted pond. In fact, Manchar is a case study in how nature's endowment can be annihilated by poor planning; in this case, by the ill-conceived Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOD) project.

Historically a natural depression fed by hill torrents of the Kirthar range on its western boundary, the pond was converted into a lake under the Sukkur barrage project in 1932. The lake was provided with a 32-kilometre long Manchar Containing (MC) Bund and was connected with the Indus through three feeder canals. Additionally, an abandoned stream of the Indus, Main Nara Valley, was also converted into a proper channel — the Main Nara Valley Drain (MNVD) — to transport torrential flows from the northern edge of Kirthar. A 277km long flood protection (FP) bund was also constructed to divert mountain flows from Balochistan and the Kirthar range to Manchar.

Nai Gaj is the main source of torrential inflows from the mountains. Additionally, a series of other torrents bring fleeting, yet high-intensity, gushing flows that require completely different management systems, institutional capacities and infrastructure. High floods of 1934, 1942, 1944, 1948, 1956, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1995, 2007 and 2022 are reminders of this fact.

Last year, breaches in the MNVD and, later on, relief cuts applied at Aral Wah flooded the area between Sehwan and Bhan Saheedabad. Manchar Lake is a major source of livelihood for local communities and used to support local agriculture before its water became toxic. After the recession of flood water, the exposed lake floor would become suitable for wheat cultivation on the residual moisture, akin to a riverine floodplain. The Lower Indus Region Right Bank Master Plan (Mott MacDonald International Ltd, 1992) estimated an availability of 26,000 acres of land when the water level came down from 110ft to 106ft. Additionally, agriculture was practised through three connecting canals. The aforementioned report estimated that more than 82,000 acres were being cultivated in the areas around the lake at that time. Fish, migratory birds and aquatic plants were some of the other sources of food and livelihood for local communities. The RBMP projected an annual fish production of 2,000 tonnes. Most these sources of livelihood have now vanished due to the pollution-ravaged ecosystem of the lake, compelling many of the local people to migrate.

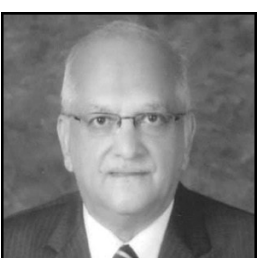
The disaster began to unfold several decades ago, when the Water and Power Development Authority in 1976 converted the MNVD from a fresh water stream to a saline water drain pouring agricultural effluent of northern Sindh districts into Manchar Lake. Building on the Lower Indus report, a Right Bank Master Plan (RBMP) was developed in 1992 with a focus on irrigation and drainage requirements on the right bank. Pursuing recommendations of the Plan, Wapda started re-

view of the RBOD (Stage-1) project. A report of the RBMP about the Manchar and Hamal lakes mentioned that pouring the effluent of Stage-1 into Manchar was technically possible. However, the document makes clear that the prognosis for Manchar in that case would be deleterious, saying: "It would result in a significant deterioration in lake water quality". The Indus Link was proposed as a solution to divert MNVD to the Indus River. The experts, however, underestimated the fallout of this measure on the Indus River, saying it "would have no negative impact".

In 2011, the Supreme Court took suo moto notice of the contamination of water in Manchar Lake. Protracted court proceedings could not conclude with any clear instructions regarding the complete rehabilitation of the lake. Meanwhile, the court directed the provincial authorities to ensure regular monitoring and revival of water filtration plants, disposal of solid waste and efforts to control pollution level in the lake.

So far, Rs35bn to 40bn have been spent on the project. Encountering several bottlenecks and lack of political will, physical work on the project has been at a standstill for the last five years. It has seen non-compliance with timelines several times as well as multiple cost revisions. Both the federal and provincial governments have abandoned this vital project and whole effluent continues to devastate Manchar Lake. Such indifference indicates apathy on the part of both authorities. Manchar Lake is a wetland of national significance and should be rehabilitated by completing the RBOD project on a priority footing. -- Courtesy Dawn

ILO conventions



Parvez Rahim

The European Union's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) is a special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance that supports vulnerable developing countries. Pakistan has GSP+ status since January 2014 and can benefit from preferential access to the European market. In compliance with GSP regulations, Pakistan has ratified all 27 core international conventions on human rights, labour standards, environmental protection and good governance. Total EU imports from Pakistan amounted to €6.6 billion in 2021, of which €4.7bn benefited from GSP+ tariffs. This makes Pakistan the largest beneficiary among all GSP+ beneficiary countries. However, exports to EU have dipped by over 4.1 per cent in FY23 due to a slump in demand for Pakistani goods in Germany and Netherlands.

Pakistan's most important export products are trousseaux, linen, t-shirts, and pullovers made from cotton, but also medical instruments and appliances. Rice is the main agricultural product for export. The top export destinations for Pakistan are Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, and Belgium.

The monitoring priorities for getting the GSP+ incentives include (1) Human rights (2) Labour rights (3) Environmental protection and (4) Good governance. EU is considering extending the current GSP+ for Pakistan and other countries until 2027 with the same regulations.

Pakistan has been an active member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) since 1947 and has ratified 36 ILO conventions, including eight out of 10 fundamental conventions and two governance conventions. This includes Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No 87) and Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No 98). However, Pakistan's record of compliance with international labour standards remains a challenge, specifically in the context of these two conventions.

The ILO's Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) identifies where Pakistan's labour laws are not in compliance with one or both of the two conventions. It also notes the persistence of this non-compliance across several years and through multiple labour law reform processes.

The CEACR has carried out detailed analysis of all the provisions of the [Federal] Industrial Relations Act, 2012. Following the devolution of labour laws by virtue of the 18th Amendment in April 2010, the federal government has not made any amendments in the labour laws falling within its domain, aside from the 2012 law.

The CEACR has recommended comprehensive changes to the law, to bring it in conformity with the requirements of ILO's constitution. Mostly, the existing provisions of the federal and provincial acts are based on the Industrial Relations Ordinance, 1969, considered by all stakeholders as one of the best labour legislations promulgated in Pakistan. Following are some of the CEACR's key recommendations:

(a) Many categories of workers remain outside the scope of the act. Excluding the police, armed forces

and public servants engaged in the administration of the state, workers in other categories should be allowed to enjoy their rights under the convention.

(b) The act permits employers to ban managerial employees from joining organisations of their own choosing. Senior managerial employees should be enjoined to establish and join organisations that can adequately defend their occupational interests.

(c) Federal and provincial legislations should be amended so that all agricultural and fisheries workers, whether in the formal or informal sector, enjoy the rights conferred by the convention.

(d) Ensure that workers can join trade unions at the national and branch level as well as the enterprise level at the same time.

(e) Unions other than the Collective Bargaining Agent, named by the CEACR as "minority unions" in an establishment, should be provided with the essential means of defending their members' occupational interests.

(f) Repeal Section 27 B of the Banking Companies Ordinance 1962, to enable workers in the banking sector to exercise trade union activities.

(g) Ensure the mandate and role of other elected forums — ie shop stewards, works council, management committee and the joint management board — constituted under the act, is sharply distinguished from that of trade unions.

In addition, there are 22 recommendations of the CEACR on which Pakistan is required to submit a report to ILO by February 2026 and to the EU by 2027. The government has committed to doing so in consultation with the tripartite constituents. It appears an uphill task for the government, which has allowed federal labour laws to become obsolete since devolution in 2010. -- Courtesy Dawn

It's our social responsibility to protect minorities: Ashrafi

SARGODHA (APP): A conference on 'Religious Harmony' was organized by the district Peace Committee on Saturday. Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi participated in the conference as the chief guest while Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, RPO Shariq Kamal Siddiqui, Deputy Commissioner Captain (Retired) Shoaib Ali, DPO Faisal Kamran, spokesperson for the Church of Pakistan Amaal Khokhar, and former MPA Tahir Naveed Chaudhry were present along with members of the Christian community. Scholars from different sects, professors and people from various walks of life also attended. Addressing the conference, Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said that Islam teaches love and peace and respect for all religions. He said the Jaranwala violence was a

sad incident and condemned it on behalf of ulema belonging to all schools of thoughts. The accused of the Jaranwala incident have been arrested and they would face the law, he said and added, "Our society and religion do not allow punishing any individual without fulfilling legal requirements." He said, "it is our social responsibility to protect lives and properties of minorities". The Commissioner said, "Sargodha is a peaceful division, and we all work together to maintain this atmosphere of peace." Speaking at the conference, RPO Shariq Kamal Siddiqui said that in the past five days, 64 phone calls had been received against controversial content on social media in different districts of Punjab. He said that the purpose of such actions was to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere and

spread discord among Pakistanis. The RPO said that the police, along with other security agencies, were vigilant and actively engaged in suppressing such enemies in the country. Spokesman for Churches Pakistan Amaal Khokhar said that the killing of one person is the killing of entire humanity. He said, "We have to obey God, end differences and increase love so that there is no unrest anywhere in our country." Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Shoaib Ali welcomed all the guests while delivering the opening speech. Various religious scholars also addressed the conference and condemned the Jaranwala incident and vowed to play their role in creating peaceful atmosphere. The conference concluded with a prayer for the peace and safety of the country.



KARACHI: Sindh Interior Minister Brigadier (R) Haris Nawaz talking to media persons at Karachi Press Club.

NAB DG announces Rs440m disbursement among housing scam affectees

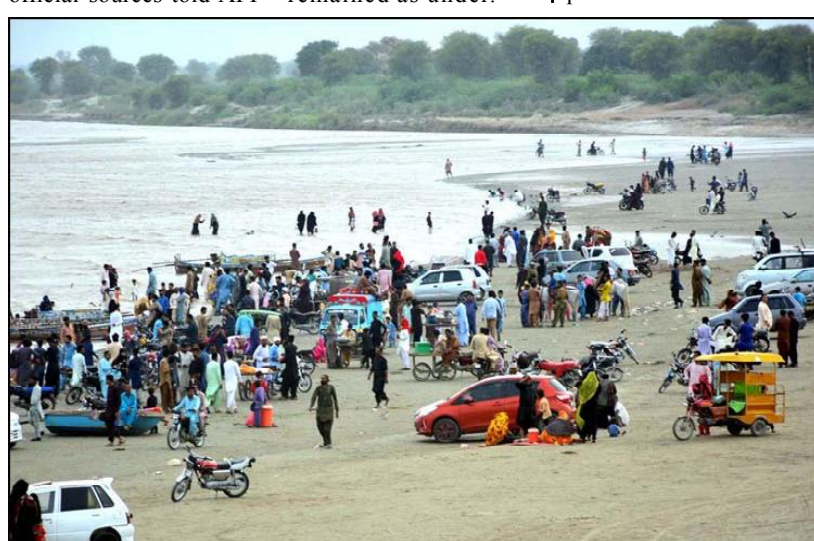
LAHORE (APP): NAB Lahore Director General Anjad Majeed Aulakh held the third monthly open court which attracted a large number of housing scam affectees. Affectees of Omega City Housing, Omega Residencia, Pak-Arab Housing Society, Model Housing Enclave, Fiziya Housing Scheme, Formanites Housing Society, Metro City (Al Raheem Garden), Lahore Garden Housing scheme, Al-Rehman Garden, LDA Avenue-1, Maryam Garden, Elite Town Society and Ali Green Group narrated their ordeals to the NAB DG, who listened to them patiently and issued directives accordingly. Talking to the affectees of the Pak Arab Housing Scheme, the DG

cited court orders regarding the settlement of all claimants within six months, however, he said the NAB investigation team was working tirelessly to materialize it. "Initially, NAB Lahore has sold some properties owned by accused persons and recovered a handsome amount, whereas, a hefty amount is soon to be received from the accused," he added. He informed the affectees of Model Housing Enclave that the NAB had successfully recovered Rs440 million and disbursements would start soon. "The NAB has earlier recovered and gave away more than Rs2 billion to affectees." He asked the NAB team to expedite work on Metro City (Al-Rahim Garden) so that proceedings might be initiated over the claims.

Gradual discharge of water from fully-packed country's largest Mangla dam continues

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): The gradual discharge of water from the currently fully-packed country's largest Mangla dam has continued for the 3rd successive day on Saturday. After a week-long pause, only 0.30 feet of water was discharged 3rd consecutive day from the country's largest reservoir the third leg of the gradual discharge of water on Saturday since full impounding this season to the stipulated maximum level of 1242 feet. Mangla Dam stands biggest reservoir in terms of water storage in the country, was filled to its maximum conservation capacity of 1242 feet, on August 17 - Thursday, official sources told APP

on Saturday. The dam contains a minimum operating level of 1050 feet, a present level of 1241.70 feet, a maximum conservation level of 1242 feet, and live storage on Thursday last 7.332 MAF as recorded on Saturday, the media wing of WAPDA said. The inflows of the Jhelum river at Mangla reservoir were recorded as 23600 cusecs with outflows of the same 29700 cusecs of water from the dam. At the same time, the position of the river inflows and outflows at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoir levels and the barrages remained as under.



HYDERABAD: Numerous families are relishing a picnic by the Indus River during overcast weather, following the rise in water level in the river.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi planting a Mango sapling at Mizar-e-Quaid.

Rebukes labour dept officers Maqbool says to face the music over non compliance of directives

KARACHI (APP): Interim Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar on Saturday said that the Sindh Labour department has been guilty of negligence in the works of labourers welfare. While issuing strict directives to the Labour department here, he said that Rs 21 billion were in the custody of Nazir of Sindh High Court (SHC) due to a case of the labourers welfare. He said that the Labour department did not pursue the case in proper way and the aforesaid

amount was stuck there. He directed the Workers Welfare Board to renovate flats of the labourers in Maymar in four months and allot those to the labourers. He further said that the Board should allot flats in Shaheed Benazirabad and Sukkur in 15 days to labourers. The Interim CM said that the labour colonies were not established in proper locations and because of that those could not become inhabitable. He said, "I will not tolerate any kind of lack of rights to the labourers."

Baqar said that the business organizations have to pay five percent Workers Participant Fund to the labour department, which the department had failed to collect. While expressing his displeasure over the performance of the Sindh Labour department and its Workers Welfare Board, the Interim CM said that he would review the directed measures and take strict action against the officers, if they failed to adhere to the directives. He had also convened a meeting of the department next week.

LDA to provide NOCs at doorsteps

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi took another step for the facilitation of citizens under which the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) will provide documents or NOCs (no objection certificates) to people at their doorsteps. The initiative was taken in a meeting of LDA Governing Body chaired by the caretaker CM here on Saturday. The meeting was granted approval to launch a programme 'Dastak' for delivery services of documents at the doorstep of applicants. The documents would be provided free of cost at the houses of elderly applicants of more than 75 years of age. To launch the delivery service of documents to the applicants residing in other

cities was reviewed during the meeting. Approval was granted to install billboards on the property of LDA and the report of a committee to impose afresh sewerage trunk infrastructure charges was reviewed in the meeting. The committee being constituted to review afresh sewerage and drainage charges in the big private localities submitted its report. It was decided during the meeting that College Road would also be constructed along with the Akbar Chowk fly over. The amended PC-1 was granted approval during the meeting to include construction and extension of College Road in the project. Administrative affairs of the newly constructed sports complex was also reviewed in the meeting.

Two die, three injure in road mishap

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Two persons died and three others including two women got injured after two cars collided near Iqbal Crush Plant on Bannu road in the jurisdiction of Yarik Police Station, here Saturday. According to police spokesman, Nasrullah Marwat son of Ghulam Rasool resident of Sara-e-Naurang was travelling towards Bannu along with his wife Amna, daughter Afnan, Driver Hanif Ullah and Mutti Ullah son of Syed Rasool in a car. Meanwhile, a speedy car coming from the opposite direction suddenly hit their car near Iqbal Crush plant. As a result, Driver Hanif Ullah and Mutti Ullah were died on the spot while the other three persons got injured. The bodies and injured were immediately shifted to the hospital.

WASA directed to remain alert to avoid urban flooding

CM also visits DHQ Kasur, reviews healthcare facilities

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi has directed the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi to remain alert to cope with urban flooding, particularly in low-lying areas near Nullah Lai. According to a WASA spokesman, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Law and Parliamentary Affairs Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad during a visit on Saturday inspected the heavy machinery of WASA at Liaquat Bagh Office. The Advisor also visited Nullah Lai and checked the ongoing cleanliness operation being conducted to clear Nullah Lai. He expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made for the upcoming rain spell. He appreciated all the arrangements of the agency to avoid urban flooding in

the city during the Monsoon. Kanwar Dilshad said that due to the best possible arrangements made before the start of Monsoon rains, this year, there was no emergency and the situation remained under control, particularly during heavy rains. Managing Director, WASA Muhammad Tanveer informed that all the obstacles in the flow of water developed due to the last heavy rain spell were being removed utilizing heavy machinery. Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday visited the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Kasur and reviewed medical facilities being provided to patients. He inspected emergency, child ward and various other and inquired after health of patients and inquired from them about medical facilities.



KARACHI: A large number of Journalists holds protest outside press club against the alleged murdered of Senior journalist Jan Mohammad in District Khairpur.

7 dead, 1,180 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least seven persons were killed and 1,180 others injured in 1,143 road traffic crashes in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 597 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 583 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 593 drivers, 50 underage drivers, 158 pedestrians, and 436 passengers were among the victims of road traffic

crashes. The statistics showed that 279 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 284 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 81 in Faisalabad with 88 victims, and at third Multan with 79 accidents and 78 victims. According to the data, 1,009 motorbikes, 69 auto-rickshaws, 120 motorcars, 19 vans, 14 passenger buses, 16 trucks and 109 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

Wildlife department rescues 26 lizards in Lal Suhanra Park

LAHORE (Online): Punjab Wildlife Authorities have successfully rescued and released 26 lizards that were ensnared in traps illegally set within the confines of Lal Suhanra National Park. A local group of nomads had placed over 300 traps across various areas of the National Park. Upon receiving information about these traps, the Punjab Wildlife staff swiftly responded by locating and recovering 26 lizards that had fallen victim to these traps. Sources indicate that out of the 26 lizards rescued, 13 had sustained broken backs due to their capture. Local nomads had captured these lizards, and some of them were reportedly cooked and consumed. The wildlife staff also discovered three lizards that had been prepared for cooking. Reports suggest that the lizards with broken backs were intended for sale to producers of 'sanda oil'. This incident raises concerns about the illegal trading of wildlife and its impact on biodiversity. In addition to the lizard rescue operation, a hunter engaged in the illegal hunting of a rare falcon was apprehended by the wildlife team in the Tabi area of Mianwali. The authorities confiscated hunting equipment, including a snare basket, as well as two live mice. The accused was fined Rs30,000 for his actions.

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RAWALPINDI: Workers of Jamat-e-Islami holds protest outside WASA Office against the unbearable price hike of electricity, fuel and inflation across the country.

Commissioner for strict action to prevent smog

MULTAN (APP): Multan Commissioner Multan division, Engineer Amir Khattak, ordered strict action to prevent smog. Chaired a meeting to review the performance of the districts of Multan division here Saturday, he ordered strict action against those involved in the burning of crop residues and directed that all brick kilns be shifted to zig-zag technology. Zero tolerance policy should be adopted in this regard, he said and directed the Secretary RTA to launch a crackdown against smoke emitting vehicles. He asked the Deputy Commissioners to impose Section-144 as required for the elimination of environmental pollution and to control smog. While giving orders to the Agriculture Department, the Commissioner said that the farmers' livelihood was connected to the land and their issues should be addressed. The Commissioner ordered to ensure urea and DAP fertilizer at cheaper rates. He directed the officials to launch a crackdown against fake

pesticides and fertilizers. He asked the Agriculture Department officials to come out of the offices and conduct field monitoring. He said that the provincial government was taking steps to provide relief to the growers. Commissioner Aamir Khattak said that the Punjab government had taken a good initiative in the name of 'Ab Chumkenge Gaon' to improve sanitation in rural areas. Sewerage and sanitation work will be done by eight members management committee in each union council. The committee will include Assistant Commissioner, revenue officers, patwari and dignitaries of the area. The mentioned management committee will collect sanitation from commercial places and houses free of cost, the Commissioner expressed. He said that in the past, there was lack of infrastructure and resources for cleanliness and sanitation of rural areas but the Punjab government had taken a historic step for the neglected rural areas.

Rs369m issued for shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh

LAHORE (APP): The finance department has issued Rs 369 million for the expansion of shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh. In this connection, land would be purchased in front of the Golden Gate of the shrine, sources in the Punjab Finance told APP on Saturday. Similarly, Rs 35 million had been issued for the expansion of Shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed in Multan, the sources informed. Moreover, the expansion project includes the construction of a new Langar Khana and commercial kitchen. Additionally, there will be establishment of an administration block, executive VIP lounge, dining hall, and garden. A library and museum will also be set up at the Data Ganj Bakhsh complex. Furthermore, 17 Kanals of land would also be acquired in front of the Golden Gate for the expansion of the complex. It may be mentioned here that Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and former finance minister.

Devastating floods wreak havoc in Vehari

VEHARI (APP): In a tragic turn of events, the district Vehari witnessed a catastrophic overflow of the Sutlej River, resulting in widespread flooding that has engulfed dozens of small and large villages. The areas most severely impacted include Burewala, Mailsi, and Vehari, where local communities are battling against the rising waters. Villages including Sahuka, Jamlera, Gahi Shah, Bhatian, Kuchi Puki, Ladan, Farooqabad, and Siphon have been tragically submerged under the floodwaters. For the past three days, the district has been grappling with a high-level flood situation that has affected thousands of people in the river belt. The flood's devastating impact has extended to

croops, livestock, and infrastructure, with thousands of acres of agricultural land rendered unproductive. The floodwaters have also disrupted the power transmission system and severed land connectivity in multiple areas. Tragically, two persons lost their lives due to the force of the floodwaters. In response, local authorities have established 13 flood relief camps and more than 20 tent villages, along with medical camps, to provide assistance to those in need. Social organizations and welfare institutions have stepped in to offer food and support to the flood victims. However, the situation remains dire, with a shortage of essential supplies such as rations.

Gohar asks APTMA members to focus on garments manufacturing

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries Dr Gohar Ejaz has urged all textile exporters to shift their focus on the value-added products, including garments, and made up to achieve US \$ 80 billion export target. He was talking to leading exporters during his visit to APTMA (All Pakistan Textile Mills Association) House here on Saturday. APTMA Chairman Asif Inam, Chairman (North) Hamid Zaman, Senior Vice Chairman Kamran Arshad, Vice Chairman Khawaja Anees, Asad Shafi, Secretary General Raza Baqir and other members of APTMA welcomed him on the occasion.

Assuring the industry of steadfast government support, Caretaker Federal Minister Gohar Ejaz pledged to address concerns and challenges faced by entrepreneurs. He assured them of providing comprehensive assistance through the ministry's trade and investment officers stationed in various international missions. During the meeting, the importance of establishing efficient banking channels for seamless trade, particularly with Central Asian countries, was highlighted. Dr Gohar Ejaz said this aligns with the government's commitment to cultivating robust economic connections with nations in that region, further expanding Pakistan's trade horizons. He added that his ministry was devising a plan to boost the country's exports by extending all-out support to the industry stakeholders.

Ejaz also announced to abdicate from all his business engagements, including the leadership of APTMA till the time he is under oath to serve the country. Later on, talking to the media, Dr Gohar Ejaz said that he informed the industrialists about his vision to increase Pakistan's global exports.



KARACHI: Raja Pervaz Ashraf, Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan is addressing to the participants at Brands of the Year Awards Ceremony at Marriott Hotel.

Pak waste crisis looms large with 48.5 mln tons of solid waste generated annually

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Speakers on Saturday said Pakistan's waste crisis was looming large, with approximately 48.5 million tons of solid waste generated annually which was exacerbated by a yearly population growth of 2.4 percent and the rapid pace of urbanization.

According to a report published by the International Trade Administration, many Pakistani cities lack the financial and infrastructural capacities to effectively manage the escalating waste, said a news release issued here.

According to Asia Development Bank Report, "At present, only 50 to 70 percent of waste is collected from cities, leaving the remainder to be improperly discarded, leading to harmful emissions and hazardous leachate that contaminate soil and water."

"This dire scenario translates to over five million lives lost annually due to waste-related illnesses," according to World Health Organization's research.

These views were expressed during a significant event hosted by the Institute of Urbanism (IoU) in collaboration with Heinrich Böll Stiftung (hbs), aimed at addressing Pakistan's burgeoning waste challenge.

The event brought together eminent speakers and ignited discussions around harnessing the potential of waste as a resource, all while nurturing the involvement of the nation's youth.

In an unwavering response, IoU and hbs had converged, harnessing the potential of Pakistan's burgeoning youth demographic, constituting over 64 percent of the population, as a driving force for transformative change.

No long-term agriculture policy made in past: Tanveer

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Minister for Agriculture SM Tanveer said on Saturday that unfortunately no long-term policy had been formulated in the past for increasing agriculture production and ensuring value addition through innovation in the sector.

He said this while presiding over a meeting, held to finalise the Punjab Agriculture Strategic Plan (2023-33) in the Planning and Development Board here. He said it was necessary to formulate a long-term policy with clear goals to address the challenges of the agricultural sector so that country's agricultural exports could be increased. SM Tanveer said that the Punjab government had given to all stakeholders an opportunity to share their experience for formulation of a long-term policy, which would be effectively monitored in future.

Land Information and Management System Head Major General Shahid Nazir said that the caretaker government was trying to increase agricultural production through modern technology and cultivable land was being digitalised. Steps were being taken to get more per acre production with the help of modern technology.

Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo said that today all stakeholders had gathered under one roof.



ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in making wooden crates at working area in Sector I-11/1 in Federal Capital.

HESCO initiates monthly "Khuli Kachehri"

HYDERABAD (APP): The management of HESCO has launched a series of monthly "Khuli Kachehri" meetings at the sub-division, division and circle levels, under the consumer-friendly policy.

The purpose of these meetings is to listen to the concerns of electricity consumers and the general public and provide solutions. The decision to hold these open forums was made in compliance with the instructions of the caretaker Prime Minister and the Ministry of Energy.

A spokesperson of HESCO stated that as per the schedule, these open forums were conducted in various locations. These included the Mano Abad area under Operation Circle Nawabshah, the premises of the Operation Division Digri office of Circle Mirpurkhas, the Malik Asad Sikandar ground in Kotri of Laar Circle and the Operation Division Tando Allahyar office of Circle Hyderabad.

PSGMEA and SIMAPink MoU

SIALKOT (APP): The Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturer and Exporter Association (PSGMEA) and the Surgical Instrument Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SIMAP) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in research and development, cross-industry product development and joint participation in international exhibitions, knowledge and expertise exchange, collaboration in export promotion and collaboration for human resources development. The signing ceremony was held at the PSGMEA Auditorium, attended by group leader, Sialkot Business Community, Riaz-ud-Din Sheikh, Chairman PSGMEA Arshad Latif Butt, Chief Coordinator SIMAP Jahangir Baber.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photograph with other participants during the inaugural ceremony of Made in Pakistan Conference.

Punjab Governor says: Business and industrial progress leads to social economic development

LAHORE: The officials of the Executive Council of the Pioneers Businessmen Group led by Chairman Ali Hussam Asghar had a special meeting with the Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at the Governor House Lahore. The delegation apprised Governor Punjab about the difficulties and problems faced by them in markets and industries.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that business and industrial development leads to social-economic development in the country. He said that it is very important to provide a conducive environment to the business community.

Governor Punjab said that former Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, took important steps including the setting up of special economic zones and various development projects for business and industrial development in the country. He said that the coalition government not only averted the imminent threat of default but also set the economy of the country in the right direction.

He said that in the coming days there will be more economic development and stability in the country. He said that be it earthquake, corona pandemic or floods, the business community has always stepped forward and participated in welfare work.

On this occasion, Chairman of Pioneers Businessmen Group,



RAWALPINDI: President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Saqib Rafique addressing press against the unbearable price hike of electricity, fuel and inflation, at RCCI office in City.

LCCI holds conference for solidarity with Christian community

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) organized a conference on interfaith harmony in which all participants strongly condemned the Jaranwala incident and demanded for a strategy to avoid such incidents.

Held at Lahore Chamber on Saturday, the conference was presided over by LCCI President Kashif Anwar while Bishop of Lahore Nadeem Kamran, Kul MasaliK Ulema Board's Chairman Maulana Muhammad Asim Makhdoom, Catholic Bishop Lahore Diocese Sebastian Francis Shaw, President Christian Businessmen Fellowship Pakistan, Convener LCCI Standing Committee on Human Rights Saleem Shakir, President Christian Lawyers Association Kashif Naamat and religious scholar Ijaz Azad also spoke on the occasion.

Kashif Anwar called for interfaith harmony and said that the perpetrators of the tragic incident of Jaranwala must face speedy trial.

He said that those who were inciting violence were enemies of Islam and Pakistan, adding that Jaranwala incident had deeply shocked the entire nation and had tarnished the soft image of the country. He said that if someone had committed an unlawful act, no one was authorized to take the law into hand and burn the church or torture any peaceful Christian citizen. He said that the incident was against the teachings of Islam.

Bishop of Lahore Nadeem Kamran said that he was grateful to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry for organizing this conference.



LAHORE: A worker is busy in making different kinds of iron pots at his shop on Nisbat Road, to earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.

Hydroponics; a path to prosperity for Pakistani farmers

MULTAN (APP): In a promising development, hydroponics, a sophisticated technique for cultivating vegetables and fruits without soil, is gaining traction in Pakistan as a potential avenue to bolster foreign exchange reserves. This innovative method, championed by known teacher Dr. Nazir Farid of the Department of Horticulture at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture (MNSUA), holds immense promise due to its nutritional value, aesthetic appeal, and popularity in European markets.

Dr. Farid, a leading proponent of hydroponics, explained that this technique involves vertically growing crops in a water-based, nutrient-rich solution. Unlike traditional farming, hydroponics doesn't rely on soil; instead, plants' root systems are supported using inert mediums such as coco coir, perlite, or clay pellets. The results are striking: tomatoes grown in MNSUA's 2 kanal hydroponic area exhibit not only superior nutritional content but also captivating aesthetics.

While the upfront costs of hydroponics are considerable, involving investments in both infrastructure and operations, Dr. Farid emphasized the long-term benefits. Each plant receives precisely calculated nutritional inputs, tailored to its growth stage, fostering healthy and efficient development. The use of clean irrigation water, facilitated by a Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant at MNSUA, further underscores the technique's advantages.

In terms of profitability, Dr. Farid acknowledged the challenge of identifying specific markets for these premium crops. However, he highlighted the ready demand for hydroponically cultivated high-value crops in Europe and other international markets. Consumers are willing to pay a premium for vegetables and fruits that offer both exceptional nutrition and visual appeal.

Addressing the question of feasibility for Pakistani farmers, Dr. Farid pointed to the operationalization of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He anticipates that international corporate entities entering CPEC would provide new avenues for marketing high-value crops. The growing demand for such produce is expected to create a favorable environment for farmers to earn substantial income.

To expedite the adoption of hydroponics across the country, Dr. Farid recommended that the government offer subsidies to farmers. While hydroponics is currently practiced in certain pockets of Pakistan, wider implementation could lead to significant foreign exchange earnings, much like the Netherlands, USA.

Pakistani service firms set to showcase expertise in CIFTIS in China

BEIJING (APP): In a move that underscores Pakistan's growing presence on the global economic stage, a delegation of top Pakistani service firms is gearing up to participate in the highly anticipated China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor at Pakistan Embassy in Beijing. Ghulam Qadir told China Economic Net that a delegation comprising some of Pakistan's leading service companies will showcase the nation's prowess in various sectors, including information technology, telecommunications, finance, and more.

This represents a strategic endeavor by Pakistan to strengthen economic ties with China and explore opportunities for collaboration and investment. "There are seven top firms participating in CIFTIS, Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEI, National Bank of Pakistan, National Logistic Corporation (NLC) And Fb Enterprises would set up their booths to attract Chinese investors at CIFTIS, scheduled to be held in Beijing from September 2 to 6", he stated.

He further said that Two software giants specializing in asset finance and leasing solutions, NETSOL and ISBEI Technologies will demonstrate its expertise in the financial technology domain. In contrast, NBP would exhibit its banking and financial services.

British HC to make trade push on first visit to Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): The newly appointed British High Commissioner will also visit HMS Lancaster in Karachi as part of routine bilateral Royal Navy-Pakistan Navy training exercise. These exercises are part of a range of 'Defence Diplomacy' activities, part of the UK's commitment to maintaining its well-established defence relationship with Pakistan.

The High Commissioner said that Karachi was one of the best places in Pakistan.

During her visit, she will meet with business, political and community leaders, with a focus on boosting UK-Pakistan trade links. Bilateral trade is currently worth over £4 billion, nearly doubling in 3 years, said a press release issued by the British High

71 shopkeepers arrested over profiteering, hoarding

LAHORE (APP): Price control magistrates arrested 71 shopkeepers and sealed three shops over profiteering and hoarding in a crackdown launched across the provincial capital by the district administration.

On the directions of Lahore Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider, more than 1,539 sales points and shops had been inspected during the last 24 hours, while legal action was taken against 192 sales points.

The spokesperson for the district administration told media on Saturday that cases were also registered against 55 shopkeepers over violations of the rules.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are transferring the wheat sacks to other truck from out of order one at Industrial area of I-9 in Federal Capital.

ICCI calls for revisiting PPAs with IPPs to save businesses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the root cause of the surging circular debt and rising power tariffs was the power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed with the International Power Producers (IPPs). He called upon the government to revisit PPAs with IPPs to pay them in local currency, said a press release issued here on Saturday. Talking to media at the Chambers House, the President ICCI said that IPPs were earning huge profits in dollars, but the businesses were badly suffering due to exorbitant power tariffs and the rising cost of doing business.

He stressed that the government should change the basic tariff of IPPs in PKR instead of US dollars as this change would save billions of rupees of the national exchequer and provide electricity at affordable cost to the businesses making our export competitive in the international market. Similarly, the profits to the IPPs should also be paid in local currency instead of US dollars, he said.

The US and allies clash with NK, China and Russia over failed satellite launch and tensions

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United States and its allies clashed with North Korea, Russia and China over Pyongyang's failed attempt to launch a spy satellite and who is responsible for escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The open Security Council meeting called by the U.S., Albania, Ecuador, France, Japan and Malta to condemn the attempted launch, which used banned ballistic missile technology, was attended by North Korea's United Nations ambassador for just the second time since 2017. Ambassador Kim Song, who also addressed the council in July, told members the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — the country's official name — has "an independent and legitimate right" as a sovereign country to launch a satellite for "self-defense to deter the

ever-increasing hostile military acts of the United States and its followers."

The North's space agency said Thursday its reconnaissance satellite, Malligyong-1, failed for a second time to go into orbit, blaming an error in its third-stage flight. Pyongyang said it will make a third attempt in October to achieve a key military goal of its leader, Kim Jong Un.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the DPRK had again defied Security Council resolutions by pursuing its unlawful ballistic missile program. She said 13 of the 15 Security Council members oppose the DPRK's unlawful actions and have called for an end to the country's pursuit of nuclear weapons and its tests — and for unity of the council.

Song said the DPRK has never recognized Security Council resolutions,

which he claimed infringe on "the rights of a sovereign state and will never be bound by them in the future."

He accused the United States and South Korea's "military gangsters" of "turning the Korean Peninsula into a potential area of an immense thermal nuclear war" while clamoring for regime change in the DPRK and waging large-scale joint military exercises that he said feature "nuclear preemptive strikes on our state as a fait accompli."

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzya called the council meeting "a cynical, hypocritical attempt by the U.S. and its allies to step up pressure on Pyongyang and to distract attention from the reckless escalatory actions of Washington and its allies in the region, who represent the real sources of threats to international peace and security."



Charles Gladstone, a descendant of former plantation owner John Gladstone, delivers an apology on behalf of the Gladstone family at Georgetown University in Georgetown, Guyana.

US warns military takeovers in Africa's Sahel hamper fight against terrorism in the volatile region

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United States warned Friday that the string of military takeovers in Africa's Sahel region will hamper the fight against terrorism and demanded that Afghanistan's Taliban rulers deny safe haven to terrorist groups including al-Qaida and the Islamic State.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told a U.N. Security Council meeting that the United States is focused on the increasing terrorism threat across Africa and continues

providing its African partners with "critical assistance in disrupting and degrading" IS and al-Qaida affiliates.

The long-scheduled council meeting on combating terrorism took place days after the head of Russia's Wagner Group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, and top associates were reportedly killed in a plane crash after leaving Moscow.

They had just returned from Africa where Wagner mercenaries are active in now military-ruled Mali and Burkina Faso, which

face escalating terrorist threats.

Thomas-Greenfield was asked after the council meeting what the West should do to stabilize the situation in those countries and others in Africa where Wagner is active, including Libya, following Prigozhin's death and uncertainty about the future of Wagner's African operations.

The U.S. ambassador had no comment on Prigozhin but said: "Our position on Wagner is very well known."



A man arranges a flag bearing the logo of private mercenary group Wagner at a makeshift memorial for Yevgeny Prigozhin in front of the Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Centre in Saint Petersburg.

China says India free to join largest trade bloc

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India is free to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), China's Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen said on Friday in New Delhi, adding that it would boost trade between India and China which is growing "very fast".

The RCEP is the world's largest trade bloc backed by China and groups 15 Asia-Pacific economies, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand and 10 member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Both sides agreed to intensify efforts to disengage and de-escalate, India's foreign secretary told reporters on Thursday.

Xi told Modi that improving China-India relations served the interests of the two countries and was conducive to peace, stability, and development, according to China's official Xinhua news agency.

said it was India's decision whether to join the RCEP and that the door was "always open".

India's Trade Minister Piyush Goyal, who chaired the discussion, said trade between India and China is growing, but "largely skewed in China's favour".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to China's President Xi Jinping about India's concerns over unresolved border issues on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg this week.

Tilting the scales of justice: Trump's height, weight raise eyebrows

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Does Donald Trump truly weigh 215 pounds, as stated by authorities after his arrest on racketeering and conspiracy charges in Georgia? Many Americans are not buying it. Trump, who posed for a mug shot during the booking process in Atlanta on Thursday, was reportedly allowed to provide his own statistics to the Fulton County Jail.

It listed the height of inmate "PO1135809" as six foot three inches, his weight as 215 pounds (97 kilograms) and his hair colour as either "Blond or Strawberry." The response was sceptical. "If Donald Trump is 215 lbs, like he said on his booking sheet, I dated Halle Berry, liberal commentator and former South Carolina lawmaker Bakari Sellers quipped on CNN.

Trump reportedly told police in New York when he was arrested there in April that he was 6'2" and weighed 240 lbs — meaning the 77-year-old apparently lost 25 lbs, and grew one inch.

Influence of Wagner group set to outlive chief's death

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: The plane crash that reportedly killed Yevgeny Prigozhin wiped out the entire top leadership of Russian paramilitary group Wagner but its influence is set to outlive them all both at home and abroad.

As a Private Military Company (PMC), Wagner showed the potential reach of mercenary outfits in taking part in conflicts well beyond its home country's borders but also creating domestic political havoc.

Over the last decade, it took part in conflicts in Africa and the Middle East as well as Ukraine, before Prigozhin in late June led its fighters in the aborted mutiny.

Nine killed in train coach fire in India

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: At least nine people were killed on Saturday after a train coach parked in southern India caught fire when a passenger tried to make tea, officials said.

The coach, which had been detached from a train, was stationed at the Madurai railway yard in the southern state of Tamil Nadu when the fire broke out before dawn.

"It was a single, stationary coach booked by a private tourist operator. Somebody tried to make tea and it caused the fire," Madurai district spokesman Sali Thalapaty told AFP. "Nine people have died, three of them are women."

Ukrainian, Turkish foreign minister says Black Sea deal must be renewed

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The Turkish and Ukrainian foreign ministers said on Friday that other solutions to the export of Ukrainian grain than the Black Sea grain deal, which ended after Russia quit last month, were less optimal.

The deal brokered by Turkey and the United Nations last year had allowed the safe Black Sea export of Ukrainian grain. Ankara has been trying to persuade Moscow to return to the agreement. Ukraine announced earlier this month a "humanitarian corridor" in the Black Sea to release cargo ships that have been trapped in its ports since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. The first vessel that used the corridor arrived in Istanbul last week.

In a news conference during his visit to Kyiv, Turkish Foreign Minister

Hakan Fidan said renewing the grain deal was a priority for Ankara and that Russia must be included in the equation for a functioning agreement.

"Reviving this initiative is a priority for Turkey... I hope we'll get a successful result," he said, adding that alternative solutions would not be effective in replacing the deal.

"I have been thinking from the beginning that Russia should be included back into this equation," Fidan added. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Kyiv is working on alternative routes but that the Black Sea grain deal was the optimal solution. "We are working on alternative routes... but objectively speaking the functioning of the Black Sea route is an optimal solution from all points of view."

UN experts say Islamic State group almost doubled the territory they control in Mali in under a year

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Islamic State extremists have almost doubled the territory they control in Mali in less than a year, and their al-Qaida-linked rivals are capitalizing on the deadlock and perceived weakness of armed groups that signed a 2015 peace agreement, United Nations experts said in a new report.

The stalled implementation of the peace deal and sustained attacks on communities have offered the IS group and al-Qaida affiliates a chance "to re-enact the 2012 scenario," they said.

That's when a military coup took place in March and rebels in the north formed an Islamic state two months later. The extremist rebels were forced from power in the north with the help of a French-led military operation, but they moved from the arid north to more populated central Mali in 2015 and remain active. The panel of experts

said in the report that the impasse in implementing the agreement — especially the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants into society — is empowering al-Qaida-linked Jama'at Nasrat al-Islam wa al-Muslimin known as JNIM to vie for leadership in northern Mali.

Sustained violence and attacks mostly by IS fighters in the Greater Sahara have also made the signatories to the peace deal "appear to be weak and unreliable security providers" for communities targeted by the extremists, the experts said.

JNIM is taking advantage of this weakening "and is now positioning itself as the sole actor capable of protecting populations against Islamic State in the Greater Sahara," they said.

The panel added that Mali's military rulers are watching the confrontation between the IS group and al-Qaida affiliates from a distance.

Greek wildfires spur anti-migrant sentiment

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: As Greece was hit by wave after wave of wildfires this week, unfounded claims that asylum-seekers are behind some of them whipped up anti-migrant frenzy online.

The speculation intensified after a group of 13 Pakistani and Syrian men were accused by locals of being caught red-handed trying to light a fire outside the city of Alexandroupoli, in the Evros region bordering Turkey.

One of the locals posted a live Facebook video showing the migrants stacked in a trailer, boasting that he had caught them for trying to "burn us". "Don't show them... burn them," another user commented on the feed.

The man was arrested alongside two alleged accomplices, with authorities insisting that "vigilantism" will not be tolerated.

The three detainees have been charged with in-

citing racist violence. The migrants were charged with illegal entry and attempted arson.

But a government source told a daily that the evidence against them appeared to be the makings of a campfire.

The rhetoric has gone hand in hand with media misinformation.

An Evros news portal on Tuesday said that 20 migrants had been arrested outside Alexandroupoli after exchanging gunfire with police.

Authorities later denied this.

Similarly, national TV station Open on Wednesday issued a correction after erroneously reporting that two migrants had been caught lighting a fire in the neighbouring region of Rodopi. Northern Greece has been engulfed in a mega fire that originally broke out on Saturday and required over 14,000 evacuations.

Spain seizes record 9.5 tonnes of cocaine from Ecuador

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: Spanish police and customs on Friday announced the seizure of nearly 9.5 tonnes of cocaine from Ecuador, in what they described as the country's biggest-ever haul of the drug.

The seizure, which took place on Wednesday in the southern port of Algeciras, is "the biggest concealed cargo of cocaine in Spain to date," they said in a joint statement.

The narcotic was stashed in banana crates inside a refrigerated container, they added. The operation is "an unprecedented blow for one of the biggest criminal organisations at world level in cocaine distribution," they said.

UN protection sought for Jaranwala victims

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Hundreds of Pakistani Christians protested outside the UN headquarters on Thursday evening, urging the world body to take decisive action to protect Christians from mob attacks.

Although it was a working day, about 1,000 Christians came from across the US east coast to "show how the mob attacks in Jaranwala have hurt every Christian," said James Cyprian, one of the organisers of the rally.

The park outside the UN headquarters, which is reserved for protests and rallies, was filled to capacity while some protesters were also marching on adjacent streets and roads. Usually, such protests do not get more than 100 to 200 people on a weekday.

In a resolution shared with UN officials, the protesters urged the world body to persuade Pakistan to make laws to end future attacks on minorities.

The resolution dem-a-n-d-ed legislation to stop the misuse of blasphemy laws, and to end the practice of using blasphemy allegations for personal interests. It also urged the United Nations to play its role in guaranteeing religious freedom and to stop forced conversions.

China defence ministry urges US to stop 'arming' Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's defence ministry on Friday urged the United States to stop "arming" Taiwan, after the U.S. State Department approved a possible \$500 million sale to the island of infrared search and track systems for F-16 fighter jets, as well as other equipment.

"China urges the U.S. side to effectively fulfil its commitment not to support the independence of Taiwan, to immediately stop arming Taiwan, and to stop enhancing U.S.-Taiwan military ties."

China defence ministry urges US to stop 'arming' Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A U.S. envoy for Iran met on Friday with the family of Iranian-German national Jamshid Sharmahd, who was sentenced to death in February in Iran after being convicted of heading a pro-monarchist group accused of a deadly 2008 bombing.

Deputy Special Envoy Abram Paley posted a picture of himself with Sharmahd's son Shayan and daughter Gazelle on the social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

"I welcomed the opportunity to meet with Jamshid Sharmahd's family today."

BD protests mark six years since Rohingya exodus from Myanmar

Monitoring Desk
COX'S BAZAR: Thousands of Rohingya refugees rallied at camps in Bangladesh on Friday to demand their safe return to Myanmar on the sixth anniversary of the violence that drove them from their homes.

Bangladesh is home to around a million members of the stateless minority, most of whom fled the 2017 military crackdown now subject to a genocide probe at the International Criminal Court. Frustration is widespread over rampant lawlessness in the refugee settlements, along with cuts to international humanitarian aid and the lack of progress in a much-hyped repatriation deal.

"We demand citizenship back from Myanmar. It's nothing new, we were and are the citizens of Myanmar," Kamal Hussain, a Rohingya community leader, said.

"They are slowly trying to wipe out our name from the history of

Myanmar." Several protests were staged across the sprawling patchwork of settlements near the Myanmar border despite monsoon downpours.

Around 10,000 refugees were present at the largest one, according to the Armed Police Battalion, which is tasked with maintaining security in the camps.

"We have insecurity and increasing frustration here," refugee Mohammad Imran, 19, said. "We want to go back home with our full rights." Budget cuts forced the UN World Food Programme to steeply reduce humanitarian aid to the Rohingya camps this year, with rations now \$8 per refugee, per month. Malnutrition was already rampant among the refugee population and rights groups say the cuts have deepened existing hardships. Violence has continued to plague the camps, which are home to armed groups and are used as staging posts for regional drug trafficking networks.

Protest this way, not that way: In statehouses, varied rules restrict public voices

Monitoring Desk
NASHVILLE: Shaking violently between sobs, parent Sarah Shoop Neumann could only manage a whisper as state troopers escorted her out of a Tennessee legislative hearing where she was waiting to testify against a bill that would let teachers carry guns.

"I was supposed to speak. I was supposed to testify," said Neumann, whose son still attends an elementary school where six people — including three 9-year-old children — were fatally shot this year.

Moments earlier, a Republican subcommittee chairman ordered law enforcement to clear the public out of the room after the crowd erupted into applause and others defied a new ban on holding signs during committee proceedings. Only after troopers cleared the room was Neumann allowed to return

to testify.

While acts of protest big and small are common in legislatures, states often have rules in place to limit disruptions to government proceedings, with authorities given wide latitude to remove people who jeer, chant or are otherwise seen to interrupt debates.

People who go to capitols to voice their opinions often face a varied set of regulations that limit the display of signs, political messaging on clothing and even where people can gather, with penalties ranging from expulsion to criminal charges.

In some cases, lawmakers have pursued policies that effectively limit acts of protest, such as requiring people to get permission before protesting, leading to legal resistance and criticism that lawmakers are trying to tamp down on dissent and free speech rights.



Police escort a Greek citizen to a court in Alexandroupoli after charging him with incitement to commit racially motivated crimes, including racially motivated kidnappings.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the inaugural ceremony of made in Pakistan conference.

Caretaker govt to focus on revenue generation, dev. of human resource: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday said that the interim government would focus more on rationalizing the expenditures, generations of revenue and development of human resource during its short constitutional period.

Talking to a delegation of students from Howard University US, the prime minister said that in Pakistan, about nine percent population was contributing towards GDP with their taxes. How to bring the undocumented economy, people in the tax net and how to invest in the human resources would be broadly focused during the short period of the caretaker government, he added.

The prime minister said Pakistan was gifted with the natural resources and was a country of talented people.

He said the govern-

ment was focusing to produce the high-tech educated and skilled human resource and cited a couplet of Allama Iqbal in which he had hinted the importance of human resource through individual and collective efforts. "Pakistani diaspora in the US is a success story itself," he said, adding the Americans knew the Pakistanis who were contributing in their society. A delegation of the Harvard University, comprising 38 students from nine different nationalities, is currently on a visit to Pakistan.

Responding to a question, the prime minister said Pakistan had been the biggest victim of climate disaster which was a global issue. The climate change had become an existential threat, he added.

He opined that the world viewed the US as a big power but at the same time, expected it to turn itself into a green power.

Appreciating the progress achieved by the American society, he said the diversification in the US society was an example for other countries to follow, adding their society was tolerant and what the US had produced in the domains of knowledge and skills was amazing.

The caretaker prime minister said the other countries ought to learn from it for their own benefits.

Replying to a query, the prime minister elaborated the role played by Pakistan during the former USSR and Afghanistan war and the subsequent events in the region.

He said Pakistan had contributed hugely towards the global peace and economy.

They had faced a lot of challenges in the past as the two powers of the world; the US and Russia, had been in its milieu which had implications, he added.

Mushaal says: India unleashed new wave of grave human rights violation in IIOJK

RAWALPINDI (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, Mushaal Mullick on Saturday said India has unleashed a new wave of grave human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

She revealed during her visit to Adiala jail here that the worst type of barbarism was being perpetrated in Indian-held Kashmir and all means were being used for suppressing the voice of the Kashmiris.

"Today, I visited Adiala Jail and observed everything, including the women's jail and cleanliness

arrangements over there. The majority of the convicts are drug and robbery criminals," she said.

She examined the food and water being provided to the inmates in addition to the education services being provided to them.

Mullick said that she had also visited barracks where high-profile prisoners were locked up in jail.

She said that all kinds of facilities were being provided to the jail inmates without any discrimination.

She termed Kashmir as the biggest jail in the world where the people languish in a pathetic condition.

ECP responsible to hold transparent elections: QWP

PESHAWAR (APP): Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday said that the onus to hold a free and fair election was on the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

"The ECP should now ensure an enabling environment for the conduct of the free and fair election so that nobody could raise objections to the polls outcome later," he added.

Speaking at a gathering of party workers in Harichand in Charsadda district, he said that the delimitation process should be carried out in a manner to ensure the holding of the free and fair election.

He recalled that issues cropped up when the delimitation process was carried after the 2017 census, calling for efforts to avoid problems.

Expressing concern over the poor law and order in the country particularly in KP, Aftab Sherpao asked the government to take corrective steps as soon as possible or else the situation could spin out of control.

Commenting on the Battagram chairlift incident, he said that it showed that the remote areas in KP were still underdeveloped and lacked even the basic road infrastructure.



Former Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Jan Muhammad Jamali calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Quetta.

PM, Jamali discuss Balochistan issues

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Saturday held a meeting with former Speaker Balochistan Assembly Jan Muhammad Jamali.

Governor Balochistan Abdul Wali Kakar was also present in the meeting. They discussed the government measures for the progress of Balochistan.

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Cipher Case: Qureshi challenges physical remand in IHC

ISLAMABAD (INP): PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi has challenged his physical remand in the Islamabad High Court.

Former foreign minister has filed a petition against physical remand granted by a special court to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in a case pertaining to a diplomatic cipher that reportedly went missing from the PTI's ex-prime minister.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi has pleaded to the court to declare the trial court's August 20, 21 and 25 decision as void. He pleaded to the high court to send him on judicial remand after declaring the physical remand decision as void.

"With malicious in-

tent and connivance of the federal government the case has been against me. I didn't receive the cipher telegram, neither shared its transcript with a person," he pleaded. "The record proves that the cipher has been in possession of the foreign ministry," he petitioned. "The FIA arrested me and got my physical remand thrice. Prosecution failed to bring the evidence, still the trial court granted physical remand," petitioner said. The federal government and the secretary interior have been made respondents in the petition. Special court in Islamabad on Friday granted the FIA three days' physical remand of PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi in diplomatic cipher case.

Naval Chief awards Rs0.5m cash award to Hamza World Junior Squash Champion

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi highly appreciated the World Junior Squash Champion Muhammad Hamza Khan who recently won the World Junior (U-19) Squash Championship held at Melbourne, Australia.

It is worth mentioning here that it was after 36 years when any Pakistani squash player has secured such a remarkable triumph and brought a moment of pride for the entire country. During the meeting held at Naval Headquarters, the Naval Chief congratulated the young champion for winning the title and bringing laurels for the country. He appreciated the efforts of Hamza and encouraged him to participate in future Squash events with full dedication and commitment. In recognition of his meritorious achievement, the Naval Chief awarded the Champion with a cash prize of Rs. 0.5 Million and Life Time gratis Membership of Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed Khan chairing a meeting with Ulema e Masha'iq at Jamia Islamia Clifton.

Jamal Shah says: Caretaker govt to fulfill constitutional responsibilities

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division, Syed Jamal Shah here on Saturday said that the caretaker government would fulfill its constitutional obligations by extending all out support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold free and transparent election in the country.

He praised the PBC employees for speedy restoring its transmission after the attack.

The minister said that he would request Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting to rehabilitate the building of Radio Pakistan Peshawar as quickly as possible and assured full support to PBC on behalf of his Ministry.

The Minister said that the main mandate of the caretaker government was to provide the all out assistance to the ECP to hold free, fair and transparent elections in all provinces of the country. He expressed the hope that the ECP would soon announce the date for the general election.

Talking to the media during his visit to Radio Pakistan Peshawar, the minister said that broad day attack on Radio Pakistan and APP Offices on May 10 was an unpardonable crime and demanded strict action against the attackers.

I have a close association with Radio Pakistan and served at PBC Quetta station programs, he added.

He said there are politicians who spent 30 years in jails but their workers had never attacked national organizations, adding a social media party was exposed before masses after May 9 vandalism. He said that May 9 vandalism has hurt him the most, adding the misleading people have put on fire the rare archives of music and dramas transcripts and others record of PBC and had inflicted heavy losses to the national broadcaster.

Jl to approach SC to ensure timely execution of elections

LAHORE (Online): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) will not tolerate even a single day's delay in the elections beyond the constitutional 90-day period required to organize the polls following the dissolution of assemblies, says JI Emir Sirajul Haq while announcing the party's intention to approach the Supreme Court to ensure the timely execution of the national vote. Speaking to the media after addressing a condolence reference for JI Bangladesh vice-emir Dilawar Hussain Saedi at Mansoorah on Saturday, Haq emphasized the caretaker government's foremost responsibility to collaborate closely with the Election Commission of Pakistan to ensure free and fair elections. Additionally, he urged the caretaker gov-

ernment to reverse the recent hikes in electricity tariff and petrol prices.

Haq pointed out that the caretakers should refrain from blindly adhering to the policies dictated by the IMF. He said the masses were unable to bear the burden of inflated bills. The JI, he said, to stage protest demonstrations across the country against the surge in power tariff and overall inflation, forcing the government take back decision aimed at targeting the poverty-stricken masses at the behest of the IMF.

He said it was due to ill-conceived economic policies of past governments of the PDM, PPP, and PTI that the people were partying to death, appealing the masses to actively participate in JI's peaceful pro-

tests and raise their voices against injustice.

The JI Emir said the former rulers lacked sincerity towards the public. The rulers, he said, amassed wealth in foreign accounts, depriving the people of from basic rights. He emphasized that both military regimes and political parties' governments backed by the establishment have only brought destruction. He urged the people to reject tested parties and instead cast their votes for the JI, which promises genuine transformation and the establishment of an Islamic welfare state in Pakistan.

In homage to the tireless efforts of the late Dilawar Saedi for Islam and the Ummah, the JI chief extolled his contributions, assuring that his endeavors would not be in vain.

President for promotion of local products to reduce burden of import bills

KARACHI (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Saturday urged the Pakistani society to promote the use of local products instead of foreign items to help reduce the burden of import bills.

While addressing an inaugural ceremony of 'Made in Pakistan Movement and Made in Pakistan Conference and Recognition' at a hotel here, he said we could use and promote local products.

He said that the business community should work hard for the brand Pakistan.

The President also stressed the need for honesty and trust in all commercial endeavors whether domestically or internation-

ally.

While lauding the track record of Pakistani products, which achieved international acclaim through addition of value to their original forms, he emphasized the potential for the promotion of 'Made in Pakistan' products at international level.

Alvi asked the business leaders and the youth of the country to play an active role in rectifying societal issues and advocating for local products.

He called for preferring 'Made in Pakistan' products to foreign alternatives as a way to promote locally manufactured items.

He emphasized on coordinated efforts to pro-

mote charity and philanthropy for a shift away from wealth accumulation.

He said that Islam does not endorse the accumulation of wealth as a primary pursuit.

He further said that the rich should help the needy people.

The ceremony was attended by the distinguished figures including Rizwan Jaffar the founder of the 'Made in Pakistan' movement and the first Youth Parliament, as well as prominent businessmen and CEO of TDAP, alongside the Secretary of TDAP, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig and other esteemed business leaders and notables.



QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing a meeting regarding the development of irrigation system and water supply in Balochistan.

Mines & Minerals Association' delegation meets: Desired benefits can't be acquired without adopting international mining standards: Anwaar

QUETTA: The caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has stated that Balochistan is blessed with minerals, however, we can't get the desired benefits from these minerals without adopting the international standards of mining.

He urged the mine owners to ensure safety measures for the labourers working in the mines.

The caretaker Prime Minister was speaking to a

delegation of the All Pakistan Mines and Minerals Association (APMMA) who called on him here on Saturday. The members of APMMA appreciated the caretaker Prime Minister for his vision about the development of Balochistan saying that it is appreciable that he (Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar) has included in his priority to develop the province.

Moreover, they also appraised him about the is-

sues being faced by the minerals industry.

During the course of meeting, also present were the caretaker Federal Minister Interior, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, caretaker Minister Communications, Ashraf Tarar, Federal Minister Sami Saeed, caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, interim provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan and other concerned high ups.

500 doctors, 150 nursing staff appointed to overcome shortage

QUETTA (APP): The Health Department Government of Balochistan has issued appointments of over 500 doctors and more than 150 nursing staff in all districts of Balochistan on an emergency basis.

The health department spokesman said on Saturday that the appointments have been made for the first time to meet the shortage of consultants, doctors and nursing staff in all medical centres.

He added that all the doctors should ensure their presence as any negligence in that regard will not be tolerated.

CTD Punjab operations, 8 terrorists including commanders arrested

LAHORE (Online): CTD while conducting an Intelligence-based operation in various cities of Punjab.

CTD spokesperson said that operations have carried out in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala and Multan.

Two important commanders of Al-Qaeda, Khashan and Hassan have been arrested from Lahore.

According to spokesperson, explosive materials, detonators, mobile phones, safety fuse and cash have also been recovered from the terrorists.

According to spokes-

person, terrorists have been identified as Liaqat, Hassan, Khashan, Gul Kareem, Ayub Khan Ameer Muawiyah and Rizwan. CDA spokesperson said that cases have been registered against the terrorists and the investigation is underway.

According to CDA spokesperson, 135 suspects were arrested during 336 combing operations this week. 16784 people have been interrogated in combing operations.

Spokesperson said that CTD is following the goal of safe Punjab and are determined to eradicate the scourge of terrorism.

FIA recovers huge quantity of foreign currency, nabs three accused

PESHAWAR (APP): FIA Commercial Banking Circle Peshawar on Saturday arrested three suspects involved in the illegal exchange of money (hundi) and confiscated huge amount of foreign (hundi) on the direction of Deputy Director Afzal Niazi accused Izzatullah was arrested from Torhkhum having 51,000 Qatari riyals and 49,000 Saudi riyals. The arrest of the accused took place as a result of effective coordination between FIA Commercial Banking Circle Peshawar and FIA Immigration Torhkhum.



WASHINGTON: Ambassador Masood Khan in a meeting with Pak-American Christian leaders from across the United States, led by Aaron Bashir, who represented Christian community, Human Rights Organizations and political leaders.

Flooded Sutlej river affects villages in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): The high-level flood in Sutlej river has forced people living in villages of river belt here to evacuate their families and cattle to safer areas.

Official sources in the district management and Punjab Emergency Service Department, Rescue 1122 said that due to high-level flood in Sutlej river as the India had release more water into it, villages located in river belt areas of Bahawalpur Division had been affected.

"Over 75,000 people have been evacuated from river belt areas of Bahawalnagar, Chishtian, Hasilpur, Qaimpur, Islam Headworks, Khairpur Tamewali, Lal Suhanra,

Dera Bakha, Jhangi Wala, Bahawalpur, Khanowali, Fatowali, Sama Satta and other areas during last few days in view of high-level flood in Sutlej river," the official sources Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Office said. Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa visited flood relief camps set up in areas including Khairpur Tamewali, Lal Suhanra, Dera Bakha and Bahawalpur (Sadat Tehsil) where he inspected facilities being provided to people being evacuated from river belt areas. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the district management was ready to deal with any emergency situation caused by floodwater.



QUETTA: A delegation of coal mining companies owners in a group photo with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.