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Six more members inducted in interim Balochistan cabinet; allotted portfolios as well

New caretaker Provincial Ministers take oath increasing tally of interim cabinet members to 11; Dr. Amir Jogezeai given portfolio of Health, Amanullah Kanrani allotted Law & Parliamentary Affairs

Independent Report
QUETTA: The interim cabinet of Balochistan was expanded further with six more members inducted in it on Wednesday.

With induction of six more members, the tally of caretaker provincial cabinet increased to 11. Those included are: Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezeai, Amanullah Kanrani, Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani, Sheikh Mehmoodul Hasan Mandokhail, Sardar Ejaz Jaffar and Asifur Rehman.

Meanwhile, the newly elected members of the cabinet took oath the same evening at the Governor House.

The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul

Wali Khan Kakar administered oath to the new caretaker Provincial Ministers at the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion was the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki. The oath taking ceremony was also attended by the caretaker provincial Ministers, Advisors to the Chief Ministers, Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, other high ups besides the dignitaries from different walks of the life.

Later, the new caretaker Minister were also assigned the portfolios by the caretaker Chief Minister.

According to an official hand out issued here the same evening, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezeai was assigned the portfolio

of Health, Amanullah Kanrani assigned the portfolio of Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Prosecution.

Similarly, Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani was given the portfolio of sports, Youth Affairs and Culture while Sheikh Mehmoodul Hasan Mandokhail and Sardar Ejaz Jaffar were assigned the portfolios of Local Government & Rural Development and Public Health Engineering & Population Welfare respectively while Asifur Rehman would serve as the caretaker Provincial Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination.

Soon after the oath taking, the Governor and caretaker Chief Minister greeted the new caretaker Provincial Ministers.



KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the debriefing session of Pakistan Navy's War Game "Shamsheer-e-Bahar IX".

PM emphasizes significance of war games in validating naval war plans

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday emphasized the significance of war games in validating naval war plans in sync with military and national security policy, besides exploring operational concepts and refining deployment strategies.

The prime minister, addressing the debrief session of Pakistan Navy's war game Shamsheer-e-Bahr IX, lauded the well-deliberated plans of the force commanders and the insightful analysis of the war game, which would help crystallize operational plans for maritime security and seaward defence of Pakistan, a PM Office press release said.

He also highlighted the enhanced responsibilities of the Pakistan Navy in ensuring the security of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Gwadar Port.

Prime Minister Kakar expressed complete confidence in the preparedness of the Pakistan Navy to meet all threats and challenges, and reassured the government's commitment to provide all available resources for its capacity building. Earlier upon arrival at the venue, the prime minister was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

While presenting the overview, the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) outlined the objectives of the war game which was conducted in tri-service format, with participants of relevant ministries and divisions as well.

CJP says: Apex court wants to conclude NAB amendments case early

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial on Wednesday observed that the top court wanted to conclude cases pertaining to the NAB amendments as soon as possible.

He was heading the three-member bench, comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, which heard the case.

At the outset of hearing, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan said that he had not stated that 'there was a flaw in the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act', rather he was of the view that it was similar to the Supreme Court Review Act.

The chief justice remarked that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had withdrawn corruption cases of less than Rs 500 million. "Under which law this policy has been adopted?" he asked.

He observed that in the NAB amendments carried out in 2022, the arrest of accused at inquiry stage was excluded but in July 2023 the respective clause had been included in the law again, which was aimed at tightening the grip against politicians.

CJP Bandial said that it had to be viewed that who had been targeted and for how long. Negotiations were underway some people in matters pertaining to the billions of rupees fraud.

He said there was something wrong in the NAB law, due to which the apex court was approached to review it. Whether the Bureau was working to protect the public interest, he questioned.

The chief justice said the court had to view the amendments in light of the provisions of Constitution.

Shamshad Akhtar No room for further subsidies in IMF agreements

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance Dr Shamshad Akhtar has ruled out any room in the IMF agreements to provide additional subsidies.

Addressing the media after the committee meeting on Wednesday, she emphasized that the government was aware of the plight of the country's poor population and that further burdening the underprivileged segment of society was not an option.

The subsidies included in the IMF agreements were already established by previous governments, and there was no room for further subsidies in these agreements, she pointed out.

Dr Shamshad Akhtar went on to say that the government was planning for economic stability and was working on practical measures to improve the economy.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar administering oath of new Caretaker Ministers of Balochistan Assembly, Caretaker CM Ali Mardan Khan Domki is also present on the occasion

Governor pays tributes to Sardar Naseer Tareen: Sustainable solution to collective problems not possible without collective endeavours: Kakar

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that it is not possible to find out sustainable solution to the collective nature problems.

He stressed the need to prepare a comprehensive policy for overcoming the climate change. In addition to this, there is a dire need to plan maximum trees in the fields and on mountains of the province to achieve the goal of "Green and Clean" Balochistan.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor Balochistan while addressing the ceremony in connection with

Sardar Naseer Tareen Conservation Award arranged at the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) here the other day.

It may be mentioned here that Sardar Naseer Tareen Conservation Award was arranged with cooperation of BRSP and Centre for Peace and Development.

Also present on the occasion were the chief of BRSP, Tahir Rasheed, Nadir Gul Baraich, Malik Saleem Kasi, Mrs. Roshan Khurshed Bharucha, Nawabzada Mehboob Jogezeai, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani, provincial administrative secretaries and people from develop-

ment sectors.

The Governor highly appreciated the services of Sardar Naseer Khan Tareen saying that the small sapling planted by him (Sardar Tareen) for conservation of the environment and wildlife has now grown up as a long strong tree.

He said that the late Sardar Naseer Tareen is a very prominent name for ensuring the basic facilities in backward rural areas of the province, and his services would be remembered for long. He said that it is a healthy tradition to acknowledge the services of Sardar Naseer Tareen and attribute conservation award in his name.

Smuggling & terrorism to be wiped out with nation's support: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday vowed to wipe out the menaces of smuggling and terrorism from Pakistan with the full support of the nation.

The caretaker government was fully determined to eliminate smuggling of any food items and dollars from the country, he said while talking to a private television channel.

Smuggling of essential items and dollars were criminal activities which must be stopped at any cost, he added.

About the May 9 mayhem, he said a deep conspiracy was hatched against the security institutions. However, now the law enforcement agencies were fully vigilant to cease any type of violence and hate speech against them.

As regards the cipher issue, he said investigations were underway. The law enforcement agencies (LEAs) had arrested some people to further probe the matter.

Sarfraz Bugti said they had zero-tolerance against violent material, and hate speech against the state institutions. No one would be allowed to create violence anywhere in the country, he added.

To a question, he said it had been decided in the meeting of Council of Common Interest (CCI) that the general elections would be held after accomplishing the task of census and delimitation. The delimitation process would take some three to four months, he said adding that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would announce the date for next polls. The caretaker government would provide all necessary assistance to the ECP to hold free and fair elections, he said.

To a question about the unsuccessful operation against the criminals of Kacha area, he said there was a need to purge the police force of politics so that it could perform its mandated job.



Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza meeting with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon



Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir visited Tilla Field Firing Ranges near Jhelum on Wednesday, where he witnessed field fire and battle drills.

Battle preparedness of army personnel commendable: COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday visited Tilla Field Firing Ranges, near Jhelum and witnessed Field Fire and Battle Drills.

On arrival, the COAS was briefed on training objectives, set for the exercise with a view to validate operational readiness of the formation in the challenging environment, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS appreciated the synergy displayed by Air Force, Army Aviation and ground troops in the execution of various operational drills.

He lauded the troops for their combat proficiency and offensive spirit. He also appreciated the high morale and battle worthiness of the troops.

Earlier on arrival, the COAS was received by Lieutenant General Syed Aamer Raza, Commander Four Corps.

Cop martyred in Quetta firing

QUETTA (INP): A cop was martyred in firing of unidentified armed men near Sariab Road Mill Colony in Quetta on Wednesday.

The cop, Akhtar Hussain was on his way back to home after night duty when unknown gunmen attacked him.

As a result of firing, the cop was martyred and assailants fled the scene.

The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem and police after registering a case into the incident have started an investigation.



QUETTA: CEO QESCO Abdul Karim Jamali meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Mardan Ali Khan Domki

Seminar on missing persons at QPC: Speakers voice concern over issue of missing persons in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: A seminar was held under the auspices of Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP) here at the Quetta Press Club on Wednesday.

The President of Balochistan National Party and former Chief Minister, Sardar Akhtar Mengal presided over the seminar.

Also participated in the seminar was by the prominent lawyer, Rahib Khan Buledi, Chairman VBMP, Nasrullah Baloch, senior leader of National party and former Senator, Mir Kabir Muhammad Shahi and representatives of the civil society.

The families including

women and children of the missing person also participated in the seminar.

The speakers including BNP chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal voiced great concern about the issue of non-recovery of the missing persons.

They alleged that the disappearances of the missing persons are still continuing in the province with no respite in the sight.

They said that the families of missing persons are waiting for their dear ones.

They demanded of the government and concerned authorities to take cognizance of the issue and recover all those disappeared so far.

Caretaker CM grieved over martyrdom of police cop

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of a police personnel in a firing incident took place at Sariab road Quetta on Wednesday morning.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Wednesday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the police and security institutions have rendered great sacrifices for establishing law and order in the province. He said that such cowardly acts can't demoralize our law enforcement agencies.

The caretaker Chief Minister expressed sympathy with the bereaved family and prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss.

Chairman District Council takes notice: Mother & daughter die of diarrhea in Lasbela

Independent Report
QUETTA: Two persons including a female and her daughter died of diarrhea in Lasbela district the other day.

According to the reports reaching here, the mother and daughter were suffering from severe diarrhea for last few days in village Konano Pir of Bela Tehsil, then they breathed their last before provided proper medical assistance in any health establishment.

Meanwhile, the Chairman District Council took notice of deaths due to the diarrhea. The health department officials were directed to send rapid response medical teams in the affected areas. It was directed to ensure provision of medical facilities including medicines to the affected people without any interruption.

4 alleged attackers killed in CTD operation in Pishin

PISHIN (Online): 4 alleged attackers were killed in CTD operation in Pishin.

According to spokesperson of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), operation has been conducted in Pishin district of Baluchistan and 4 attackers were killed in the operation.

Spokesperson CTD said that attackers killed in exchange of fire with forces are affiliated to banned organization.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Caption (Retd) Zubair Jamali in a meeting with Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal

Caretaker Provincial Minister visits PDMA, directs to make service system more effective

Independent Report
QUETTA: While appreciating performance of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for provision of relief during different disasters and emergent situation, the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Captain (Retd) Zubair Jamali has directed the concerned authorities to make the delivery and service system more effective so as to provide maximum relief to the people.

The caretaker Provincial Minister was speaking on occasion of the visit to PDMA head office here on Wednesday. The Director General PDMA, Jahanzaib Khan briefed the Minister Home about the overall performance of his institution.

The Minister appreciated performance of the PDMA and said that it is commendable that it is providing timely information and services during the natural calamities and emergency circumstances all over the province.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding implementation of orders given by Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq during his recent visit of Quetta

Pakistan crush Nepal with convincing 238-run victory in Asia Cup clash

Sports Desk
MULTAN: World number one batter Babar Azam and Iftikhar Ahmed scored punishing hundreds as Pakistan annihilated Nepal by 238 runs in the opening game of the Asia Cup in Multan on Wednesday.
Skipper Azam smashed a 131-ball 151 for his 19th one-day-international (ODI) hundred while Ahmed scored an unbeaten 109 in 71 balls for his first as Pakistan piled up 342-6 in 50 overs.
The home team then bundled out Nepal for a mere 104 in 23.4 overs with leg-spinner Shadab Khan taking 4-27 while the pace duo of Haris Rauf took 2-16 and Shaheen Shah Afridi 2-27.
Only Sompal Kami (28), Aarif Sheikh (26) and Gulsan Jha (13) made it into double figures as they struggled against Pakistan's much-vaunted bowling attack.
The win gives Pakistan, who rose to world number one in the ODI rankings last week, an ideal start and tune-up for the high-profile clash against arch-rivals India in Pallekele on Saturday.
The Asia Cup is being played on a hybrid model this year with Pakistan hosting four matches and Sri



Lanka nine after India refused to tour Pakistan because of political tensions. Pakistan, India and Nepal are in Group A while title-holders Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are in Group B. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh meet in Pallekele on Thursday.
Nepal, playing in the Asia Cup for the first time, had bowled well to keep the home team down to 124-4 in the 28th over but were clueless in the final overs against the onslaught from Azam and Ahmed.
The pair added a robust 214 off 131 balls for the fifth wicket, which took Pakistan to a formidable total.
Azam cracked 14 boundaries and four sixes while Ahmed hit 11 boundaries and four sixes, helping Pakistan to 129 runs in the last 10 overs, including 67

Babar Azam breaks another ODI record

Sports Desk
MULTAN: Pakistan captain achieved this milestone during the Asia Cup opener against Nepal in Multan on Wednesday.
After breaking Hashim Amla's record of being the fastest batter to reach 5000 ODI runs, Babar Azam has surpassed South African batting legend again as he also became the fastest batter to complete 19 ODI centuries on Wednesday.
Pakistan captain achieved this milestone during the Asia Cup opener against Nepal in Multan.



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of participants during interfaith harmony conference at PNCA

Cipher case: Special court extends judicial remand of PTI chairman till Sep 13

ATTOCK (Online): Special court set up under Official Secret Act has extended judicial remand of PTI chairman till September 13.
Hearing of Cipher case against PTI chairman was held in Attock jail.
Members of legal team of PTI chairman including Suleman Safdar, Ahmad Misrar and Intizar Punjtho were also present in Attock Jail.
Judge Abual Hanat Zulqarnain of special court heard the case Wednesday.
According to sources PTI chairman was brought before court in connection with his attendance.
The court after marking attendance extended judicial remand for 14 days.
PTI legal team filed three petitions. These included chairman PTI bail plea. Through second petition court was requested to declare illegal and revoke law ministry notification for jail trial of PTI chairman. 3rd petition related to open court trial of chairman PTI.
The counsels took the plea of official secret act cannot be made against Chairman PTI. Cipher case was instituted on the basis of political victimization.
Notice was issued by the court on bail after arrest plea of chairman PTI.
The court while issuing notices to the respondents sought arguments on September 02.
It is pertinent to mention here chairman PTI is on judicial remand in cipher case. FIA had sought physical remand of chairman PTI on August 16. However court did not accept the plea and sent chairman PTI to jail on judicial remand.
According to FIA they cannot seek physical custody or remand in this case due to judicial remand. Now challan will be filed and trial will run. However the accused can file bail plea. Law ministry had issued notification to conduct hearing in Attock jail due to security concerns.

President Alvi not authorized to announce elections date

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Law has on Wednesday that President Dr. Arif Alvi was not authorized to announce the date of general elections.
The law ministry stated this in its reply to the letter written by the president for announcement of the date for general elections in the country.
The authority to determine the date of general elections lies with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) only, sources said quoting the Law Ministry.
The Ministry of Law stated that after the amendments made in the Election Act, the President no longer has the power to determine the date of elections.
The August 30 Battle of the Commander-in-Chief is one of the most critical milestones in our nation's centuries-long struggle for survival, he added.
The president said, in the words of Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Great Victory is "a great achievement that once again exemplified in history the enormous might and heroism of the Turkish Army, Turkish

Türkiye embassy celebrates Turkish Victory Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Officers and Command Staff.
The president in his message said, "With this victory, which is the 'immortal monument of the Turkish Nation's idea of freedom and independence', our nation declared to the whole world that it would not let its will be subjugated and its independence and future compromised."
He said, the love of freedom, which is the most distinguished characteristic of Turkey nation, still exists very strongly today.
He said, "The epic resistances, first and foremost, against the July 15 betrayal and the response of our nation to the attacks on our survival in recent years have repeatedly demonstrated how our will remains alive and strong."
The same unwavering will is behind our determination to build the Century of Türkiye, which we announced at a time when the world was shaken by deep crises.
He said, "We created the infrastructure towards this end with the initiatives we brought to life in every field in the last 21 years, and provided our country with every capacity for this great ascent."



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing a ceremony in connection with Sardar Naseer Tareen Conservation Award arranged at the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP)

Protests over inflated energy bills continue unabated

ISLAMABAD (INP): As the countrywide protests over massive power bills are intensifying, the Kakar-led caretaker government has failed to come up with any relief measures as it tries to strike a balance between avoiding drawing the IMF's ire and causing more citizens to blow a fuse.
In a recent meeting of the federal cabinet, chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, the focus was on providing relief to electricity consumers.
It was decided that consumers using up to 400 units of electricity would be allowed to pay their bills in installments over the next six months.
However, approval from the IMF will be sought before announcing this relief measure.
During the meeting, the economic situation of the country, public protests over electricity bills, and the formula for power division were also discussed.

Petrol prices likely to hike by Rs. 10 & diesel by Rs. 15

ISLAMABAD (Online): Preparations have been started to drop a petrol bomb on inflation stricken people once again.
The costs of petroleum products are likely to be raised from September 1 due to depreciation of rupee.
Petrol prices are likely to increase by RS 10 per liter while cost of high speed diesel may increase by RS 15 per liter.
The final approval of increase in prices will be given by Ministry of Finance in consultation with Caretaker Prime Minister (PM). The increase in the costs of petroleum products will be done in next 15 days.

Siraj calls upon govt for swift action to ensure safety, protection of people of Sindh

KASHMORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Sirajul Haq led the peace march held Kandhkot on Wednesday to divert the government's attention towards the deteriorating law and order situation in the area, marked by the presence of dacoit gangs and the distressing surge in kidnapping-for-ransom cases.
During the march, he called upon the government to take immediate action and ensure the safety and protection of the people of Sindh. A large number of people participated.
Sirajul Haq expressed deep concern over the rampant issue of dacoits in Sindh. He said the problem had left the people in a state of sleeplessness, as incidents of daily kidnappings and killings were plaguing the region. He said that within the span of a year, a staggering 400 cases of ransom-based kidnappings had been reported in the Kashmore district alone. He held the former government of the PPP accountable for the prevailing situation, emphasizing that its 15-year rule over Sindh had failed to deliver much-needed peace and security to the people.
The JI chief urged the law enforcement agencies and security forces to emerge from their inaction and vigorously confront the menace posed by the dacoits. Stressing the paramount responsibility of the ruling authorities to safeguard citizens, he lamented that it appeared the authorities were shielding the criminals instead. He said that if the government did not promptly fulfil its duties, the JI would lead marches on Islamabad and Karachi.
He also called upon the public to effectively support its strike call against the exorbitant electricity bills. He announced that a nationwide strike would be staged on September 2, aimed at drawing attention to the issue. He asserted that the JI would exert pressure on the government to retract the recent electricity price hikes.



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Pacaci, Lt Gen Muhammad Ali and others cutting the cake during ceremony of 101st Anniversary of the great Victory Day of Turkey, at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

TENDER NOTICE
The Beef Production Research Center Sibi invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232408347621
TSE-232408350521 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.
Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Animal Food & Medicine (Total Item(s) Count: 2)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules -2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 5,000,000 in Previous 3 Turn over of at least 15,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security In case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. 03 Assignments at Public Sector of Similar Nature and Complexity 5000000 in 3 Subsequent Years. Must agree to Supply the Feed Items within 07 days after issuance of supply order Feed Samples 01kg of Each Feed item. AFFIDAVIT: 1. Feed provided by the firm/bidder may be checked/analyzed from the Laboratory for confirmation of its nutritive value at any time and the Cost of analysis along with Transportation Expenditure will be totally borne by the Firms/bidders. 2. The Sub-standard/below quality supply of Feed will be rejected and in case of any loss the Livestock Department Balochistan has right to take legal action against the firm/Bidder. 3. The Bidder/Firm will be bound to supply the awarded feeding items till 30th June, 2023 on the demand of Superintendent, Beef Production Research Center, Livestock & Dairy Development Department, Sibi. 4. Feed provided by the firm/bidder may be checked/analyzed from the Laboratory for confirmation of its nutritive value at any time and the Cost of analysis along with Transportation Expenditure will be totally borne by the Firms/bidders. 5. The Sub-standard/below quality supply of Feed will be rejected and in case of any loss the Livestock Department Balochistan has right to take legal action against the firm/Bidder. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk. Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 14 September, 2023 till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Tenders will be opened on EPPS System Phone no: 8339230023 Email: dfaredullah@livestock@gmail.com

UN, distt admin organize dialogues on sustainable development

KARACHI (APP): The fourth in a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development was held in Sukkur, Sindh, by the United Nations and the district administration on Wednesday.
In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities will discuss the development challenges which they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts. The dialogues will be held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan in the coming weeks, said a press release issued here.

"These dialogues bring the United Nations closer to the people and the local governments that we serve," said Julien Harneis, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. "We are actively listening to their concerns and their ideas. They will work together, and with us, on accelerating progress to bridge inequalities and reduce poverty."

Change of Name
I Jagdish Masih S/o Munshi Ram CNIC No. 54400-0438447-9 R/o Ancomb Road Quetta have changed my name to Jagdish for all future purposes.

Swat Police capable of battling terrorism: RPO Malakand

SWAT (APP): Newly appointed Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand Division Muhammad Ali Gandapur on Wednesday said that the Swat Police have not only the capability to fight against terrorism but also have the spirit to eliminate the menace from the region.
Talking to the APP Correspondent here at his office, the RPO said that ensuring a law and order situation across the region is the top priority of police while steps were being taken in this regard.
Police force remained always the first target of terrorists during the insurgency at Swat, hundreds of police personnel along with officers lost their lives for the restoration of peace in the area, he added.
He said that the Malakand police is a brave force and they have the ability and are ready to fight any untoward incident.

دفتر کنونٹ پورڈ لورالائی کیٹ
اشہاربرائے مہجرتی ریڈیو کیٹ
مقامی اخبار کنونٹ پورڈ لورالائی کیٹ کے لیے ریڈیو کیٹ مہجرتی کرنا چاہتا ہے جس کے ذریعے وہ اپنے خواتین حضرات کو بہتر طور پر مطلع کر سکتے ہیں۔
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سرور	پوسٹ	سکیل	عمری حد	تعمیری کانسٹ
1	ریڈیو کیٹ	BS-06	33 سال	FA/BA

انٹرویو ٹیٹ مورڈ 15/09/2023 کو دن 11:00 بجے دفتر کنونٹ پورڈ لورالائی میں ہوگا

اشہار
کنونٹ پورڈ لورالائی کیٹ
لورالائی کیٹ

PID(Q)79/23

CONDOLANCE

APNS expresses profound grief over the sad demise of

Mr. Hafeez Ulfat
Publisher and Chief Editor
Daily Sarhad Peshawar

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.

APNS
All Pakistan Newspapers Society

Six out of ten deaths in Pakistan due to NCDs caused by sugary drinks: Experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts on Wednesday said the country was suffering from a very high percentage of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), most of them caused by food and beverages that were not fit for human health and according to a 2016 World Health Organization (WHO) study, six out of ten deaths in Pakistan happen due to NCDs, including three out of ten deaths by cardiovascular diseases (CVDs).

Similarly, according to the National Diabetes Survey conducted in 2016-17, every 4th adult in Pakistan was suffering from Type-2 diabetes, whereas the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) estimated in 2021 that Pakistan had the 3rd highest burden of type-2 diabetes worldwide with more than 33 million cases with additional 10 million termed as pre-diabetic. Unhealthy food supply and consumption also contribute to the growing number of overweight people. It was especially worrying that the number of overweight children had doubled between 2011 and 2018, and the problem might have worsened in recent years

due to a lack of effective regulations or their enforcement by respective authorities.

These disturbing statistics were shared by experts during a training workshop for journalists on "Understanding TFAs, Policy, Human Health, and Reporting", which was organized by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) with the support of Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAII), a news release said. The training was conducted by prominent health experts and journalists including Munawar Hussain from GHAII, Dr. Khawja Masood, National Coordinator, Food Fortification Alliance, Zeeshan Haider, and Waqar Bhatti.

They informed the participants about the major dietary risk factors such as the high percentage of trans fatty acids (TFAs), sugar, and sodium in the food supply and dietary practices. For example, Pakistan's TFA intake is estimated to be the 2nd highest in the WHO's EMRO (Eastern Mediterranean) region, as it is about 6% of daily energy intake. The experts shared findings of numerous research studies, which highlight that the consumption of industrially produced trans-fatty acids (iTFAs) significantly contributes to the incidence of NCDs. It was also highlighted that inappropriate and unhealthy dietary practices, including higher consumption of TFAs, are responsible for increasing rates of NCDs such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, and other chronic diseases in Pakistani population.

The participants were informed that the Government of Pakistan has recently taken steps to regulate production and supply of certain types of unhealthy food. For example, the Government has notified that the limit of TFAs cannot be more than 2g per 100g of fat in Vanaspati, shortenings, bakery fats, bakery ware, rusk, and breads. It is a significant step forward, although certain gaps remain, as all types of food are still not covered by this regulation. It is also yet to be seen if the notified standard will be effectively implemented across Pakistan without any delay.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhvi officially launched the roll-out of an anti-drug awareness campaign initiated by the Private Educational Regulatory Authority (PEIRA) in collaboration with the Anti-Narcotics Force in the Inaugural seminar to roll-out the campaign was held at the City School.

Madad acknowledges IBCC's vital role in education sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhvi Wednesday paid a visit to the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) and acknowledged the IBCC's vital role in education sector.

During his visit, he was given a comprehensive briefing by Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, the Executive Director of IBCC, shedding light on the organization's vital mandate, functions, roles, and responsibilities.

He elaborated on the progressive steps taken by IBCC to embrace technology, which has led to improved efficiency and accessibility of services for students, educational institutions and other stakeholders. These IT reforms are not only revolutionizing the operational aspects of IBCC but also contributing to a more transparent and expedited evaluation process.

The minister applauded the dedication and endeavors of IBCC in strengthening the education sector's quality and effectiveness.

Dr. Mallah further briefed about IBCC's new initiatives and transformative IT reforms.

IHC orders for not arresting Imaan Mazari in any case after Aug 20

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered Imaan Mazari be not arrested in any case after August 20.

Petition filed by Imaan Mazari seeking details of cases registered against her came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb here Wednesday.

Shireen Mazari mother of Imaan Mazari filed petition through lawyer Zainab Janjua on behalf of her daughter.

Lawyers Suleman Akram Raja and Qaisar

Imam appeared in the court from Shireen Mazari side. Suleman Akram Raja argued we needed not to file petition but the situation has become such.

In two cases arrest was made and in these two cases she was released on bail. But Imaan Mazari was arrested in third case outside Adiala jail.

Justice Miangul Ahsanzeb remarked we are passing through very difficult time. Imman Mazari was present in this court. I said to her to control her mother tongue. Imaan assured me but she did not control her tongue.

17 more cases of dengue reported in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Online): Total number rose to 85 after 17 more dengue cases were reported in the federal capital. According to authorities of Health Department, 17 cases of dengue were reported in Islamabad in the last 24 hours and after which the total number of infected patients in the federal capital rose to 85.

In the current season, 76% of dengue patients are male and 24% are female.

According to DHO, 15 cases were reported in the rural areas of Islamabad in last 24 hours and 2 dengue patients were reported in the urban areas.



ISLAMABAD: Jamal Shah, Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture visiting Aiwan-e-Quaid Building at Fatima Jinnah Park.

Jamal visits Aiwan-e-Quaid Building, sparks intent to elevate amenities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jamal Shah, Interim Minister for National Heritage and Culture on Wednesday conducted a visit to Islamabad's Fatima Jinnah Park, where he expressed the desire to enhance the facilities at the Aiwan-e-Quaid Building during his tour. During the visit, senior officials at Aiwan-e-Quaid provided him with an overview of the different amenities accessible within the building.

The Federal Minister also toured several amenities within the Aiwan-e-Quaid Building, which encompassed the Quaid-i-Azam Public Library, Auditorium, documentation center, as well as the Training and Research Center.

The Federal Minister conveyed his intention to enhance the facilities, aiming to transform the location into a more valuable

space for the community's cultural, educational, and literary endeavors.

The Minister also explored Bagh-e-Shuhada, currently under development next to the Islamabad Art Gallery.

Among its various elements, the garden will include portraits of martyrs and a captivating monument, designed to raise awareness among people, especially children and the younger generation, about the sacrifices made by these heroes.

The Minister confirmed that a formal inauguration of Bagh-e-Shuhada is planned for September 6.

The proceedings will begin with an elegant ceremony, succeeded by a musical concert aimed at paying homage to the martyrs. Simultaneously, an art exhibition will be held at the Islamabad Art Gallery as a part of the tribute.

Tourists advised to avoid traveling Babusar road after 6pm

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) on Wednesday advised tourists venturing into Northern Areas to avoid traveling and commuting after evening hours to refrain from any inconvenience and untoward situation. According to an advisory of PTDC, Babusar Gilgit-Baltistan Road was closed for all kinds of traffic after 6 p.m. in the evening due to recent floods that submerged a major portion of the thoroughfare leading to the scenic tourism magnet. Tourists and commuters were requested to complete their journey before 6 p.m. to avoid inconvenience. Tourists and travelers have also been advised to contact the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Kite Project Helpline (1422) to get fresh updates on weather, roads, and flood situation.

First Lady hails positive role of media in promoting awareness for 'Breast cancer'

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Lady of Pakistan, Begum Samina Arif Alvi Wednesday hailed the supporting role played by the media in promoting awareness drives to educate and motivate women in remote areas for self-examination voluntarily seek early diagnosis of breast cancer.

In an exclusive interview with PTV news channel, she underlined the need for continuous mass awareness campaigns through print, electronic and social media, especially for sensitization of women and girls in far-flung areas of the country about its symptoms, self-examination, diagnosis and treatment op-

tions. "If women are being diagnosed with breast cancer, they do not even share the news with their family members", she added.

Women in Pakistan lacked appropriate awareness about diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer due to a range of multifaceted barriers, however now women are much more confident and approach doctors in the early stages, she mentioned. She stressed that the healthcare system should also pay more attention to socio-psychological and cultural factors impeding women's access to available health facilities in rural areas.

Replying to a ques-

tion, she regretted that women are still neglecting society's priorities, adding, that unaware women in remote areas of Pakistan are the main target group in awareness drives as they are the ones who are at a higher risk of developing breast cancer because they neglect the symptoms due to lack of awareness which leads to progression of the disease and may prove lethal. To another question about mental health, she stressed the need for raising awareness about mental health and the need to increase the number of mental health professionals, besides strengthening the capacity of general health professionals.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Fauzia Vigar, Federal Ombudsperson (FOSPAH) preside over a meeting regarding protection against harassment of women on workplace at Federal Ombudsman Secretariat.

Islamic calligraphy interlinked with the Quran: Senator

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Talha Mehmood Wednesday said that Islamic calligraphy interlinked with the Quran and Quranic verses and suras were well used in the style of calligraphy.

Addressing an Islamic Calligraphy exhibition of young artists at Punjab Arts Council (PAC) on the occasion said that the art of calligraphy had a special place in our culture.

Punjab government was paying full attention to the promotion and development of all genres of arts, she added.

Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that Islamic calligraphy was the name of presenting handwriting and calligraphy artistically.

It is usually seen in countries with a common Islamic cultural heritage and by following the Quranic teachings, a person gets mental and emotional peace in this world and the hereafter.

world and the hereafter by following Quranic verses.

"For centuries, the main focus of attention of Muslims was the word of Allah, in the shape of the Quran," he added.

In the end, he lauded the role of PAC in promoting Islamic Calligraphy.

Naheed Manzoor on the occasion said that the art of calligraphy had a special place in our culture.

Punjab government was paying full attention to the promotion and development of all genres of arts, she added.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Saleem Mandviwala called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Body cameras distributed among cops to ensure transparency in policing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad police have distributed body cameras among the dedicated personnel of the Dolphin Squad to bolster transparency and accountability within the force.

Under the direct orders of Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCCPO), the SSP Safe City initiated the distribution of these body cameras, coupled with comprehensive training on their proper usage.

The primary objective

behind this initiative is to ensure the secure and verifiable recording of interactions between police officials and the public.

By doing so, the Islamabad Capital Police aims to foster a safer environment, deter criminal activities, and keep a vigilant eye on any suspicious individuals or events.

During the training session, Dolphin Squad members were instructed to consistently wear and operate these body cameras while on duty.

Poor investigation in murder case SC summons IG Punjab, RPO in matter

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has summoned IG Punjab and RPO Sheikhupura due to poor investigation in murder case.

A two members bench of SC presided over by Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi took up bail plea of a citizen Sanwal Yousuf for hearing Wednesday.

Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi while expressing resentment over the concerned IO and DSP remarked on what basis investigation officer has not included name of the accused in investigation. The injured is saying Sanwal

Yousuf opened firing, is the investigation carried out like this.

Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi remarked as to why IO and DSP be not sent to jail from here.

The court ordered the senior police officers to appear before it due to poor investigation in murder case.

It is pertinent to mention here Sanwal Yousuf is facing charges of murdering Akbar in jurisdiction of police station Sheikhupura. One person was injured also in the incident.

Sanwal Yousuf had resorted to SC in connection with his bail.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers sits along the road side at Sector G-11 along with their equipments as waiting for customers to hire them for a day job and pay daily wages for the livelihood of their families.

HEC organises orientation session

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) held an orientation session for the first batch of 30 focal persons from 23 universities to provide them with a training on the Undergraduate Education Policy (UEP) VI.1.

Organised by HEC Curriculum Division, the training session was attended by Executive Director HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail as chief guest. Advisor (Academics & Curriculum) Engr. Muhammad Raza Chohan chaired the session.

In his briefing on the policy, Advisor (Academics & Curriculum) HEC highlighted the transformation process linking the previous policies and frameworks used by HEC for undergraduate degree programmes from 2002-2020.

He briefed about the participatory approach carried out in revamping the UEP 2020 by involving all the universities and relevant stakeholders including accreditation councils in the feedback process while finalising the UEP Ver 1.1. Deputy Director HEC

Hidayatullah Kasi shared a detailed presentation on the policy items related to admission, nomenclature of the degree programme, academic advisory to students, purpose and offerings of General Education courses, credits dedicated for Major, Inter-disciplinary and minor courses, degree offerings with Single Major, Single Major with One Minor, Single Major with Double Minor and Double Major, the mandatory components of Capstone project and credited field experience.

Pak 80% pangolin population declined due to poaching: Experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts on Wednesday briefed the media persons that almost 80% population of the critically endangered Pangolin species had declined in the country due to excessive poaching, hunting and illicit trafficking that should be protected and owned by the community as its most precious asset.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Pakistan) organised a project briefing on "Pangolins" and wildlife of Pakistan and welcomed suggestions from the journalists for better initiative to protect the endangered species of wildlife in the country.

Associate Professor, PMAS Arid Agriculture University Department of Zoology, Wildlife & Fish-

eries, Dr Tariq Mahmood while opening the discussion informed the participants that the University had established the country's first ever Wildlife department to initiate dedicated study on animal species.

He added that in 2009 the Department focussed on Pangolin that was oblivious in the research circles of the academia at that time. However, he said the breaking point in the study came in 2012 during the research work underway in Chakwal when dead maimed and skinned corpses of numerous Pangolin were found in an abandoned tunnel that revealed the illicit trade and poaching of the critically endangered ant-eater.

Dr Mahmood mentioned that the information was then shared with the DG Wildlife Department Punjab and provincial authorities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and other federating units for further action.

He informed that the Department had conducted or engaged in research initiatives on Pangolin in Punjab, KP and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)'s Mirpur district to explore the population status of the most trafficked wild mammal.

Dr Mahmood said the situation of Pangolin was unexplored in Sindh and Balochistan that needed to be probed for further clarification of the population status of the animal.

Chipping in the discussion, Conservationist,

KP WWF-Pakistan Muhammad Waseem said Pangolin's poaching was basically for illegal wildlife trade intended to provide the meat of the ant-eater as a delicacy and its scales for traditional medicines and a resistant material for bullet proof vests.

He said there were some eight species of pangolin spread across Asia and Africa and all of them were endangered due to their indiscriminate poaching and hunting.

The WWF-Pakistan started Saving the Pangolins of Pakistan Project in 2016 and engaged the Customs Department and UNODC to contain its illegal trafficking, he added.

The WWF-Pakistan identified Pangolin Protection Zones in different parts

of the country and some six of such sites were enabled with a safe environment and empowered and trained wildlife staff and watchers to ensure their protection, he added.

He regretted that there were illogical myths associated to the innocent ant-eater as the human's corpse eater which was totally wrong and contribute much to its declining population.

He demanded that the media, society and indigenous population of the Pangolin habitats would have to own this species of mammals as their identity and most important component of its nature and environment.

The journalists also presented suggestions that were well noted and welcomed by the Fund.

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Some relief

Former prime minister Imran Khan's legal team and party loyalists may rejoice in their consolation victory at the Islamabad High Court, but the suspension of Mr Khan's sentence in the Toshakhana case does little for him in the larger scheme of things.

His conviction and, therefore, his disqualification from holding public office continue to stand, and until his appeal against the trial court's verdict is disposed of, his political fate remains in limbo. Bail or not, it is also unlikely that he will be allowed to walk free anytime soon: as has been the case with other political leaders arrested in recent months, the state could bring new cases against him to bypass release orders.

The wheels are already in motion. Soon after the IHC announced its decision, it surfaced that a special court constituted to try Mr Khan under the Official Secrets Act had directed Attock Jail authorities to keep him locked up and produce him before the court on August 30 for the 'missing cipher' case.

It had previously been commented that the IHC would find itself compelled to give some relief to the PTI chief, especially after a Supreme Court bench headed by the chief justice made adverse observations regarding 'procedural defects' in Mr Khan's conviction in the Toshakhana case. Though the SC ultimately restrained itself from intervening more forcefully in the matter, it put the IHC on the spot.

While the apex court's 'reservations' were justifiably criticised as 'interference' in the high court's workings, it bears mentioning that the manner in which Mr Khan was tried and eventually convicted left a lot to be desired. No wonder that independent observers saw it merely as another example of unelected quarters inflicting punishment on a political leader who had dared cross them.

As the aphorism goes, justice must not only be done, but seen to be done. At some point in Pakistan's recent political history, the law stopped being a reference point for what is right and wrong or what is permissible and what is not. Perhaps it was always so.

Court cases, especially those that have involved political actors, have always seemed more like a means through which different factions within the state may assert their dominance over the other. Despite many bitter experiences over the years, though, nothing seems to change. Those who were once the victims are now perpetuating the same cycle of violence under the patronage of their own oppressors, and those being oppressed today are just as likely to do the same whenever the roles are inevitably reversed. If the situation appears hopeless, it is only so because those who have had the power to change it have consciously chosen not to. Our leaders must answer: when do they want this to stop?



Zahid Hussain

Inflated electricity bills in the country have triggered an eruption of public indignation that had been simmering for long. Discontent over the escalating cost of living has now exploded into mass protests. The unbearable hike in electricity rates seems to be the proverbial last straw.

Angry protesters are now out on the streets, threatening to bring down the edifice of the state. It is now left to a hybridised interim administration to face the public's wrath. Stuck between the IMF deal and growing unrest in the country, the options for the caretaker set-up are limited. The crisis over excessively priced electricity indicates a structural problem that has been aggravated by flawed policies pursued by successive governments over the

past several decades.

A patch-up job will not help resolve a chronic problem that requires massive systemic reforms. And that is beyond the capacity of a short-term interim arrangement led by a novice who has apparently been imposed by the security establishment. The multiple taxes and surcharges included in the electricity bills are nothing less than extortion by a state unable to collect taxes from the politically powerful landed and business classes. The burden has shifted to the already over-taxed middle and lower middle classes.

What has made the situation extremely combustible is the prevailing political uncertainty. The spontaneous outburst of public anger has all the potential of turning into a mass movement against the existing system. You just have to listen to the chants of protesters against the privileged power elite. Events like this could easily ignite a prairie fire engulfing the entire system.

The ongoing public protests have brought to the surface contradictions embedded in the existing power structure. They have also

deepened the predicament of political parties that were part of the former ruling coalition. The alliance bears much blame for the worsening economic crisis. The disastrous policies of the Dar period may not have been solely responsible for the economic downside but they are just as much to blame as the approach of previous dispensations. The situation has posed a huge dilemma for the PML-N, with elections approaching.

It will be hard for the party to go to the polls with such a liability. The optics of the former prime minister and his finance minister arriving in London for consultations with the supreme leader were hardly comforting for party supporters and voters. The party is at a loss as to how to react to the public protests, particularly in its former stronghold of Punjab, just two weeks after its government ended.

It is apparent that the decision to include excessive taxes in the electricity bill was taken by the PML-N-led government and certainly not by the caretaker administration. While exempting the retailers and

thriving real estate businesses, the former finance minister conveniently shifted the burden to the common people. It is a lame excuse that it was necessary to meet IMF conditionalities. The fiscal gap could have been bridged by removing those exemptions as per the requirement of the IMF rather than fleecing the public.

With little to show for its performance during its 16-month rule, and now with street protests breaking out, it is hardly surprising that the PML-N favours an extension in the election date, as suggested by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in order to complete the delimitation process required under the recently concluded population census. Given this uncertainty and the prevailing confusion in party ranks, it is hardly surprising that Nawaz Sharif has yet again delayed his return to the country. He is now expected to come back in mid-October.

Meanwhile, differences within the former ruling alliance over the election timeframe have

become sharper, with the PPP taking an obvious U-turn and demanding that elections be held within 90 days as stipulated in the Constitution. It seems that the PPP's changed position on the election timeframe is for reasons of expediency, as the party doesn't want any delimitation of constituencies in Sindh that could result in an increase in National Assembly seats in Karachi at the expense of the rural areas. The issue has become more contentious with the MQM now siding with the PML-N over the delay.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Bar Council, too, has demanded that polls be held within 90 days. However, it seems highly improbable that the ECP will change its plan and agree to hold elections on the basis of the old population count. It may lead to yet another court battle, deepening the political turmoil. Growing public unrest over inflation has simply added to the multiple challenges the state confronts.

The public outrage over inflated electricity bills is just a symptom of a much deeper problem.

The escalating cost of living has pushed millions of more people below the poverty line and massively increased the ranks of the unemployed. The worsening state of the economy and growing political instability have also put our national security at risk. It is perhaps one of the most serious situations the country has faced in recent times. The prospect of a nuclear-armed nation collapsing under its own contradictions is frightening.

But the powers that be seem completely oblivious of the gathering storm. They remain occupied with their own agenda. While the country is imploding, the security agencies have apparently intensified the crackdown against the opposition, further destabilising the political situation. Recent draconian laws are now being used with impunity against everyone who dares to speak out.

This is the last thing the country needs while facing an existentialist threat. The rumbling of the coming storm is loud and clear, if the ruling elite are prepared to heed the warning. -- Courtesy Dawn

The gathering storm

The date debate



Muhammad Waqar Rana

Mark Tushnet in his book 'Why the constitution matters' argues that the constitution matters because it provides a structure for a civil government that assures liberties. In developing democracies, constitutions also matter a lot. Any slight deviation, for any reason whatsoever, be it state necessity or political expediency, from the constitutional precepts can be fatal for democracy, rule of law and the people. The political and constitutional history of Pakistan is abundant with instances of abrogation and abeyances of constitutions. For a regular citizen, the constitution and the law hardly have any meaning. The constitution however remains the only protection and unifying force for a fledgling federation weak-

ened by divisions and polarization. A colorful gloss put on the constitution in long and lengthy judicial sermons seems like beautifying marginal notes and nothing more. The constitution needs to be treated like a scripture.

It is in this context that the debate about fixing the date for general elections to the national and four provincial assemblies is to be approached. The caretaker government remains non-committal in its stance. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in its response to the president's letter seems clear in its stance that the power to fix the date for elections vests in it. That the time limit given in the constitution is not sacrosanct. The outgoing leader of the opposition and the governor of Punjab have been vocal in giving February 2024 as the time for elections. Their stance is aligned with the position taken by the major political parties which have been avoiding elections for the last one year for political expediency.

Two provincial assemblies were dissolved but the governors failed to fix the date for the elections. The matter ended up in courts and was lost somewhere due

to differences having arisen amongst the brethren on the issue of assumption of jurisdiction — with the consequence that despite clear orders by the Supreme Court the PDM government and their appointed governors refused to implement those orders. The ECP, a constitutionally mandated institution to organize elections, also joined the cause of the former federal government and deviated from its constitutional mandate without any fear of accountability. Caretaker governments installed in the provinces were allowed to continue beyond 90 days.

The term of five years of the previous National Assembly would have expired on August 12, 2023. The prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, however — seemingly to gain political advantage — on August 9, 2023 advised the president under Article 58(1) of the constitution to dissolve the National Assembly. It thus stood dissolved on August 9, 2023.

Having advised the president to dissolve the National Assembly, for constitutional purposes, the prime minister failed to notice that he had lost the power to advise the presi-

dent in the performance of constitutional functions for which the prime minister had to have the confidence of the majority of the members of the National Assembly. After giving the advice for dissolution he lost that power for lacking two underlying constitutional requirements, responsible government and representative character, which provided constitutionality to his advice to the president. This constitutional fiasco may have a serious bearing upon many actions of the caretaker government. It is an established constitutional principle of Westminster parliamentary democracy that the prime minister can advise the sovereign to dissolve the House of Commons. But this rule has exceptions. When a motion for no-confidence is tabled against the prime minister the sovereign may refuse dissolution and instead thereof allow the opposition leader to form the government. When the prime minister advises dissolution his/her advice usually contains the date for the next elections. The sitting government has this advantage in choosing an appropriate time for elections. There is a convention of holding elections at an early date. In the

political history of Great Britain elections were never disputed on the ground of rigging or manipulation by the sitting governments. This principle was followed in the 1973 constitution of Pakistan as well. But the events of 1977 provided a ground to change this rule. Instead of improving the political culture and conduct of leaders, an expedience was found that seemingly further compromised the integrity of the electoral process.

A system of caretaker setup was introduced. Article 48 was amended by PO 14 of 1985 and clause (5) was added whereunder the president in case of dissolution would fix the date of elections not later than 100 days of the dissolution and also appoint a caretaker cabinet. Through the 8th Amendment the period of 100 days was reduced to 90 days. Through the 18th Amendment (2010) Article 48(5) was substituted and amended to the effect that the words 'notwithstanding anything contained in clause 1' was added for the reason that in clause (1), the words 'act on and' were added. On the other hand, read literally, the newly added subsection (1) of Section 57 starts with 'subject to the constitution' — and the con-

stitution provides that the president shall appoint the date for elections. Moreover, since the president does not issue notification and the matter was not to be left to the caretaker governments, obviously the ECP had to announce the date(s) appointed by the president or the governors respectively, in the official gazette. It is a machinery provision. The difference between the words 'announce' and 'appoint' was perhaps overlooked by the ECP. In SMC 1 of 2023, the Supreme Court has held that power to appoint the date of elections in case of premature dissolution vested in the governors. The same applies to the president.

Elections were delayed for no reason after the 1956 constitution came into force. In 1970, the mandate of the majority was not respected. Since 1985, almost every election has remained disputed. Pakistan needs stability and peace for development and prosperity. In the ultimate analysis, the people are the best judges of their leaders — provided they are allowed to elect them or reject them through the ballot for which timely and transparent elections are mandatory. -- Courtesy TheNews

The hardest hit



Abdullah Fadil

As monsoon rains bear down on Pakistan, children's vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather again comes to the fore. Seasonal rains have already wreaked havoc, displacing communities, damaging homes and vital infrastructure, and claiming the lives of at least 211 people, including 87 children. Tens of thousands of people are currently affected by floods in Punjab. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and destructive. All too often, it is children who pay the heaviest price.

The scale of last year's floods was unlike anything witnessed before. One third of the country was under water, 33 million people affected, over 1,700 lives lost. Homes, livelihoods, future hopes and dreams, wiped out in a flash. We cannot let this happen again. Pakistan is a known climate hotspot, suffering from floods, heatwaves and droughts that directly threaten families and livelihoods. It is only a matter of time before another large-scale climate disaster strikes.

While Pakistan cannot alter the course of climate change alone, there is a clear need to invest in its children today to reduce their vulnerability to climate change in the future. Last year's floods made pre-existing inequities and deprivations painfully obvious: it is the poorest, most vulnerable girls, boys and women living in underserved areas who are bearing the brunt of climate

change. What little they had was washed away, and access to essential services was severed or disrupted.

Many of the hardest-hit districts were already among the most vulnerable in Pakistan. One-third of children aged five to 16 years were out of school. The floods damaged or destroyed 30,000 schools, locking an additional 3.5m children out of learning. We know from experience that the longer children remain out of school, the less likely they are to return, exposing them to protection risks such as child labour and child marriage. As part of its flood response, Unicef is providing education support for 258,000 children, but this is a drop in the ocean compared to the needs.

Pakistan's looming nutrition crisis has worsened with the floods, bringing immediate and long-term consequences for children's survival and wellbeing. Around 1.5m children in flood-affected areas are severely malnourished, the most life-threatening form of malnutrition. Low birthweight babies continue to be born to mothers who themselves are malnourished. This robs Pakistan of human potential and capital that can help drive its economy forward: malnutrition results in a loss of three per cent in national GDP.

As Pakistan undergoes a period of political transition, nutrition and education must remain national priorities while flood recovery and rehabilitation continue. Pakistan has a window of opportunity to make critical investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and resilient services that bridge equity gaps and reach children, mothers and families in underserved areas. This is vital for not only education and nutrition, but also health, protection, water, hygiene and sanitation. Sadly, the children affected by the floods

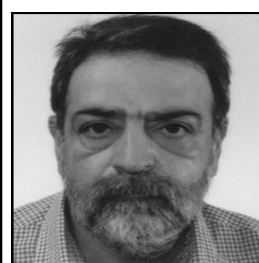
in 2010 are again bearing the brunt of last year's devastation. Without real change and societal transformation, the future for children in affected communities looks bleak. Poverty has increased after the floods, further perpetuating the cycle of intergenerational poverty, increasing inequality and worsening outcomes.

Last year's climate devastation was a wake-up call for the world. With the right choices and investments, Pakistan can become a global leader on climate change solutions. This requires urgently addressing the underlying socio-economic inequities and deprivations neglected for far too long.

The action must start at home, with governments at the national and provincial levels leading the way. The whole of society must contribute and play a pivotal role, including the private sector, philanthropists, civil society and communities. With Pakistan's house in order, efforts exerted and exhausted, the global community will have no option but to take its own moral and ethical responsibilities and make good on commitments to support Pakistan.

There is no time to lose. The caretaker government and the expected incoming elected government must prioritise sound fiscal policies, such as broadening the tax base and public financing for children. This will lead to the economic gains needed to address chronic malnutrition and increase access to quality education. Unicef is committed to supporting the government of Pakistan to strengthen and expand essential services for children and families and build back resilient systems. Without immediate action, vulnerability to climate shocks will only intensify, and children and the poorest communities will continue to suffer the most. -- Courtesy Dawn

Extreme misogyny



Mahir Ali

The latest chapter in the Taliban's crusade against women was unveiled this week, when at least 60 potential scholars expecting to be accommodated at a university in Dubai were turned away from Kabul airport. It followed a series of similar gestures that have stretched from stripping the right of girls to secondary or higher education, to bans on women working for aid agencies and a ban on hair and beauty parlours.

During the Doha conversations that preceded the cakewalk into Kabul two years ago this month, the interlocutors from Afghanistan indicated that Taliban 2.0 would be different from their Pakistani- and Saudi-backed incarnation in the mid-1990s.

It has not worked out that way. Just last week, the Band-i-Amir national park in Bamian was declared off-limits to women. "I've heard more than one Afghan woman talk about how next the Taliban won't allow them to breathe," Human Rights Watch's Heather Barr was quoted as saying. "That sounds very hyperbolic until you see them doing things like actually trying to stop women from being outdoors and enjoying nature."

The Taliban response? "Going sightseeing is not a must for women." That comes from a spokesman called Mohammed Khalid Hanafi who, like many of his Taliban brethren, seems to be unaware that he wouldn't exist without his mother's nurturing instincts following the

agency of childbirth. In other words, as the singer-songwriter Peggy Seeger queried: "How can a man of woman born/ Thereafter treat her sex with scorn?"

She wasn't talking about Afghanistan. Prejudices against women have been entrenched at various degrees in all societies, and their recent resurgence in the US is deplorable but not surprising. Former first lady Laura Bush at one point pretended to be keen on women's rights in Afghanistan, which served as one of the post-hoc excuses for the 2001 invasion, but appears to have had nothing to say about their depletion in the US.

Only a few American journalists have acknowledged that women in urban Afghanistan experienced the least limitations on their ambitions during the Soviet-backed PDDPA phase. As schoolteacher Glenn Sacks noted in Counterpunch this month, "In 1985, women accounted for 65pc of the 7,000 students at Kabul University — unthinkable in previous times."

Some US initiatives after the 2001 occupation may have echoed Soviet ones, but that could never officially be acknowledged — not least because back in the 1980s, the Afghan mujahideen were receiving instructions from America on slitting the throats of schoolteachers who dared to instruct girls. An outcome of recent Taliban policies has been to turn Afghanistan into one of the few countries where more women than men commit suicide. The ruling clique seems not to care.

There is a perception that the Taliban leadership is divided between those who might be willing to make social concessions, and a hard-line faction keen to reverse even the tiniest nod to liberalisation. Small wonder, then, that no country has formally recognised the regime — not even Pakistan, the Saudis and UAE, the

three sponsors of the Taliban's first incarnation. In a recent report, BBC's Lyse Doucet quoted a Kabul beautyician as saying that the mounting pressure on women is part of an effort to win international recognition. If that's true, it's a strange way of going about it. One would have thought that some movement in the opposite direction might be more effective.

It is unlikely that any harm can come from talking to the Taliban — and the regime's emissaries are reputedly frequent flyers. So far, there is also no evidence that diplomatic dialogues will yield meaningful results. The conversations should nonetheless continue, if only because there is no obvious alternative. While resisting IS-K, the Taliban have also exercised control over opium production, and, more broadly, security for travellers is reported to have vastly improved since the US occupation — which is hardly surprising, given the Taliban and their affiliates were once the main purveyors of insecurity.

There has been talk of Afghanistan profiting by allowing exploitation of the rare earths buried underneath its soil — most likely by Chinese entities unbothered by violations of human rights. The country could obviously benefit from such engagements, given its most lucrative produce is the chief ingredient for heroin. The nation's future, however, will not be determined by royalties. It cannot possibly prosper without liberating women from their shackles. Afghanistan is not entirely an outlier in the Muslim world in the context of women's rights, but it goes further in denying them than even its most retrogressive peers. Plenty of nations have contributed to Afghanistan's plight, but right now its destiny is in the hands of the (originally Pakistan-spawned) Taliban. -- Courtesy Dawn

Caretaker govt to remain apolitical, impartial: Azam

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan on Wednesday said that the caretaker government will keep itself restricted to its constitutional and legal role and remain apolitical, impartial and will perform its duties without any sort of political affiliation.

He expressed these views while presiding over the 9th meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker cabinet here.

Besides caretaker cabinet members, the meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and concerned administrative secretaries.

In his address to the participants of the meeting, the Chief Minister welcomed the new cabinet members. The chief minister said that the role, responsibilities, and dos and don'ts of the caretaker setup is very much clear in the relevant provisions of the Constitution and Election Commission Act 2017.

Azam Khan remarked that the caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is faced with two major challenges: law and order and financial crunch, and continued that improvement of the pre-

vailing law and order situation would be the top priority of government and pledged to make all-out efforts to this end.

He said that the province is largely dependent on the federal government, with regard to its revenue, and more than 90 percent of its revenue comes from various federal receipts and added that after the merger of ex-FATA, the population of the province has increased, and as per the existing population ratio, the NFC shares of the province has climbed to 19 percent of the federal divisible pool, but unfortunately, it is getting only 14.6 percent.

The Chief Minister remarked that at the time of the ex-FATA merger, it was committed by all the federating entities that three percent of their NFC share would be provided for the newly merged districts, whereas it was also pledged that Rs. 100 billion would be provided to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa every year for the accelerated development of the NMDs, but during the last five years, only 103 billion has been provided to the province out of the total 500 billion.

Highlighting the priorities of his government, the chief minister reiterated

that his government will focus special attention on merit, transparency, and good governance in its day-to-day business, adding that the administrative secretaries of the provincial government has already been directed to take the necessary steps to this end.

He urged the administrative secretaries to give honest and sincere advice to their concerned ministers with regard to the official business of the department. He further directed the cabinet members and administrative secretaries to identify corruption cases, if any, in their respective departments and initiate appropriate actions against those involved. The agenda for the meeting encompassed seven key points, notably the approval of project revisions, the establishment of a forensic science laboratory at Peshawar, the nomination of an administrative judge for anti-terrorism courts, and fixing matters relating to the Police Public School teachers' case in court. The meeting deliberations encompassed the approval of supplementary funding for the Forensic Science Laboratory in Peshawar and revisions to PC1 for the Janikhel Bannu Police Station.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the launching ceremony of Literate Cholistan Project Phase 2 organized by Punjab Education Foundation.

Punjab Governor says: PEF lighting the candle of knowledge in remote areas commendable

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman, attended the launch ceremony of Literate Cholistan Project 2 organized by Punjab Education Foundation here today at Governor House Lahore as a special guest.

Secretary School Education Punjab Muhammad Ahsan Waheed, Managing Director Punjab Education Foundation Manzoor Javed Ali, Vice Chancellor University of Education, Talat Naseer Pasha and other senior officers were present in the ceremony.

Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that education is the way through which nations develop. He said that it is commendable that Punjab Education Foundation is lighting the candle of knowledge in remote and backward areas through public private partnership.

He said that the moral training along with education is very important, adding that high moral values including honesty and truthfulness should be inculcated in the youth. He further said that an educated person neither believes nor spreads what he hears without researching himself. He said that it is very impor-

tant to research the news and information spread on social media. There was a time when Muslims made a name for themselves in education, science and research all over the world. But today we are lagging behind in research. We have to make joint efforts for bringing improvement in the education sector, he added. Governor Punjab said that the best investment is on the education and training of children and youth. Governor Punjab said that Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) is doing good work. It is spreading the light of education in remote areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor

No ban on approval of layout plans of buildings: Maqbool

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Bqar has categorically announced that the government will not place a ban or bar on approvals of the layout plans of residential and commercial buildings.

However, violation of the building laws, rules, and regulations by the Sindh Building Control Authority or the builder(s) would not be tolerated, he said.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that there was no ban on the approval of the plans for the construction of commercial, and residential

buildings. However, violation of the building laws, rules, and regulations by the Sindh Building Control Authority or the builder(s) would not be tolerated, he said.

Talking about the regularization of the illegally constructed buildings, the caretaker CM said that no such proposal was under consideration at all.

The caretaker chief minister urged SBCA to encourage legal construction and simplify the procedure.

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LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister Barrister Syed Azfar Ali Nasir addressing press conference at Director of Public Relations Office in Provincial Capital.

Crackdown against vehicles emitting smoke launched in Abbottabad

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Vehicle Emission Testing Station (VETS) in charge and Traffic Police, acting upon directives of the Secretary of Transport and the Director of Transport on Wednesday launched a campaign against vehicles emitting smoke.

The crackdown has specifically targeted a multitude of vehicles emitting smoke across various locations within the city. Legal actions have been taken against these smoke-emitting vehicles, while fitness certificates have been issued for those adhering to emissions standards.

The VETS in charge Sofia Jadoon in collaboration with the traffic police, conducted inspections in the localities of Havelian. They imposed fines on 50 vehicles emitting smoke and awarded fitness certificates to 42 vehicles.

She further said that over time, this initiative has expanded its coverage to encompass significant provincial cities such as Peshawar, Mardan, Swat, Malakand, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, and Bannu.

Both the men died on the scene while the assailants whose identity could not be ascertained so far, managed to escape the area.

Recalling a collaboration with the German agency GTZ, Sofia Jadoon mentioned that a smoke testing station was established in Peshawar in 1997, focusing on evaluating smoke emissions from vehicles leaving the city.

Lyari gang commander arrested by Rangers

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence based operation in Lyari area on Wednesday arrested an alleged commander of a Lyari Gang and recovered a hand grenade and arms, ammunition from his possession.

Arrested was identified as Muhammad Saleem alias Mullah Sohail, a most wanted gangster of Lyari, according to a news release.

The accused joined Uzair Baloch group in 2003 and in 2009 joined People's Aman Committee.

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LAHORE: Former Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif addressing press conference at Press Club in Provincial Capital.

Naqi urged to take notice of non-payments to printers, publishers by PCTB

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Wednesday urged Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqi and relevant authorities to take notice of non-payment of Rs 5.5 billion to respective printers and publishers by Punjab Curriculum and Textbook Board (PCTB) as they were facing a severe financial crunch.

The LCCI President Kashif Anwar made this demand after having detailed meeting with a delegation of printers and publishers led by Khalid Perwaiz here at Lahore Chamber. The LCCI Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, former president Muhammad Ali Mian, former vice president Faheemur Rehman Saigol, All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran (APAT) Secretary Information Zikaria Butt

and All Pakistan Printers Association (APPA) Chairman Syed Makram Abbas also spoke on the occasion.

The delegation informed the LCCI office-bearers that Punjab Curriculum and Textbook Board had issued a tender worth Rs 15 billion for printing of text books for students of public sector schools, however, the payment of Rs. 5.5 billion for this printing was still pending. They added that price of paper had increased many times and if the Board did not pay the remaining amount of Rs.5.5 billion to the printers and publishers, they would not be able to print textbooks for next academic year and millions of students would not get free books thus putting their career at stake. The government should take an immediate notice of this situation and direct the relevant authorities.

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PESHAWAR: Provincial Ombudsman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Jamal ud Din presenting annual report 2022 to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

LHC reserves judgment on maintainability of petition against escalating bills, taxes

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has reserved judgment on maintainability of the petition against inflated electricity bills and recovery of taxes in bills.

The petition was filed by a citizen Muhammad Latif.

A single bench of LHC led by Justice Shams Mahmood Mirza took up the case for hearing Wednesday.

Justice Shams Mahmood Mirza inquired upto what extent the basic rights are being violated. What law is being violated. The counsel replied it is violation of article 2.

The learned judge inquired how it is violation of article 2 of the constitution.

The counsel for the petitioner could not give satisfactory reply. The learned judge remarked what procedure people have adopted is correct procedure. This is the method that people force government to withdraw its decision by voicing protest.

The court reserved judgment on the maintainability of the petition.

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HYDERABAD: Caretaker Provincial Minister Mines and Minerals Development Mir Khuda Bakhsh Marri at a press conference at Shahbaz Hall Hyderabad.

Provincial Ombudsman calls on Governor, presents annual report of 2022

PESHAWAR (APP): Ombudsman of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Jamal-ud-Din Shah here on Wednesday called on KP Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali and presented the annual report of 2022.

Provincial Ombudsman said that 2,519 complaints were received by the office of the ombudsman among which 1,947 have been addressed.

Additional Secretary of Law Department, Zaheer-ud-Din and Principal Secretary of the Governor, Mazhar Irshad were also present on the occasion.

He said that 492 complaints were related to Elementary and Secondary Education. KP Governor appreciated the efforts of the ombudsman office and its overall performance to facilitate people.

Provincial caretaker govt initiates action against illegal mining

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Sindh Minister for Mines and Minerals Development Mir Khuda Bux Mari has informed that action has been initiated against all those who are involved in illegal mining of minerals in the province.

Besides stopping illegal mining wherever reported in the province, he informed that strict legal action is also being taken against the persons who were involved in illegal mining.

The minister informed this while presiding over a meeting of the officers of his department and later talking to media persons here at the Commissioner's

Office on Wednesday. Besides stopping illegal mining wherever reported in the province, he informed that strict legal action is also being taken against the persons who were involved in illegal mining.



KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Commission for Human Rights hold placards and banner during protest on the eve of International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, at Frere Hall in Provincial Capital.

Dr Jamal Nasir says: Couple's test essential for controlling Thalassemia

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare, Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir has said that thalassemia disease can be controlled by conducting medical tests of the couple before marriage.

He said this while visiting Thalassemia House, Tipu Road here on Wednesday. The minister said that thalassemia patients were increasing in Pakistan while public awareness and blood screening were indispensable to control this disease.

He said that the provision of a transplant facility in the Thalassemia house was a vital initiative that would benefit thalassemia patients.

Dr Jamal urged the people to play their role in

eradicating thalassemia, adding the support of welfare organizations and philanthropists in Thalassemia House was valuable and citizens deserve tribute who donated blood for a noble cause.

He said there was a need to take special care of the children affected by thalassemia and it's our responsibility to help them to become beneficial citizens of the society despite their medical illness.

On the occasion, the provincial minister met the children affected by thalassemia and inquired about their well-being.

General (ret'd) Pervaiz Ahmed, Brig Kamran, Colonel Kamran, Dr Zoha, CEO Health Rawalpindi Dr Ijaz and others were also present on the occasion.



KARACHI: Hindu women celebrate the Hindu festival Raksha Bandhan at Laxmi Narayan Temple in Provincial Capital.

Minister assures steps for welfare of prisoners

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Home and Prisons, Brig (ret'd) Haris Nawaz, on Wednesday, assured the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners (CWP) of the maximum possible support for the welfare of inmates in the prisons.

The minister was informed that 2,838 prisoners were interviewed and provided with 'legal advice' by qualified lawyers in the previous two years by CWP and 2,690 vakalatnamas (power of attorneys) were signed and filed in courts while 2235 cases were disposed of with certified judicial orders.

He was talking to a 5-member delegation of CWP led by Barrister Haya Zahid, who called on him. Sindh Home Secretary Syed Aijaz Ali Shah was also present in the meeting, according to a statement issued here.

The committee successfully pleaded 1,349 applications for bail and also assisted 41 prisoners in the submission of fines and surety.

The committee also discussed with the home minister the financial issues being faced by CWP and requested support.

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Experts call for leveraging waste to energy for decarbonization of cement sector, industries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Decarbonization of cement sector and other industries requires strengthening of the regulatory and policy ecosystem, innovative technologies to replace carbon-intensive cement and reliable and affordable alternate energy sources like waste to energy to offset carbon emissions from cement supply chain.

These were the recommendations stressed by experts at a special guest lecture on "Charting the course of Decarbonization Driver's on Pakistan's Cement Industry" with Ahsan Anis, Chief Operating Officer, of Power Cement Limited apprised about the decarbonization initiatives being taken by Power Cement including a FLSmidth plant with 7700 tonnes/day production capacity since 2020 to increase efficiency, investment in solar, wind, and waste-to-energy power generation for sustainable, clean and affordable energy supply. He stressed that the country has immense energy generation potential from agriculture and general waste but ends up being dumped in landfills or burned due to weak segregation mechanisms at source, lack of awareness.

UAF develops multi grain flour: Dr Iqar

FAISALABAD (APP): The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) has developed multi-grain flour which is being commercialized with the support of the industry. Addressing a one-day seminar on multi-grain flour, UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmed Khan said the multigrain flour was developed by the National Institute of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Food Nutrition and Home Sciences UAF under the Higher Education Commission Technology Transfer Support Project.

He said that 40 percent of Pakistan's population was facing malnutrition which was a matter of grave concern. He said that instead of relying only on wheat flour, the nutritional crisis could be overcome by including other cereals as part of our daily diet. He said that UAF was the pioneer to introduce the Human Nutrition and Dietetics Programme which was being replicated across the country. Dean Faculty of Food Science Prof Dr Masood Sadiq Butt said that with the passage of time, the trend of increase in nutritional crisis was being seen, for which we had to adopt healthy lifestyle.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai talking to office bearers of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry during his visit.

Secretary for arrangements ready to protect crops in flood hit areas of S. Punjab

MULTAN (APP): Punjab Secretary Agriculture Iftikhar Ali Sahu on Wednesday directed agriculture officials to keep arrangements ready in flood-hit parts of south Punjab to protect crops including cotton and farmers already hit by floods by extended technical assistance for a revival of their flood-damaged crops. Presiding over a divisional cotton management meeting at the civil secretariat, Iftikhar Sahu said that the agriculture department should remain in contact with irrigation officials for flood monitoring and a comprehensive report be sent to him.

The meeting discussed cotton crop situation in three divisions of south Punjab including Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan. Iftikhar Ali Sahu urged farmers to pay special attention to the nutritional management of cotton crops during the next two months to get good production results.

He expressed satisfaction that the cotton market was stable delivering good returns to farmers and hoped it would have a positive impact on next cotton season. He asked agriculture department Divisional Directors to lead groups of experts and move into the fields to extend technical assistance to farmers.

Other trade unions also backed the decision, saying that all markets of Karachi would observe a shutter down strike on September 2.

Moreover, protest demonstrations were held in Sukkur, Khairpur, Shikarpur and Ghotki districts. Masses carrying banners and placards along with their women were criticized for making their lives miserable. The enraged people also set their electricity bills on fire.

NEPRA asks DISCOs to improve performance in 15 days

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Wednesday directed the power distribution companies (DISCOs) to improve their performance in 15 days and submit a report in that regard.

"NEPRA will conduct a hearing after three weeks to review the performance of DISCOs", a news release said.

NEPRA heard the request of Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPAG) regarding monthly fuel adjustment charges of Rs 2.07 per unit for the month of July. However, during the hearing the CPPAG reviewed its request from Rs. 2.07 to Rs. 1.57 per unit raise on account of FCA.

The Authority asked as to why the cost of electricity production with coal was higher despite the decrease in the price of coal while asking the CPPGA to submit performance report of coal power plants.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications, Railways and Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar meeting with the officers of Pakistan Karachi Port Trust (KPT).

Gohar pledges for reopening closed industry with 30 days

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries and Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz Wednesday unveiled an ambitious agenda for Pakistan's economic growth, setting a formidable target of 25 billion dollars in textile exports for the current year.

Alongside this, he pledged a swift revival of all shuttered industries within the country, with a tight deadline of just one month, said a press release

ICCI, WFP discuss cooperation to address food insecurity issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Head of Supply Chain, World Food Programme (WFP) Ms. Rei Ishii on Wednesday visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and discussed areas of collaboration between WFP and ICCI to address the food insecurity issues in the region.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI welcomed the visiting

guest and said that WFP is providing critical relief and nutrition support to vulnerable segments of society in Pakistan, which is commendable.

He assured that ICCI is ready to mobilize its member companies to join hands as partners with WFP in terms of suppliers and vendors in its efforts to strengthen the food and nutrition security for the vulnerable people of Pakistan.

He said that many member companies of ICCI from pharma and food sectors have outreach to communities and they can join hands with WFP in its efforts to provide prompt response in emergency situations like natural disasters and floods etc.

He also exchanged views with the visiting guest on many common areas of mutual cooperation.

He also affirmed his readiness to visit their premises if required, underlining his dedication to revitalizing the industrial landscape. In a proactive approach, the minister re-

quested a comprehensive list of all dormant industries nationwide, along with their specific issues.

Gohar also gave his word that pending funds owed to industries by various departments, including FBR and customs, would be swiftly resolved.

Furthermore, he extended an open invitation to associations and businessmen, ensuring his availability to collaborate and find resolutions for their problems.

Pak exports 8 shipments of rock salt to China via Khunjerab border

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan has exported eight shipments of around 35 tons rock salt to China from June to July this year through the Khunjerab land border.

"Imports and exports volume across the Khunjerab Port stand at 40 to 80 thousand tons per year. Daily imports are about 471.6 tons per day," Zhang Xiaobo, China's Customs Director of Khunjerab Port, told CGTN.

He said since 2019, China had set up a dedicated border trade area, for businessmen to settle increasingly bigger trades, and after a three-year hiatus during the COVID-19, "the zone is officially in use this year".

Zhang said, "From June to July this year, we received eight shipments, amounting to 35 tons of Himalayan rock salt. In addition to rock salt, there are also copper and wooden handicrafts, as well as some carpets."

He said, "Each trader is given a tax-free trade quota worth about US\$ 1100 each day. The increasing convenience here is starting to attract Pakistani exporters who used to ship goods to China via a much longer sea route."

Wafa Baig, a trader, said it was his first time using the Khunjerab border. "Last month we brought crude quartz, 27 tons, the first assignment. In the future, our plan is 1,000 tons."

While comparing the land route and the sea route, he said, "By sea it takes a long time, by road is faster."

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Wednesday and shed 525.86 points, showing negative change of 1.12 percent, closing at 46,244.56 points against 46,770.42 points the previous trading day.

A total of 200,288,813 shares were traded during the day as compared to 217,852,268 shares, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs 8.987 billion against Rs 8.280 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 327 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 70 of them recorded gains and 240 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 17 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 16,322,731 shares at Rs 1.18 per share; K-Electric Ltd with 12,424,393 shares at Rs 1.89 per share and Dewan Motors with 12,107,424 shares at Rs 16.60 per share.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 2,486 to Rs.202,675 from Rs.200,189 whereas the rate of 10 gram 22 karat went up to Rs. 185,785 from Rs.183,506, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price per tola silver and that of ten-gram silver remained unchanged to close at RS 2,850 and Rs 2,443.41 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market, however, increased by \$21 to \$1,938 from \$1,917, the Association reported.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Maersk Denver, Maersk Brooklyn, Cetus Cachalot and FSM carrying Container, Coal and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Engro Terminal, respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile five more ships, MSC Madeleine, Copenhagen, Maroudio, Besi Ktas M and Mari Blue, scheduled to load/offload Containers, Cement and Coal also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

A total of 09 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours.

Secretary agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel was on a visit to Salar Wahan and Kabirwala areas of Khanewal district Wednesday to monitor IPM demonstration cotton plots and sugarcane crop

where farmers informed him that they have picked 36 Maunds of seed cotton (Phutti) from the demonstration plots where they have applied only bio-pesticides made from plants' extracts. Cotton plants still have 14-15 bolls each and better production was expected when they turn into flowers and became ready for more picking.

Saqib Ali Ateel said that the cotton crop has entered an important stage where boll opening and boll formation process was running simultaneously and advised farmers not to leave crop water stressed. He asked farmers to do water scouting regularly and conduct pest scouting twice a week.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries, DR. Gohar Ejaz calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

Senate body on Commerce meets

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Commerce convened today at the Parliament House, presided over by the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada. Distinguished attendees included Senators Fida Muhammad, Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan, Talha Mehmood, and Danesh Kumar. Federal Minister for Commerce Gohar Ejaz, Secretary Commerce, CEO TDAP Muhammad Zubair Motiwala, along with other relevant officials also participated. During the meeting, the committee addressed the matter of approximately 40 vintage vehicles presently stationed at the dry port. Authorities elucidated that importers had brought these vehicles under their own volition, as there exists no definitive

policy regarding vintage vehicles. Subsequently, the issue was referred to the Ministry, leading to the creation of a summary submitted twice to the federal cabinet. Regrettably, the cabinet neither rejected nor approved the summary. The committee, in response, emphasized the necessity of composing a letter to the Prime Minister, seeking a resolution on this matter. The committee also recommended tabling the summary in the Cabinet. Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce Gohar Ejaz briefed the committee on the prevailing conditions surrounding imports, exports, and associated subjects. Central to his priorities was extending support to exporters, emphasizing the importance of fostering a robust framework for industrialists.



PESHAWAR: Residents of Maskinabad hold protest against electricity bill.

Payment of electricity bills continued in KP as people reject protest

PESHAWAR (APP): The payment of electricity bills on Wednesday continued in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Peshawar despite protest demonstrations against an inflated bills in some areas, and the consumers started clearance of their monthly dues to get uninterrupted power supply in the sizzling heat.

Rejecting the politically-motivated protest of handful of elements, the consumers of all districts of KP in substantial number were seen at banks and mobile franchise units besides post offices on Wednesday where they paid their electricity bills.

Besides many other consumers, Riazul Haq, a former PST teacher and a resident of Pabbi Nowshera district has also cleared his electricity bill of August charged by the Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO).

"Payment of electricity bill is essential for providing uninterrupted power supply to the consumers," he said, adding majority of his relatives had paid their electricity bills.

However, he said the burden of free units construction of dams.

Sukkur traders announces shutter down strike

SUKKUR (APP): The business community of Sukkur on Wednesday announced to observe a shutter-down strike on (September 2) against the inflated electricity bills and rising inflation.

According to a release issued here, President Sukkur Small Traders, Haji Javed Memon said that markets across Sukkur would remain closed on Saturday in protest against inflated electricity bills and rising inflation.

Other trade unions also backed the decision, saying that all markets of Karachi would observe a shutter down strike on September 2.

Moreover, protest demonstrations were held in Sukkur, Khairpur, Shikarpur and Ghotki districts. Masses carrying banners and placards along with their women were criticized for making their lives miserable. The enraged people also set their electricity bills on fire.

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President, CEO Faysal Bank visited SCCI

SIALKOT (INP): President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faysal Bank Yousaf Hussain, Mufti Muhammad Najeeb Khan, Head Commercial Banking and SME Altaf Hussain Saqib along with his team visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik welcomed the distinguished guests.

They exchanged important information in the seminar organized about Islamic banking.

In his welcome address, President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik thanked President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faysal Bank Yousaf Hussain and his team for providing awareness to the public and the business community regarding Islamic Banking.



BAHAWALPUR: Farmers spreading dates for drying purpose placed under sunlight.

IPM technology delivers 36 Maunds cotton per acre

MULTAN (APP): Cotton demonstration plots being nurtured through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technology by the agriculture department employing an armory of friendly pests, bio-pesticides and pheromone traps against the enemy pests has delivered heartening results- 36 Maunds per acre production of seed cotton (Phutti) delivered so far from early sown crop and more is yet to come from the same acreage.

Secretary agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel was on a visit to Salar Wahan and Kabirwala areas of Khanewal district Wednesday to monitor IPM demonstration cotton plots and sugarcane crop



Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad

Ukrainian drones strike deep in Russian territory, Moscow says, while a barrage in Kyiv kills 2

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine sent waves of drones deep into western Russia in nighttime attacks that lasted more than four hours and struck military assets, Russian officials and media reports said Wednesday.

The drones hit an airport near Russia's border with Estonia and Latvia, causing a huge blaze and damaging four Il-76 military transport planes, which can carry heavy machinery and troops, the Russian state news agency Tass reported, citing emergency officials. With at least six regions of Russia targeted, the barrage appeared to be the most extensive Ukrainian drone attack on Russian soil since the war began 18 months ago, although no injuries were reported. The Kremlin has repeatedly accused the Ukrainian military of cross-border incursions on the Belgorod region of Russia and of launching drones toward Moscow.

There was no immediate comment from Ukrainian officials, who usually don't take responsibility for attacks inside Russia. The Kremlin's forces, meanwhile, hit Kyiv with drones and missiles during the night in what Ukrainian officials called a "massive, combined attack" that killed two people.

Aerial attacks on Russia have escalated recently as Ukraine pursues a counteroffensive to drive out Moscow's forces. Kyiv increasingly targets Russia's military assets behind the front lines in eastern and southern Ukraine. Ukraine has also claimed to have used naval drones against Russian ships in the Black Sea. Ukrainian media said that Kyiv saboteurs used drones last week to hit bomber aircraft parked at air bases deep inside Russia.

The airport in the Pskov region, about 700 kilometers (400 miles) north of the Ukrainian border and 700 kilometers (400 miles) west of Moscow, suffered the most damage in the overnight attacks. Smoke from a massive fire billowed over the city of Pskov, the region's name-sake capital, according to social media posts, including video of loud bangs and flashes, along with the crackle of air defense systems and tracers in the night sky.

Pskov Gov. Mikhail Vedernikov ordered all flights to and from the airport canceled for the day so damage could be assessed. No one was hurt and the fire was put out, he said. Other regions hit were Oryol, 400 kilometers (240 miles) south of Moscow, as well as Ryazan and Kaluga, which are both 200 kilometers (120 miles) south of the capital. Also hit was Bryansk, which borders Ukraine, according to the Russia Defense Ministry.

Three main Moscow airports — Sheremetyevo, Vnukovo and Domodedovo — temporarily halted incoming and outgoing flights. But a meeting with Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday saw the top official lay into American trade curbs against Beijing, which Washington insists are necessary for its national security but China



U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo talks with Shanghai Party Secretary Chen Jining, in Shanghai, China.

US deploys B-1B bombers for separate drills with South Korea, Japan

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: The United States separately deployed B-1B bombers for joint drills with South Korea and Japan on Wednesday, as the three allies have stepped up responses to threats from North Korea.

A U.S. B-1B flew alongside South Korean FA-50 jets and U.S. Air Force F-16 fighters as part of ongoing Uchi Freedom Shield exercises, South Korea's defence ministry said. It marked the 10th such flight by an American bomber this year.

North Korea routinely denounces the annual military drills as a rehearsal for war. The allies have stressed that the exercises are defensive.

Separately, two U.S. Air Force B-1Bs joined joint drills with 12 Japanese fighters, including four F-

15 jets, according to Japan's defence ministry. The U.S.-led bomber drills came days after North Korea attempted a satellite launch that ended in failure.

The U.S. and South Korea began Uchi Freedom Shield last week — a joint large-scale military exercise designed to enhance their response to Pyongyang's nuclear and missile threats, with the second part kicking off on Monday.

Wednesday's exercise was a demonstration of what the allies have called "extended deterrence" in the face of North Korea's recent space launch vehicle flights and a show of "strong united defence posture", South Korea's defence ministry said in a statement.

Tokyo's defence ministry said the U.S.-Japan joint air drills over the Sea

IAEA moves to dispel fears about Fukushima

Monitoring Desk
STOCKHOLM: The tritium concentration in wastewater being released from Japan's stricken Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear plant is under expected levels and poses no risk to the population, the head of the UN atomic watchdog said on Tuesday.

"So far we have been able to confirm that the first releases of these waters do not contain any radionuclide at levels that would be harmful," Rafael Grossi said during a visit to Stockholm. Twelve years after one of the world's worst nuclear accidents, Japan began releasing wastewater into the Pacific Ocean last week, as it gradually discharges around 540 Olympic swimming pools' worth of water over several decades.

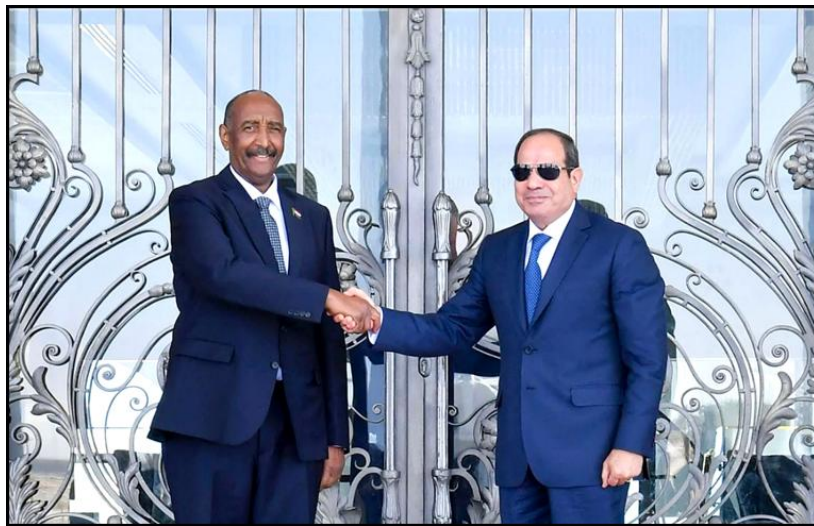
Indian rover confirms sulphur on Moon's south pole

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's Moon rover has confirmed the presence of sulphur on the lunar south pole, the country's space agency said.

Last week, India became the first country to land a craft near the largely unexplored south pole, and just the fourth nation to land on the Moon.

"The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard Chandrayaan-3 Rover has made the first-ever in-situ measurements on the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the south pole," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said in a statement dated Monday.

"These in-situ measurements confirm the presence of sulphur in the region unambiguously, something that was not feasible by the instruments onboard the orbiters," it said.



Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi greets Sudan's army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan at the Presidential palace in el-Alamein city, Egypt.

China warns US against 'disastrous' trade curbs

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's premier warned US officials on Tuesday that moves to "politicize" trade issues would prove "disastrous" for the global economy, state media reported. US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo is currently on a four-day bridge-building visit to China aimed at better managing tensions between the world's two largest economies.

But a meeting with Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday saw the top official lay into American trade curbs against Beijing, which Washington insists are necessary for its national security but China

says are meant to clip its economic rise. "Politicizing economic and trade issues and overstressing the concept of security will... seriously affect bilateral relations and mutual trust," he told Raimondo, according to China's official Xinhua news agency. They "also undermine the interests of enterprises and people of the two countries, and will have a disastrous impact on the global economy", he added.

Relations between the two countries have plummeted to some of their lowest levels in decades, with US trade curbs near the top of the list of disagreements.

This month, Biden issued an executive order aimed at restricting certain US investments in sensitive high-tech areas in China — a move Beijing blasted as being "anti-globalisation". The long-anticipated rules, expected to be implemented next year, target sectors such as semiconductors and artificial intelligence.

Premier Li on Tuesday urged the United States to change tack, saying "the two sides should strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation, reduce friction and confrontation, and jointly promote world economic recovery."

Category 3 Hurricane Idalia makes landfall on Florida coast

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Hurricane Idalia made landfall in northwest Florida as an "extremely dangerous" Category 3 hurricane, prompting warnings of catastrophic effects, including storm surges of up to 16 feet (nearly five meters) on Wednesday.

Authorities in the southern US state described Idalia and its potentially deadly high surging waters as a once-in-a-lifetime event for Florida's northwest coast, ordering mass evacuations and issuing flood alerts.

The US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said Idalia, which earlier raked western Cuba, was packing maximum sus-

tained winds of approximately 125 miles (215 kilometers) per hour as it made landfall around 7:45am (1145 GMT) in Florida's marshy Big Bend area.

Unlike most other coastal regions in the state, Big Bend, located along the arch of the Gulf of Mexico, does not have barrier islands.

"This thing is powerful, if you're inside, just hunker down until it gets past you," DeSantis told a press conference just before landfall.

More than 140,000 customers in Florida were without electricity as of 8:00am, according to tracking website PowerOutage.us.

Kremlin says Prigozhin plane crash may have caused deliberately

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Wednesday that the investigation into the plane crash which killed mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin and nine others last week included the possibility that it was caused deliberately.

"It is obvious that different versions are being considered, including the version — you know what we are talking about — let's say, a deliberate atrocity," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. Peskov also said that the probe into the plane crash was a Russian investigation, and that there could be no question of an international investigation.



Mutinous soldiers in Gabon said they were overturning the results of a presidential election that was to extend the Bongo family's 55-year hold on power.

EgyptAir will resume direct flights from Egypt to conflict-stricken Sudan

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egyptian carriers said the national carrier will resume direct flights to Sudan this week following high profile talks between the Egyptian president and Sudan's military chief.

Egypt's Ministry of Civil Aviation said Tuesday that EgyptAir would launch a weekly flight route from Cairo to the Sudanese coastal city of Port Sudan starting Friday. No further details were given.

Sudan plunged into chaos in mid-April when simmering tensions between the military, led by Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere.

Australian doctors find live parasitic worm in woman's brain

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: A parasitic roundworm typically found in snakes was pulled "alive and wriggling" from a woman's brain in a stomach-churning medical first, Australian doctors said on Tuesday.

Baffled doctors performed an MRI scan on the 64-year-old Australian woman after she began suffering memory lapses, noticing an "atypical lesion" at the front of her brain.

Thousands trafficked into online crime in Southeast Asia, UN warns

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Hundreds of thousands of people are being coerced in Southeast Asia by criminal gangs into carrying out online scams, often under the threat of torture, the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) has said.

Many have been trafficked into working in online criminality and face serious violations such as torture or sexual violence, OHCHR, which is based in Geneva, said in a report. "People who are coerced into working in these scamming operations endure inhumane treatment while being forced to carry out crimes."

Greece blaze described as 'largest wildfire ever recorded in EU'

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: A forest blaze in Greece is "the largest wildfire ever recorded in the EU" and the bloc is mobilising nearly half its firefighting air wing to tackle it, a European Commission spokesman said on Tuesday. Firefighters have been battling the flames for 11 days in north-eastern Greece which have killed at least 20 people and pose an "ecological disaster".

Eleven planes and one helicopter from the EU fleet have been sent to help Greece counter the fire, north of the city of Alexandroupoli, along with

407 firefighters, spokesman Balazs Újvári said. The EU's civil protection service said the fire has burnt over 810 square kilometres (310 square miles) — an area bigger than New York City. "This wildfire is the largest in the EU since 2000, when the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) began recording data," the service said. Since it began on August 19, the bodies of 20 people have been found, 18 of them migrants including two children that were discovered in a region often used as an entry point from neighbouring Turkey.

US sees wake-up call, if not threat, as BRICS expands

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States is racing to improve its messaging to the developing world as the BRICS group grows, although few in Washington view an immediate threat from the Chinese-backed club. The BRICS — Brazil, Russia India, China and South Africa — agreed at a summit last week to add six more members, in what Chinese President Xi Jinping billed as a historic moment among large emerging economies contesting the Western-led order.

As the BRICS leaders met in Johannesburg, President Joe Biden's administration renewed promises to step up funding for the developing world through the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Biden's national security advisor, Jake Sullivan, vowed to fight to reform the

Washington-based lenders at an upcoming summit in New Delhi of the Group of 20 — boosting the roles both of the US-backed organisation and of India, a key member of both clubs. The United States has also been highlighting Russia's withdrawal from a UN-backed deal to allow grain exports from Ukraine to the developing world, where some countries have questioned the Western priority of sending billions of dollars in weapons to Kyiv.

Publicly, Washington played down the BRICS expansion, saying only that countries can choose their own partners. Sullivan, noting the wide policy differences among the countries, earlier told reporters, "We are not looking at the BRICS as evolving into some kind of geopolitical rival to the United States or anyone else."

176 global leaders and Nobel laureates urge Bangladesh to halt cases against Peace Prize winner

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: More than 170 global leaders and Nobel laureates have urged Bangladesh's prime minister to suspend legal proceedings against Muhammad Yunus, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for pioneering the use of microcredit to help impoverished people.

In an open letter, the leaders, including former U.S. President Barack Obama, former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and more than 100 Nobel laureates, said they were deeply concerned by recent threats to democracy and human rights in Bangladesh.

"One of the threats to human rights that concerns us in the present context is the case of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus. We are alarmed that he has recently been targeted by what we believe to be continuous judicial harassment," said the letter, dated Tuesday.

"We are confident that any thorough review of the anti-corruption and labor law cases against him will result in his acquittal," it said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina responded by saying she would welcome international experts and lawyers to come to Bangladesh to assess the legal proceedings and examine documents involving the charges against Yunus.

"If they send the experts and lawyers, many more things will get revealed, which remain untouched. Many such things will come out," Hasina said.

In 1983, Yunus founded Grameen Bank, which gives small loans to entrepreneurs who would not normally qualify for bank loans. The bank's success in lifting people out of poverty led to similar microfinancing efforts in many other countries.

Hasina's administration began a series of investigations of Yunus after coming to power in 2008.

UN chief warns that rise in global distrust and improvements in nukes are 'recipe for annihilation'

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: An alarming rise in global distrust and division coupled with efforts by countries to improve the accuracy and destructive power of nuclear weapons is "a recipe for annihilation," the United Nations chief warned Tuesday.

In a statement marking the International Day Against Nuclear Tests, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that with nearly 13,000 nuclear weapons stockpiled around the world, "a legally binding prohibition on nuclear tests is a fundamental step in our quest for a world free of nuclear weapons."

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has 196 member states — 186 have signed it and 178 have ratified it, including eight in the last 18 months. But the pact has taken effect because it needs ratification by the eight nations that had nuclear power reactors or research reactors when the U.N. General As-

sembly adopted the treaty in 1996.

At a high-level meeting of the 193-member assembly to observe the day there was no indication that those eight countries — the United States, China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, North Korea, India and Pakistan — were moving toward ratification.

Iranian diplomat Heidar Ali Balouji said his country "shares the frustration of non-nuclear weapon states against any delays in ending nuclear testing," but he made no mention of ratifying the treaty. He said that "the cornerstone for ridding the world of nuclear threats" rests squarely with countries with nuclear weapons.

U.N. disarmament chief Izumi Nakamitsu told delegates she stood before them "with a sense of urgency" because while the treaty has provided the foundation for "the global taboo against nuclear testing," trends are undermining it.

India & Malaysia protest China's land claim in a newly published map ahead of the G20 summit

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Malaysia on Wednesday joined India in protesting a new Chinese map that lays claim to India's territory and Malaysia's maritime areas near the Borneo island ahead of next week's Group of 20 summit in New Delhi.

This has exacerbated the tensions between China and India which have seen a three-year military standoff along their shared border.

The timing of the protest is key, as Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to attend the summit.

"We reject these claims as they have no basis. Such steps by the Chinese side only complicate the resolution of the boundary question," India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said in a statement late Tuesday.

Malaysia's foreign ministry in a statement Wednesday rejected

China's "unilateral claims" and added the map is "not binding" to the country.

It also called for the conflict to be handled in a peaceful and rational manner through dialogue and negotiations.

India on Tuesday formally lodged an objection through diplomatic channels with the Chinese side on the so-called 2023 "standard map" that lays claim to India's territory.

The version of the Chinese map published Monday on the Ministry of Natural Resources website clearly shows Arunachal Pradesh and the Doklam Plateau, over which the two sides have feuded, included within Chinese borders, along with Aksai Chin in the western section which China controls but India still claims.

Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar Subramanyam also dismissed China's claim in a television interview on Tuesday night.



Local residents pass by debris that fell down from their damaged house after a Russian rocket attack in Kyiv, Ukraine.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the closing ceremony of Huawei ICT Competition 2022-23 at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Aneeq stresses unity among faiths, condemns image-tarnishing efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, addressing the Interfaith Harmony Conference at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts on Wednesday, emphasized the need for unity among all faiths and condemned any attempts to tarnish the image of religions. "Who are those individuals seeking to distort the essence of faith?" asked Aneeq, as he addressed a captivated audience. "We are brothers, and in our presence, any attack on a place of worship is a grave injustice."

Reflecting on recent events such as the incident in Jaranwala, the minister

stated that such incidents should never have occurred. However, he pointed out that there had been even worse atrocities against various communities in neighboring India.

"Those who lost their lives in India among the Christian brethren are not just Christians but also our brothers," he passionately expressed.

He further reiterated that Pakistan was not merely a "State," but an Islamic Republic. "We are the People of the Book, and we are supplicants of the One God," he proclaimed.

Aneeq extended his message of inclusivity by highlighting the divine nature of all scriptures, including

Torah, Psalms, Bible, and the Holy Quran. "These are all divine revelations, the final one being the Quran," he affirmed.

Turning his attention to the tragic incident in Manipur, India, where over 150 Christians lost their lives, the minister clarified that no Christian had been harmed in Pakistan. "We believe that what happened in Jaranwala should never have happened," he stated emphatically.

He applauded the collective stance of the nation alongside their Christian brethren in the face of the Jaranwala tragedy. "We are a resilient nation, and our protest speaks volumes," he declared.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Prosecution Ghulam Ali Baloch meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Mardan Ali Khan Domki

BAP delegation discusses election roadmap with ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) on Wednesday held a meeting with the senior officials of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to deliberate the election roadmap.

The delegation comprising BAP senators Manzoor Kakar, Sana Jamali, Danesh Kumar and Naseebullah Bazi, in the meeting, conveyed their party's position on conducting elections within 90 days.

Besides Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, ECP members

and senior officials attended the meeting.

The discussions were primarily centered on the demarcation of constituencies and other election related issues.

Manzoor Kakar mentioned efforts to organize a meeting of Balochistan's political parties to discuss constituency delineation and issues concerning general elections.

They intended to visit Balochistan for further discussions and would subsequently present their action plan to the Election Commission, he added.



QUETTA: Leader of JUI Mir Amanullah Notezai and Mir Parvez Rind meeting with Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Muhammad Achakzai

Zubair Jamali pays tributes to martyr police constable

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Zubair Jamali has paid tributes to the police constable martyred in a firing incident took place on Sariab road on Wednesday.

According to an official hand out issued here, Zubair Jamali took notice of the incident and sought report of the same from Deputy Inspector General of Police Quetta.

He said that the police personnel set a high example of dutifulness by rendering sacrifice of his life during the duty hours. The caretaker Minister expressed sympathy and condolence with the bereaved family of martyr police constable. He also prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss.

Babar says: ECP should announce date of general election

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan leaders Chaudhry Babar and Javida Hamad Khan Wednesday said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should announce the date of the general elections by making new constituencies. In a statement issued here, they said that Muslim League-N was active in Balochistan under the leadership of Provincial President Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandukhel.

They said important political and tribal figures were being contacted to join the party.

They said that whenever the Muslim League (N) came to power, it laid a net of development works across the country.

This is the reason why Muslim League (N) has emerged as the largest political party in the country today, they said and added that Muslim League-N Balochistan was ready to take part in the general elections whenever the Election Commission announces the date so the PML-N would get success by participating fully in the elections across Balochistan.

They said, God willing, the coming time belongs to the PML-N and the party could form governments in the federation and provinces including Balochistan.

The party leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will soon come to Pakistan and lead the election campaign, they said.

Sanjrani, FNF delegation discuss multilateral issues of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here on Wednesday.

The delegation consisted Dr Carsten Klein (Regional Director, FNF South Asia), Ms. Birgit Lamm (Head of Country Office, FNF Pakistan), and Ms. Rebea Firdous (Communication Officer, FNF Pakistan Office) engaged in a comprehensive dialogue with the chairman Senate.

The topics of discussion spanned a range of crucial areas, most notably renewable energy initiatives, fostering women's entrepreneurship, and fortifying the Pak-German trade relationship within the ambit of the GSP+ framework.

Of particular note was the foundation's unwavering commitment to nurturing a business-friendly landscape in Pakistan. This commitment was further underlined by an insightful exploration of challenges faced by businesses and

entrepreneurs, with a focus on proactive solutions.

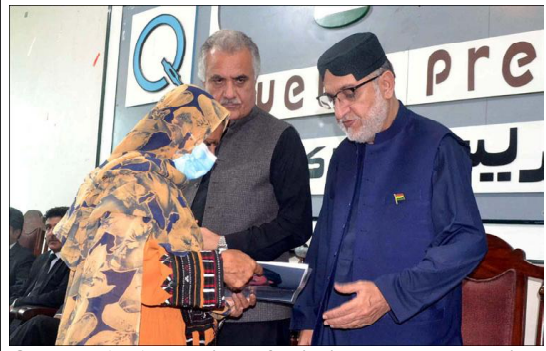
In addition, FNF shared valuable insights from their ongoing study titled "Energy Security and Transition to Renewable Energies in South Asia," illuminating pathways toward sustainable energy practices.

The foundation also shed light on their collaborative efforts in empowering women entrepreneurs, a pivotal aspect of economic progress, in close collaboration with chambers of commerce in both Pakistan and Germany.

A poignant moment arose during the interaction as the visiting delegation presented a symbolic fragment of the Berlin Wall, evoking historical memories and embodying the spirit of unity.

In response, Sadiq Sanjrani exhibited profound appreciation for this gesture of remembrance.

Recognizing the historical value and symbolic significance of the artifact, he directed its placement within the Senate Museum.



QUETTA: A relative of missing persons talking with leader of BNP Akhtar Jan at press club in Provincial Capital.

QCCI delegation meets him: Governor assures every possible cooperation to resolve issues

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has reaffirmed that complete protection of life and property of all those associated with industry and commerce is responsibility of the government.

He said that there is a key role of people from commerce and industry in stabilizing economic system and providing the people employment.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation comprising office bearers of

the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) who called on him here at the Governor House on Wednesday.

Abdullah Khan Achakzai led the delegation and apprised the Governor about the issues and hardships being faced by the traders and business community.

The Governor gave patient hearing to the issues as raised by the office bearers of QCCI.

He assured them of every possible cooperation to resolve their issues.



QUETTA: Activities of civil society burn electric city bill during protest outside QPC.

Issues of regional newspapers to be resolved, assures DGPR

Independent Report QUETTA: The Director General Public Relations, Kamran Asad has assured that the issues being faced by the regional newspapers and periodicals are facing extraordinary issues as the payment of their advertisement bills have not been made for last three months.

They demanded of the government to take special measures in view of the financial hardships of the newspaper industry. Speaking on the occasion, DGPR said that necessary steps would be taken for protection of the newspaper industry in the province.

The members of delegation apprised the problems being faced by the regional newspapers and periodicals. They informed that all the newspapers and periodicals are facing extraordinary issues as the payment of their advertisement bills have not been made for last three months.

They demanded of the government to take special measures in view of the financial hardships of the newspaper industry. Speaking on the occasion, DGPR said that necessary steps would be taken for protection of the newspaper industry in the province.

Pakistan's economy linked with IT development: Alvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed the need to equip youth with skills of latest technology saying that the Pakistan's economy was linked with the development of Information Technology in the country.

He said Pakistan had become the second largest free lance market in the world, however the people were facing issues related to financial transactions.

He underlined that by easing the financial movement and financial transactions in Pakistan, the country's economy could further boost and its GDP growth rate could increase by 2-3%. Addressing the closing ceremony of Huawei ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) competition 2022-23 here, the president said IT had now become unavoidable part of almost every filed of life.

He informed that Huawei was going to open its global service center in Pakistan which would cre-

ate employment opportunities besides ensuring technology transfer to the youth of the country.

"This ICT Competition Program from Huawei speaks volumes of the efforts made in the past decade and how this Industry-Academia Relationship has been thriving towards providing the solid backbone towards the ICT Industry of Pakistan", he added. The president stressed that the universities should arrange boot camp in the campuses to train the university graduates and make them ready for the market.

He also urged the universities to start two-year undergraduate associate degree programs for the students as the growing technology around the globe does not need degrees but skills. Huawei Technologies held the closing ceremony of Huawei ICT Competition 2022-23 here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, celebrating the success of the Pakistani teams that brought home prizes in the regional com-

petitions.

The students from Pakistan had won second and third prize in the Network Track and third prize in the Innovation Track at the Huawei ICT Competition 2022-2023 Global Final concluded at Huawei Headquarters in Shenzhen, China. The first to be held in person since 2019, the event's culmination was a competition between finalists in 146 teams from 36 countries.

The president said in today's time, every person irrespective of which filed he or she was in, should be familiar with the basics of modern technology including Artificial Intelligence, IT, and clouding etc.

He said the political and bureaucratic leadership must also be equipped with the basic skills of IT and modern technology.

He said a program was initiated by the government to train 1000 bureaucrats in IT field but despite several years, only 800 received the required training due to lack of will by the officers.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in a meeting with visiting Saudi Delegation.

Newly appointed Iranian envoy calls on minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Newly appointed Iranian ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amir-Moghaddam paid a courtesy visit to Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Sami Saeed here on Wednesday.

Chief Economist Dr Nadeem Javid and Senior Joint Secretary Muazzam Ali also attended the meeting, a news release said.

During the meeting, the both sides discussed various avenues of collaboration between the two nations including bilateral trade, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), cooperation in energy and economic sectors.

Minister Saeed warmly welcomed the envoy and felicitated him on assuming responsibilities as the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan.

He emphasized the importance of the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and Iran and reiterated the commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties.

Both sides emphasized the need to enhance trade and connectivity between the two nations, expressing a mutual desire to boost the bilateral trade volume.

Ambassador Amir-Moghaddam, during the talks, offered his country's cooperation in the energy sector, acknowledging Pakistan's energy security needs.

NEPRA says: DISCOs should improve performance in 15 days

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Wednesday directed the power distribution companies (DISCOs) to improve their performance in 15 days and submit a report in that regard. "NEPRA will conduct a hearing after three weeks to review the performance of DISCOs", a news release said. NEPRA heard the request of Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPAG) regarding monthly fuel adjustment charges of Rs 2.07 per unit for the month of July. However, during the hearing the CPPAG reviewed its request from Rs. 2.07 to Rs. 1.57 per unit raise on account of FCA.

PM invites Enertech Holding Kuwait for further investment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar has invited Kuwaiti companies for investment in Pakistan.

Head of Emerging Markets Enertech Holding Kuwait, Yasir Malik called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar in Islamabad.

He informed PM about Enertech's investment in Pakistan.

It has been told that PM appreciated Enertech's

work in Pakistan hoping it will further enhance its investment in Pakistan due to business friendly policies of government.

It is told that armed forces of Pakistan and Kuwait have signed an agreement in the headquarters of defence ministry of Kuwait.

This agreement is aimed at bolstering and expanding the bilateral cooperation in military and defence fields between the two countries.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Caption (Retd) Zubair Jamali being briefed by DG PDMA Jahanzeb Khan about machinery

CM Balochistan Green Tractor Scheme inaugurated

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan Green Tractor Scheme was inaugurated here in Quetta on Wednesday.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Quetta Muhammad Anwar Kakar inaugurated the scheme.

Also present on the occasion were the office bearers of Anjuman Tajran Balochistan, zamindars and farmers.

Speaking at the inauguration, ADC (General) Anwar Kakar said that the government of Balochistan is providing every possible facilities for promotion of agriculture and betterment of the farmers.

The Green tractor Scheme is also part of the

same initiatives so as to provide maximum relief to the farmers, adding he mentioned.

The draw was also held under the Green Tractor Scheme. Three lucky farmers were named in the draw.

Anwar Kakar on the occasion said that the lucky farmers would be provided tractors by the Agriculture Engineering Department on 50 percent discount. They would be bound to deposit 50 percent amount of the tractor in form of bank draft, he added.

In case of failure in depositing the due amount within stipulated time, the zamindars in waiting list would be given opportunity to deposit the amount within three days.

ECP assures ANP of mid-February elections, chance for earlier date

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Wednesday assured representatives of Awami National Party (ANP) that the general elections could be held by mid-February, and if the constituency delimitation was completed earlier, the elections might take place sooner.

In a consultative meeting with the ECP to outline the election roadmap, the ANP has requested that if conducting the election within 90 days was not feasible, they be provided with the election date and schedule.

After a meeting with

the ECP, Mian Iftikhar conveyed that the Election Commission affirmed its readiness for mid-February elections and expressed its commitment to fast-track constituency delimitation to potentially enable earlier elections. ANP leaders Mian Iftikhar Hussain and Zahid Khan conveyed that they had expressed the party's viewpoint. They highlighted that, in accordance with the constitution, holding the election within 90 days was obligatory.

They mentioned that the ANP was not extended an invitation to the Council of Common Interests (CCI) meeting.