

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVIII No. 246, Safar 11, 1445 AH Tuesday August 29, Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Power ministry finalises proposals on inflated bills

Proposals to be presented to cabinet which will make the final decision today; Senate body directs Power Division to provide list of defaulters, outstanding dues in each DISCO

ISLAMABAD / KARACHI/ LAHORE (INP): The Ministry of Power on Monday finalised recommendations on the issue of skyrocketing electricity bills, causing a widespread outcry in the entire nation. The proposals will be presented to the federal cabinet for approval on Tuesday.

A high-level meeting was held at the Ministry of Power to address the matter, during which officials discussed the performance of all power companies and proposed solutions to address the issue of inflated bills, said a statement issued by the ministry.

According to the statement, the ministry has formulated the recommendations regarding the issue which will be presented during the federal cabinet

meeting for final approval tomorrow.

It said that the ultimate decision rests with the federal cabinet, as only the cabinet has the authority to endorse these proposals and make a final decision.

APP adds: Senate Standing Committee on Power directed the Power Division to provide list of defaulters and outstanding dues in each DISCO in the next meeting.

The committee met here under the chair of Senator Saifullah Abro also asked about the 'Capacity Charges' which are being paid to Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee questioned about the electricity theft and electricity subsidy for the current financial year.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti in a meeting with the Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf

BHC quashes FIR registered against PTI chief, cancels non-bailable warrants

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has quashed the FIR registered against the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi that was lodged with Police Station Bijli road, Quetta under sections 124-A, 153-A, 505 P.P.C r/w section 20 of the Act, 2016. The court also declared that non-bailable warrants of the petitioner issued by Judicial Magistrate-I, Quetta are without lawful authority and are of no legal effect, and thus the non-bailable warrants are cancelled.

The division bench

headed by Chief Justice High Court, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan passed the order on the petition filed on behalf of the PTI chief.

In its judgment, the court remarked that after registration of FIR on March 5, 2023, the learned JM-I issued non-bailable warrants of the petitioner on March 9, 2023 without applying its judicial mind and without determining as to whether it can take cognizance of the offences in absence of any authorization / sanction by the federal or provincial governments u/s 196 Cr.P.C.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Faisal, High Commissioner- designate to United Kingdom calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House

NHA released Rs. 540m for construction of Bolan's Pinjra Bridge: Solangi

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Director of Sibi National Highway Authority (NHA) Imdad Hussain Solangi on Monday said that Chairman NHA has released Rs. 540 million for construction of Pinjra Bridge area of Balon district, which will start in September and will be completed in six months, he said.

He expressed these views while talking to media on the occasion of inspecting the work of the causeway at the Bolan Shahrah Pinjra Bridge.

He said that the NHA department would utilize all available resources for the improvement of the highways saying that the NA 65 Bolan National Highway was badly affected by heavy rains and high level floods last year and the Pinjra Bridge

was completely destroyed.

He said that due to lack of funds, traffic flow has been restored by constructing a temporary passage on Pinjra Bridge. The work of the bridge will be started in September next month and will be completed in six months, he said.

He said that NHA was trying hard to restore the structure of NA-65 Bolan national highway by utilizing all resources adding that we were trying to restore the beauty of the highway as soon as possible He appealed to the owners of freight vehicles and public transport and said that as long as the condition of the highway was in poor condition, they should travel on the Bolan National Highway with patience.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chaired the 4th apex committee meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

PM directs to accelerate execution of identified projects under SIFC

COAS reaffirms army's all-out support to caretaker govt

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the realisation of identified projects by capitalising enabling environment, already achieved through Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The prime minister was chairing the 4th Apex Committee Meeting of SIFC - the inaugural meeting under the caretaker government - to continue positive impetus under the Council.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Army Staff, entire federal cabinet, chief ministers, provincial ministers and high-level government officials.

The meeting was given a wholesome review of SIFC initiatives, encompassing progress in key areas and benchmarks achieved thus far in a short span of time.

Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the efficient functioning of SIFC through a collaborative "Whole of Government Approach" for achieving

horizontal and vertical synergy.

The Apex Committee appreciated SIFC's outreach strategy to achieve global traction and ongoing engagements with brotherly/friendly countries including productive visits of high-level delegations from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS).

The Apex Committee expressed confidence on SIFC initiatives and displayed its resolve and support in maintaining positive trajectory towards the

revival of country's economy.

The body also endorsed the projects, approved by the previous government, for attracting investments in key sectors of agriculture, livestock, mining, minerals, information technology and energy.

The Army Chief reaffirmed Pakistan Army's all-out support to the caretaker government for continuity of policies in a bid to revive country's economy and steer Pakistan towards progress and prosperity.

Domki greets Arshad on winning silver medal in World Athletic C'ship

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has congratulated the Olympian Arshad Nadeem on winning silver medal in the World Athletic Championship.

In a felicitation message issued here on Monday, the caretaker Chief Minister noted with pleasure that the star Olympian Arshad Nadeem is the first Pakistani athlete who got big success in Julm throw at the international level.

Arshad Nadeem is the only athlete who have done the biggest throw of the year, the caretaker Chief Minister maintained.

IHC to announce Toshakhana verdict today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) today (Monday) has reserved a verdict on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's plea seeking suspension of sentence by the trial court's Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSI) Humayun Dilawar in the Toshakhana case.

A two-member bench, comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, conducted the hearing, with Election Commission of Pakistan's lawyer, Amjad Parvez, who wasn't able to appear before the court due to ill health at the last hearing on Friday, presented his arguments in the case.



QUETTA: Director General PDMA Jahanzeb Khan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Bright future can be ensured keeping in view needs of artificial intelligence & robotic technology: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that bright future can be ensured keeping in view the requirements of artificial intelligence and robotic technology.

He said that it is our conscious efforts and desire that our youth may not go to other provinces and countries to earn livelihood as night watchman, labourer or driver, but every jawan has the capability of leading life as successful professional, IT expert, researcher or scientist. In this regard, the role of Balochistan Public sector universities is very important, he maintained.

The Governor stressed the need to impart higher education to the poor male and female students of the remote districts of the province.

He appreciated the initiative of University of Gwadar through which different courses were launched for the local students and youth.

He said that the University has created history by launching different courses for the local students and other youngsters.

However, he emphasized upon focusing on quality of higher education and training at the same time.

Caretaker CM reaches Karachi on brief visit

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki reached Karachi on Monday for a brief visit.

During the stay in Karachi, Ali Mardan Khan Domki would meet the former Chief Minister, Jam Kamal Khan and other personalities. It may be mentioned here the caretaker Chief Minister went to Islamabad from Quetta a couple of days back. From Islamabad, Mr. Domki reached Karachi on Monday.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Muhammad Achakzai presiding over a meeting regarding departmental affairs at DGPR. Secretary Information Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, DGPR Kamran Asad and other officers are also present

Imaan Mazari arrested again after release from Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad accepted bail plea of Imaan Mazari and Ali Wazir in sedition case and Imaan Mazari was released.

However she was again arrested.

The ATC accepted bail plea of Imaan Mazari and Ali Wazir against the surety bonds in the sum of Rs 30000 each. Later Imaan Mazari was released from Adiala Jail. However she was again arrested soon after she was released.

Islamabad police arrested Imaan Mazari who gave some necessary instructions to her counsel from van.

Traders, others let loose their anger across country against exorbitant electricity bills

Monitoring Desk
LAHORE: Protests against inflated electricity bills across the country continued for the fourth day on Monday.

Interestingly, an emergency meeting held on Sunday at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad ended without a decision.

In several areas of Lahore, people came out on the streets against high electricity bills.

The angry protesters said they could not feed their families if they pay electricity bills. They threatened that they would stage sit-in inside Wapda House if taxes were not withdrawn.

Meanwhile, government employees and businessmen also registered their protest against the inflated electricity bills. They demanded that facility of free electricity to officers should be withdrawn. The members of Wasa

Phool Union also protested in the offices against the increase in electricity bills.

On the other hand, Hail Road traders vent their anger against huge increase in electricity bills. Anjuman-i-Tajran President Babar Mahmood Butt said if the increase in electricity bills was not withdrawn, they would be forced to take to the streets.

Hundreds of citizens surrounded the grid station at Bakra Mandi and burnt electricity bills. They chanted slogans against the government.

They said the government was sucking their blood by adding and hiking taxes in the bills. They warned Iesco officials that they would not allow them to cut their connections.

People came out on the streets in large numbers against inflated electricity bills. They raised slogans against the government.

Youn-e-Shuhada-e-Sahafat observed at OPC:

Jan Achakzai assures every possible efforts for welfare of journalists

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achakzai has stated that the journalists of the province are facing financial hardships while the budget of Information department is limited. Still, he would make every possible endeavor for welfare of the media persons.

Jan Achakzai was addressing the seminar held under the auspices of Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) here at the Quetta Press Club on Monday.

The seminar marked the observance of Youn-e-Shuhada-e-Sahafat in memory of three media persons who had been gunned down on August 28, 2014.

The office bearers of media persons as well as the lawyers, representatives of civil society participated in the seminar.

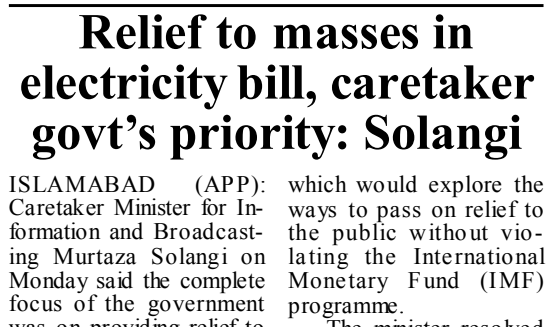
Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Information said that media persons are his companions, and his heart beats with them.

He stressed that we have to bring reforms in our institutions so as to get desired results and improve their performance. He also emphasized that we would also have to perform our responsibilities honestly.

Jan Achakzai also spoke about the ways and means for bringing improvement in the economy of the province. He said that we have to remove the obstacles to attract investors in the province. He said that there could be development in the province by putting the free trade zone on modern lines.

While on the other hand, some 200,000 people can get jobs at the refinery to be set up in the province, he hoped.

The President BUJ, Irfan Saeed, President OPC, Abdul Khaliq Rind and other senior journalists also addressed the seminar.



MULTAN: Traders are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills

Relief to masses in electricity bill, caretaker govt's priority: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said the complete focus of the government was on providing relief to the masses in electricity bills.

"We are focusing on how to provide relief to the masses instead of delving into discussion that who is responsible for expensive electricity," the minister said while talking to a private TV channel.

He said the caretaker government took the oath on August 17, and the consumers received inflated bills of the month of July.

He said the caretaker government took the oath on August 17, and the consumers received inflated bills of the month of July.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar had taken notice of inflated electricity bills, Solangi said, adding, "We are responsible caretaker government and cannot ignore the issue."

He said tomorrow the issue would be taken up by the Federal Cabinet which would explore the ways to pass on relief to the public without violating the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

The minister resolved that the cabinet would decide in favour of passing on the relief to the masses. He said the prime minister held a meeting with the relevant stakeholders today too. The media should inform the masses about the reasons behind increase in electricity bills, he said while responding to a query.

Tuesday August 29, 2023

The PPP stirs

Is the PPP coming around to the realisation that it has made a big mistake? After quietly succumbing, along with the PDM parties, and controversially approving the results of the last census just days before the 15th National Assembly was dissolved, it now seems to be having trouble coming to terms with the implications of its decision.

It is worth recalling that the party had consistently protested the census's results till the time came for their approval. Independent observers had warned repeatedly that validating the census at the eleventh hour would give the authorities an excuse to delay elections beyond the constitutionally mandated 90-day limit, and the PPP had been cognisant of this eventuality throughout.

It had, therefore, come as a shock when it was reported that the Council of Common Interests' eventual decision to approve the results was a unanimous one. The party now claims it was told there would be no change in election timelines due to the CCI's decision.

To be clear, the PPP is taking the correct line: there is no room for any further violation of the Constitution on any pretext, delimitations included. However, it is difficult to accept the PPP's excuse for its abrupt U-turn at face value, given how calculated the party's politicking generally is.

It is difficult to believe that its leadership could have been so credulous as to believe, even momentarily, that their approval of fresh census results would not automatically result in the need for fresh delimitation of constituencies.

There is considerable speculation as to what actually changed their mind, but whatever the case may be, it appears that the party has now decided to take a forceful stand on the matter. The PPP announced its position following a recent meeting of its Central Executive Committee, saying it will be firmed up once its representatives meet the chief election commissioner next week.

The party's refusal to accept any delay in the elections has placed it in opposition to its erstwhile partners in the PDM-led coalition government. With the PML-N and JUI-F, along with others, throwing their weight behind the ECP's decision to go for fresh delimitations, this may push the PPP and the beleaguered PTI into the same corner.

The sight of Aitzaz Ahsan seated at the PPP's CEC meeting has already piqued a lot of interest. A PPP stalwart, Mr Ahsan had long been out of favour with his party's central leadership.

His sympathies for his Zaman Park neighbour are also well known. Was he there to bring the bitter rivals together, if only for the sake of upholding the Constitution? It is a tantalising possibility for those who have grown weary of the recent listlessness in political activity. Any ripple in these placid waters is welcome news.



Maleeha Lodhi

Every time there is a tragedy or a violent incident in the country, the official response is the same. First, there is the usual round of condemnations. Then there is an expression of sympathy for the victims, photos with them, and resolve to deal 'firmly' with those responsible for the atrocity.

But often words and tweets are all that are on offer rather than tangible actions to prevent the next tragedy. Soon, the incident is forgotten, and the government as well as the media move on. The underlying problem responsible for the tragedy is left to fester and flare up again.

Consider the horrendous attack on the churches and homes of the Christian community in Jaranwala by violent mobs. This was followed by strong words and

calls for "inter-faith harmony" by government leaders, an appearance by the caretaker prime minister and Punjab chief minister in Jaranwala, and assurances to track down and punish the perpetrators of the rampage. Were any meaningful actions taken to signal that the state will not tolerate such behaviour, whatever its motivation? No. And not for the first time.

Attacks on minorities have continued with impunity as the deterrent against such attacks simply isn't in place. The guilty are rarely caught or prosecuted, much less punished. This is evidenced by the absence of convictions in most previous incidents of violence against minorities.

Moreover, there is a lack of protection for minorities and their places of worship, or efforts to calm the situation when there is a clear and present danger to their safety. Beyond delivering homilies, governments do little to avert another attack. Successive governments have, in fact, responded so timidly to violence by religious extremists, that it has unintendedly encouraged rather than deterred them.

Game of words

The reliance on words rather than actions is, of course, not limited to official reactions to tragedies and violent events. It is pervasive in every area of government functioning and has become a familiar practice among political leaders and other managers of state.

Sermons are delivered with tiresome frequency and exhortations are issued that urge people to do one thing or another. But the surfeit of rhetoric hardly obscures the lack of policy and administrative actions to deal with the issue at hand. Government leaders announce goals ('we will end violence', 'we will promote harmony', 'the rule of law will be enforced', and so on) as if they are magically self-enforcing. Showcasing intentions is deemed sufficient to show they are governing. Platitudes and trite statements serve as substitutes for policy measures.

Nowhere is this more telling than in the area of economic governance. Here, government rhetoric has long clashed with grim reality. It is one thing to try to build confidence by offering a positive outlook. But if there is a yawning gap between official claims and on-

ground reality, the effort boomerangs.

Also, goals are stated without identifying the means and strategy to achieve them — 'we will increase exports', 'record tax resources will be mobilised', 'inflation will be controlled'. Clichés are stated as profound statements of policy.

Pronouncements about attracting foreign direct investment are a case in point. New bodies are set up with hyper claims that overseas investors will flock to the country. Investors are expected to respond to official exhortations to take advantage of opportunities and rush forward.

Again, the disconnect with reality is telling. There has been a precipitous decline in FDI in recent years. Even the modest level of \$2 billion in FY 2022 (0.4 per cent of GDP) declined by 25pc in FY 2023. It is now negligible as a consequence of the macroeconomic crisis and protracted political uncertainty.

Foreign investment flows to where the security situation is stable. Investor interest also depends on the quality of available infrastructure and reliability of power supplies as well as

certainty about judicial enforcement of rules. An unstable macroeconomic environment is an obvious impediment. So is the absence of policy continuity and lack of consistency in rules among provinces.

Significant investment can hardly take place when policies lurch between liberal business measures and foreign exchange restrictions, profit repatriation curbs, and import controls. Words and exhortations do not change this reality.

In some instances, words are used in a self-delusional way. Some ministers in the previous ruling coalition made extravagant claims in the last days of their government about 'trillions of dollars worth of mineral deposits' in the country waiting to be exploited. When investment in this sector hasn't been forthcoming for decades and has still not materialised, it is misleading to make such hyperbolic statements, especially as there is a big difference between theoretical/technical potential and economic value.

Another disingenuous statement was made recently by a minister in the caretaker government, who

declared he is "determined to take Pakistan's ICT exports from \$2.4bn to \$10 to \$20bn". In a short-duration government?

A crisis-ridden economy perpetually on the brink can hardly become the basis of such policy. Serving as an element in another country's global geo-economic strategy doesn't turn Pakistan into a geo-economic player.

If Pakistan wants to pursue a geo-economic policy in any meaningful sense, it has to transform its economy through structural reforms, ensure a stable political environment, and re-order its budget priorities.

Geo-economic power cannot be 'borrowed' or 'imported' from outside, but acquired by building a strong economic foundation with attractive and efficient markets and substantial trading capacity. Policy shifts are not accomplished by just talking and the use of buzzwords. Little wonder then that official reference to this policy shift has all but vanished now.

Announcements long on rhetoric and short on action only leave governments with a crisis of credibility. - Courtesy Dawn

CIE conundrum: the sequel



Dr Ayesha Razzaque

A few weeks ago, A-level students in Pakistan and the region received their grades for the May/June 2023 exam session. The results came as a shock to many students and parents. For many of them, their A-level grades came two and even three grades below expectations. The reason is Cambridge International Examinations' (CIE) policy to gradually retreat from the inflated grades it awarded during the years the pandemic disrupted examinations.

Covid-19 hit in early 2020 and with very little reaction time until the May-June exams, CIE first hurriedly put together a policy to award grades by asking teachers to collect evidence of student performance during the school year and submit their predicted grades for each student and then

moderating those grades based on statistics. That last step turned out to be a disaster, and only a week later CIE had to reverse course and decided to simply award students the awards their teachers had submitted. As expected, grade inflation shot through the roof, and it rained A* and A grades that year. In effect, in 2020, teachers had awarded students their A-level grades.

The following year, in 2021, CIE conducted exams in countries whose Covid policies allowed for it and resorted to teacher-predicted grades with better thought through moderation where they did not. Nevertheless, the result was one of the highest inflation in CIE-awarded grades ever witnessed. Covid vaccines started becoming available that same year.

Schools the world over reopened, but students were still reeling from the effects of learning losses caused by pandemic closures. Students' learning had been disrupted for two school years by remote / online learning and by not having had an exam in supervised conditions. When the 2022 exam season rolled around, most countries had gone back to regular exams. While there

may have been the odd under-informed commentator left here or there, it was amply clear that students had suffered from the sub-optimal online teaching and were suffering from learning losses and misaligned grade expectations.

CIE had to make the return to its original, pre-Covid level of grading/assessments standards to bring down the grade inflation of the previous two years - it had to be done, but gradually. And CIE decided to do it over two years. This year was the second of those two years, finally bringing its marking standards back to the 2019 pre-pandemic level.

CIE had publicly announced the return to 2019 marking standards well in advance to prepare student expectations. Nevertheless, we know from some of the media coverage that followed that when international and UK students received their A-level grades on August 10 and 17, respectively, the lower-than-expected results still came as a shock to many. Many fewer students were awarded grades between A* and C grades - which are considered passable - and many fewer received top

grades A* and A.

Many graduating high school students hold conditional admission and scholarship offers. They need to achieve certain grades in the final result to convert those conditional offers into unconditional offers. If grades come in below expectation, a university is within its rights to rescind a provisional offer of admission or scholarship they made. This year was especially tough on students in this regard, and I can only sympathize with students who find themselves in this unfortunate situation. Students from less wealthy families who depend on scholarships, particularly to study at universities abroad, will be especially hard hit.

A rescinded offer at this late stage means the remaining opportunities for admission are limited, leaving three main options: one, reapply for admissions for next year with actual grades in hand; two, retake exams and try to improve grades; and, three, those very confident in their exam performance may apply to have their papers re-check (for a fee). In either case, students with rescinded offers have to delay going to university by a year or pick one of the few

remaining admission offers still available to them for this year. For CIE A-level students across the world, these are the choices they are faced with this year.

Like I said, all of the above is true for all A-level students across the globe in 10,000 schools in 160 countries. But in addition to all of the above, A-level students in Pakistan had to contend with some additional circumstances this year - the riots on May 9 and the following day after the arrest of the PTI chairman which forced CIE to cancel exams scheduled for May 10, 11 and 12 for safety reasons. Fortunately, CIE has a long-standing pre-existing procedure to fairly extrapolate marks for a missed exam paper based on a student's performance in papers of the same subject that they did take. This provision allows students who miss a paper for legitimate, acceptable reasons to graduate instead of waiting for a year to retake it next year.

The result of the MoFEPT's involvement and advocacy to CIE on students' behalf has brought about two compromise options: one, students, with support from their schools, can apply to have

their exams rechecked, with 80 per cent of the cost to be borne by schools (which schools are fighting) and 20 per cent by students, which will be fully refunded if there is a change to their grade. And, two, students can retake papers that were canceled as a result of street riots in the October/November session, free of cost.

The only perfect solution to make up for canceled exam papers that comes to my mind involves a time machine. CIE's return to 2019 marking standards affected all students equally, but the cancellation of exam papers will now cost some students a year of their lives. If anything is to blame for this, it is the lack of self-control and disregard for the line that divides the right to protest and voicing one's opinion on the one side and flat-out rioting with no regard for anyone else's life on the other. Having a rally or political protest without shutting down an entire city is a skill this nation has yet to master. You can either have a revolution or you can get an education, but you cannot have both at the same time. - Courtesy TheNews

Proceed to the route



Saeed Ahmed

Pakistan is getting deeper into a constitutional quagmire. The unending series of political manoeuvres over the past couple of years have caused much economic damage to the country while eroding public trust and confidence in a democrat and political dispensation.

The ramifications of the current constitutional and political crisis stretch beyond the judicial and democratic systems to affect macroeconomic stability.

The dissolution of the Punjab and KP assemblies earlier this year, as part of a strategic political move aimed at securing a PTI government during the upcoming elections to the National Assembly, precipitated a crisis that continues without respite.

This plan was thwarted by the coalition government by refusing to provide funds and administrative support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to conduct by-elections within 90 days.

The Supreme Court's decisions to hold by-elections in the provinces were flouted by the executive relying on the powers of parliament. Such a scenario, where the Supreme Court's orders are disregarded by other organs of the state, signifies a collapse of both the judicial system and the polity.

Article 224 of the Constitution unequivocally states that elections for a legislature — dissolved before the completion of its five-year term — must be

held within 90 days after its dissolution. The purpose of a caretaker government is to facilitate elections and run the day-to-day affairs of the government.

Accordingly, de facto extension in the term of the caretaker governments in Punjab and KP is against the spirit of the Constitution. Unfortunately, this precedent of extending terms could now be used to delay general elections beyond the stipulated 90 days and the caretaker federal government may also potentially perpetuate its term indefinitely, violating the constitutional norm.

The ECP's decision to initiate fresh delimitation of constituencies, following the approval of the Council of Common Interests for the 2023 population census, is a declaration that general elections may not be held within the constitutional limit of 90 days.

The delimitation process typically takes a minimum of four months to complete and could extend considerably due to possible litigations by the affected candidates. Therefore, the ECP decision has exacerbated uncertainty. If the fate of the Supreme Court's orders to hold by-elections in Punjab is any indicator, then general elections seem to be a distant dream.

Timely elections as stipulated in Article 224 are imperative to mitigating the political tension and prevent impending constitutional, political, and economic crises before they become insurmountable.

Thanks to the IMF-supported Stand-By Arrangement, Pakistan has just averted an imminent sovereign default risk. While the SBA has helped the retreat of near-term vulnerabilities, it remains a short-term bridging arrangement, and the new government after the elections will need to engage with the IMF for an extended financing arrangement to meet

crucial medium-term fiscal and external financing needs.

The SBA programme comprises two reviews scheduled for November 2023 and February 2024. The assumption behind this schedule was the installation of a new elected government by November 2023.

It may be recalled that prior to SBA approval, IMF staff had met the representatives of Pakistan's major political parties — the PML-N, PPP, and PTI — and all these parties expressed written support for the SBA's key objectives and policies ahead of the approaching national elections.

While requesting a nine-month SBA, the Pakistani authorities had also communicated to the Fund that a new short-term financing arrangement was needed until national elections were held and the installation of a newly elected government, empowered with a strong mandate to take medium-term decisions, took place later in the year. The route to achieving economic prosperity and the well-being of citizens traverses strong democratic traditions and institutions. Our Constitution has clearly defined the boundaries of the polity, which must be honoured.

Manipulating the document out of reasons of political expediency will lead us nowhere. Instead, our direction should be guided by the Constitution itself, rather than being influenced by vested interests. Failing to do so will inevitably steer us towards the abyss of political and economic turmoil. In our journey towards establishing a strong and progressive democratic state, we must follow the constitutional path. When such direction is lost, the best action is to retrace our steps and proceed to the route that leads to our mapped destiny. -- Courtesy Dawn

Invisible heroes



Aisha Khan

In a world where recognition often gravitates towards the apex of power, the unsung champions of success remain hidden in plain sight. These dedicated individuals wield their skills as the unseen cogs in the machinery of achievement, always first in the line of confronting challenges and last in receiving credit. While headlines chronicle the triumphs of a few, it is the quiet dedication of the many that propels victory and makes success possible.

Mountain climbing serves as a perfect analogy for talking about people who lead from the back to make a success possible.

An expedition starts with many people, including porters and guides, but as it advances, the support circle narrows and centres around persons with specific skillsets needed for advancement. On reaching the summit, the triumphant mountaineer is hailed for his achievement, but little mention is made of the names without whom the win would not have been possible.

The climate journey of Pakistan is replete with stories of contributions made by people who have worked silently from behind the scenes to make milestone moments possible, but who are not adequately recognised.

Climate negotiations provide a multilateral platform where countries get the opportunity to demonstrate leadership capacity for pitching creative ideas, lobby for agendas and galvanise support for agree-

ment by consensus.

Seeing only through the narrow lens of Nationally Determined Contributions takes away from the larger purpose of convenings at multilateral spaces. This is a platform for debate, discussion, sharing perspectives and steering the process forward.

This space was used effectively by Pakistan's Foreign Office in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio to create a niche role for itself by drafting the language used in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Over the years, somehow the country ceded this space, making its participation a token presence with no meaningful contribution in negotiations.

COP27 marked a turning point, where a strategic plan to combine political frontloading supported by technical interventions created the perfect mix that made Loss and Damage possible. The powerful duo of former minister Sherry Rehman and Ambassador Nabeel Munir were supported by a variety of subset groups who worked tirelessly to make the landmark L&D outcome possible.

While the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination takes the lead at COP meetings, Pakistani diplomats play a pivotal role at the negotiations. Capitalising on the G77 plus China presidency, Pakistan reclaimed lost space at COP27 with its able leadership and technical backstopping.

Over the years, for a variety of reasons, we have fallen victim to the malaise of maligning the country and giving disproportionate space to prophets of doom. There is a mounting tendency to see everything through the lens of negativity, and negligence in shining light on achievements. This constant self-flagellation takes a toll on individual morale and dissipates the

energy needed for promoting excellence in work.

The climate journey is difficult but not impossible to navigate. Despair, gloom, complaints and accusations are not going to fix the problem, and will certainly take away from our resolve to find solutions.

Moving forward will require team work, a well-thought-out strategy that covers all the important bases, and actors to work in unison.

The appointment of Ambassador Munir as chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation should be seen as a recognition of his skills and used for strategic planning. SBI work has been at the heart of implementation issues under the convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agree-ment. Taking a lead from this achievement, the Foreign Office should use it to promote excellence and formalise the structure of its negotiating strategy by building a core team for steering the agenda.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination is ideally positioned to improve coordinated actions and convenings among stakeholders. The services of civil society champions like Kashmiri Kakakhel, who routinely provides advice on climate finance, and other actors should be used for strengthening strategic partnerships.

Pakistan has political commitment, able negotiators, a vibrant civil society and a cohort of experts, but lacks coordination. This communication gap creates misunderstandings and misplaced expectations.

It is time for Pakistan to build a team to carry the climate agenda for landing points. There are a variety of groups, each skilled in their craft, who can serve as critical parts of the whole under an umbrella strategy that covers negotiations at COP and actions at home. -- Courtesy Dawn

First Lady for creating awareness on socio economic, health issues

KARACHI (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Alvi on Monday called for creating awareness on health and socio-economic issues, particularly the high mortality rate due to breast cancer, the neglected issue of mental health, and well-being and the rights of persons with disabilities.

She urged teachers, students, mediapersons, and health professionals to play their proactive role in that regard which would help create an equitable and inclusive society, she added.

The first lady was speaking at an Interactive Dialogue on Breast Cancer, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Mental Health Issues, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) at Hamdard University.

Besides experts from

the fields of Oncology, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and faculty members and students of Hamdard University, Technical Advisor from WHO, Head of WHO-Sindh, Chancellor Hamdard University, Vice Chancellor Hamdard University, Leading Consultant Medical Oncologist, and Head of Department (HoD) of Psychiatry Dow University also attended the event.

Begum Alvi said Pakistan had a high mortality rate in the South Asian region due to breast cancer, and numerous lives could be saved by diagnosing the disease at an early stage.

She stated that breast cancer was curable, provided it was diagnosed early. Besides having a

balanced and healthy lifestyle, women must adopt the habit of a five-minute self-examination every month to detect the disease at early stages and seek medical help if they notice any lump or unusual change in their bodies, she added.

She said she had been raising awareness about breast cancer since 2018 and due to the efforts of her team and support from the media, more women with breast cancer were being diagnosed at early stages.

As regards mental health and well-being, Begum Alvi said the topic of mental health and stress was often neglected in Pakistan due to its social stigma. "The people neglect their mental health and do not seek professional advice," she added.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan chairing a high level meeting of Parliamentary Peace Committee on current law and order situation in Gilgit-Baltistan at CM Secretariat.

Mayor Karachi for accelerating work to bring streetlights on solar system

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Muratza Wahab on Monday directed the officials concerned that work should also be accelerated to bring streetlights to the solar system and take whatever approval is required from him.

He said this by chairing a high-level meeting with the officers of the engineering department in his office.

Earlier, as an administrator, he had started work to bring streetlights to the solar system in Karachi, but then this work was stopped, the Mayor of Karachi said.

The engineering department should start the work of solar streetlights from Shahrah-e-Faisal and gradually extend it to other important roads and streets of Karachi, he said.

Muratza said that

non-functioning of street lights except load shedding hours on the city's major corridors like Shahrah-e-Faisal, Rashid Minhas Road, Shahrah-e-Pakistan, Mai Kolachi Road, M.T.Khan Road and other main roads and highways cannot be tolerated any further.

He said that the engineering department must ensure that the street lights installed on all these roads are kept lit within a week and the concerned engineers should visit the areas personally and take immediate steps where required, but provide convenience to the citizens at any cost.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Director General Engineering Azhar Hussain Shah, S.E Electrical & Mechanical Abbas Ali Shah.

SSP Operations for facilitating downtrodden sections of society

PESHAWAR (APP): The newly appointed SSP Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi visited various police stations Yakka Tut Police Station, Tarnab check post and Motorway Blockade late at night and reviewed the working of police staff at various police stations and the overall security situation.

He instructed the police officials to facilitate the downtrodden sections of the society in the provision of justice, adding that the aim of his late-night visit was to motivate the police personnel to further improve the security arrangements. He instructed the police officials deployed at different check-posts to use safety helmets and jackets in view of the current situation.

On the occasion, the SSP met with the relevant police officers and checked cleanliness and other arrangements at police stations including crime chat, personnel statement.

Jaranwala incident Registrar LHC raises objection over petition seeking judicial inquiry

LAHORE (Online): Registrar office Lahore High Court (LHC) has raised objection over the petition filed in the court in connection with judicial inquiry into Jaranwala tragedy.

Registrar office while raising objection said the application filed in connection with judicial commission is not attached.

The petition has been filed by Grace Bible Fellowship church Pakistan.

LHC will hear objected petition.

Chief secretary, home secretary, IG Punjab and police officers Faisalabad have been made respondents in the petition.

The petitioner has taken the plea that false and unrealistic incident of desecration of the Holy Quran took place on August 16.

One person made announcement in the mosque which ignited provocation among others. 25 churches and over 200 homes were set ablaze in Jaranwala. The homes of Christians were looted and later were destroyed. The mob desecrated divine books.

JIT has been constituted in regard to this incident but this process can take too much time.

Several affectedes still stand deprived of basic facilities despite lapse of two weeks.



KARACHI: Large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to negligence of traffic police staffs and illegal parking, at New M.A Jinnah road in Karachi.



LAHORE: Chairman Bahawalpur Heritage Organization, Engineer GA Farooq along with Mr. Niaz Hussain Lakhvira called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore.

CM GB chairs Apex body meeting, reviews law & order situation

GILGIT (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan on Monday chaired the meeting of Apex Committee and reviewed the current law and order situation in the province.

All Senior officers including Chief Secretary, IG Police, Home Secretary, all other LEAs officers and field formations attended the meeting.

Following decisions were made:

Nobody shall be allowed to take law into hands and violate the SOPs for maintenance of law and order and strict action shall be taken against the violators.

Any person indulging into hate speech and religious intolerance shall be proceeded against as per relevant provision of law.

Any person propagating hate speech and such like material on Social Media shall be taken to task and legal action shall be taken without any impunity.

Security of life and property of all citizens shall be ensured through strict enforcement of law.

Movement of all vehicles plying from and to down country through KKH, JSR and Babusar Top shall be made safe and secure by deployment of Karakoram Task Force and

Police throughout the route. Nobody shall be allowed to block any road and immediate legal action shall be taken against the violators.

Heavy contingents of GB Scouts, Rangers and Police shall be deployed in all major cities of GB to ensure peace and safety of people.

Moreover, CM, GB directed the Parliamentary Committee headed by Minister Home to meet religious leaders of various sects and ask them to ensure strict adherence to the provisions of Code of Conduct agreed by all sects so as to ensure durable peace in the region.

Governor Punjab for preserving cultural heritage of Uch Sharif

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has called upon the government and non governmental organizations to play their role in preserving, protecting cultural heritage of historic Uch Sharif besides promoting tourism in the city.

The Governor Punjab was talking to Chairman Bahawalpur Heritage Organization Engr. G. A. Farooq and Niaz Hussain Lakhvira who called on him at the Governor's House here on Monday.

Balighur Rehman hailed services of Bahawalpur Heritage organization in promoting cultural heritage of Uch Sharif.

Great and a seat of Sufis and Saints between the 12th and 15th century.

Earlier, a delegation of All Pakistan Crockery Importers Association called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

During the meeting, the delegation apprised the Governor about various problems faced by them.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said despite difficult conditions, the business community is playing an active role in the country's economic development.

The Governor Punjab said all businesses are very important even if it is a small shop. He said that business not only leads to socio-economic development but also provides employment opportunities to millions of people.

He further said the government is well aware of the problems of the business community.



KARACHI: Begum Samina Arif Alvi is being presented with memento during the interactive dialogue Session on Breast Cancer Awareness, Mental Health and Inclusion of Differently Aabled Persons organized by World Health Organization, at Hamdard University.

Overwhelming victory of independent candidates in KP LG poll

PESHAWAR (APP): The independent candidates in the local government by-election in 21 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) defeated the candidates of major political parties by securing an overwhelming lead in the polls, revealed the results announced by the election commission on Monday.

According to election results, PTI candidates secured 14 seats in the by-polls followed by JUI with six seats, Jamaat Islami with five, ANP with four, PPP two, and TLP one.

The elections were held on a total of 72 local body seats including 65 villages and neighborhoods of 21 districts in the province.

In Peshawar, PTI

candidates secured four seats out of a total of six neighborhood and village councils while JUI and ANP candidates clinched one seat each.

The election commission had set up 256 polling stations in 21 districts of the province including 102 for males, 89 for females, and 65 joint stations.

The Election Commission had declared 156 polling stations most sensitive, 84 sensitive, and 13 normal, however, the elections were concluded peacefully at all the polling stations.

According to the election commission, there were a total of 385,835 registered voters including 208,964 male and 176,871 female voters.

SACM rules out compromise on corruption

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to KP Caretaker CM on Irrigation and Housing, Zafarullah Khan Umerzai on Monday ruled out any compromise on corruption in his departments and vowed to take stern legal action against corrupt officials.

He expressed these views during a briefing regarding various development schemes initiated in the irrigation and housing departments. Secretaries of both departments gave him a detailed briefing on protective walls and tubewells also highlighted the importance of the construction of small dams and other projects. Umerzai directed that all those schemes initiated in the public interest should be completed within the stipulated time period.

Sindh Finance Minister directs to clear dues of ex-govt employees

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Finance Mohammad Younus Dagher has directed the finance department to take immediate measures to clear the dues and payments of retired and serving government officials who have been suffering due to non-clearance of their dues for the past two years.

Younus Dagher was chairing a meeting with the officers of the Finance Department on Monday at his office to review the working of the District treasuries.

The minister was told that the cases of over 20,000 retired government officials have become overdue in past three years due to low budgeting

against the heads of pension commutation, gratuity and LPR.

The liability has soared to Rs 36 billion and the retired employees are facing a queue of two years in various District Account offices of the province.

The minister was briefed that several cases of massive irregularities were found in the District treasuries in which the officials found involved were penalized. However, the system cannot still be termed as foolproof for any such fraud in the future.

Younus Dagher directed the Secretary of Finance to remove the ill-reputed treasury officials from their positions and take disciplinary actions against them.



KARACHI: Students of different school and college holding banners are participating in the "Clean and Green Walk" in Provincial Capital.

Political parties pledge to elevate girls' education in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The representatives of different political parties and Ex-lawmakers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa pledged to sustain and support prioritizing girls' education in party manifestos, to address barriers to girls' education in the province.

According to a press release issued here on Monday, Blue Veins, in collaboration with Pakistan Education Network (PECN), organized national and provincial conferences with political parties to underscore the importance of girls' education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Among the participants were representatives and leadership of notable political parties including PTI, PML (N), Jamaat-E-Islami, PTI (P), JUI (F), Mazdoor Kisan Party, and ANP.

The primary objective of the conference was to emphasize the urgent need for political parties to prioritize and

include commitments towards the enhancement of girls' education in their election manifestos.

Political parties, both on the government and opposition benches, held significant leverage in steering the national discourse.

Through these consultative workshops, Blue Veins and PECN have facilitated an environment where political leaders can understand and acknowledge their critical role in promoting girls' secondary education.

"We believe that the political machinery can be an incredibly effective tool in advancing the cause of girls' education," said Sana Ahmad a representative from Blue Veins.

"Qamar Naseem from PECN also added, "When political leaders commit to an issue, they have the power to bring about lasting systemic changes." During the conference representatives from the participating political parties.

Seven more dengue cases surface in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as seven more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 157 in the district. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Monday said that, among the new cases, three cases had arrived from Chaklala Cantonment, two of each from Potohar town urban and Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi area while one patient reported from Rawalpindi.

Intelligence agency of enemy country involved in Jaranwala tragedy: IGP

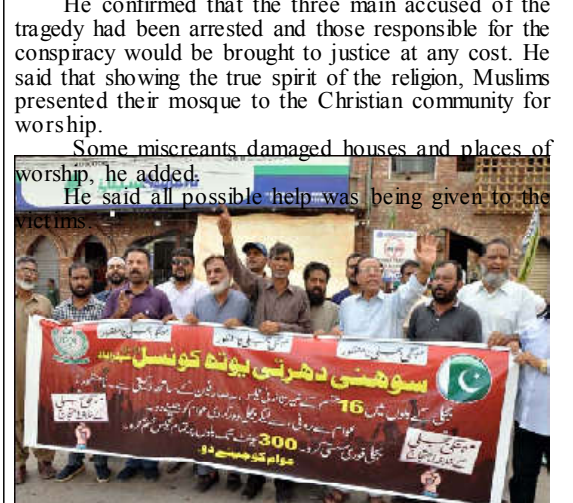
LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Punjab Police Dr Usman Anwar said on Monday that intelligence agency of the enemy country was involved in the Jaranwala tragedy.

Addressing a press conference, he said they had broken the network of the enemy and assured the nation that such incidents would not happen in future. The tragedy was an attempt to foment a clash between Muslim and Christian communities, he said and added that religious scholars and civil society played their role in controlling the situation.

He confirmed that the three main accused of the tragedy had been arrested and those responsible for the conspiracy would be brought to justice at any cost. He said that showing the true spirit of the religion, Muslims presented their mosque to the Christian community for worship.

Some miscreants damaged houses and places of worship, he added.

He said all possible help was being given to the victims.



HYDERABAD: Members of Sohni Dharti Youth Council are holding protest demonstration against unbridled hikes in the electricity and fuel prices, at HyderChowk in Hyderabad.

LHC directs govt to file written reply on the matter of possible sacking of Zaka

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has directed the federal government to file written reply on the matter of possible sacking of chairman management committee Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Zaka Ashraf.

Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal took up the case for hearing

Monday.

The court recommended to send the petition to Justice Shahid Karim for further hearing.

LHC rejected the plea for sending the petition to secretary Election Commission (EC).

On court's orders Additional Attorney General (AAG) appeared in the court and told the

matter has gone to cabinet division so far. The petitioner has challenged the summary.

The counsel for Zaka Ashraf said Secretary PCB wants to bring chairman of his management committee before world cup. Secretary PCB wrote letter to principal secretary of the Prime Minister (PM) for removing Zaka Ashraf.

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President says: IT, inclusive education open paths to progress for differently-abled persons

KARACHI (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said that information technology and artificial intelligence opened paths to progress for differently-abled persons while inclusive education could sensitize the society about their importance and struggle.

The president expressed these views in a meeting with the delegation of Special Olympics Pakistan here at the Sindh Governor House. First Lady Begum Samina Alvi was also present on the occasion.

President Alvi said the future was not only bright for the people with normal abilities, but had also become friendly and helpful for the differently-abled people due to the evolving society of artificial intelligence and information technology.

Access to knowledge and information had broadened to all with emerging technologies, particularly mobile phones with Internet facility, he added.

The president said that the spirit of inclusive education was that the children with disabilities could also receive education along with normal children, however, the need for special schools arose only in case of special abilities.

He said the "society becomes sensitized through inclusive education, so much so that the normal children realize the hard work and importance of the children with disabilities".

The president advised the special athletes to exhibit the same spirit in earning their livelihood with which they play sports.

Begum Samina Arif

Alvi, on the occasion, said that the children with disabilities were equally important to the society if they were given some necessary skills and special education.

Both the president and the first lady met the special athletes and congratulated them on their participation and winning of awards in the World Summer Games Berlin 2023.

Special Olympics Pakistan Chairperson Ronak Lakhani thanked the president and the first lady for encouraging the special athletes.

Total 176 countries had participated in the World Summer Games Berlin 2023. Pakistani special athletes participated in 11 sports events and won 83 medals, including 11 gold, 32 silver and 40 bronze.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi, and Begum Samina Arif Alvi, in a group photo with Special Olympics Pakistan delegation World Summer Games Berlin 2023 at Governor House.

Aneeq urges Saudi govt to increase Pakistan's Hajj quota as per new census

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Aneeq Ahmad, in a bid to accommodate the growing population of Pakistan, on Monday called upon the Saudi government to expand the Hajj quota for pilgrims. In an exclusive conversation with APP, he highlighted the discrepancy between the current Hajj quota and the country's population figures. "Presently, Pakistan's allocated Hajj quota stands at 179,210 pilgrims, a number that falls short of accurately representing the nation's population."

The recently conducted census revealed that Pakistan's population has surged to 241.49 million, with an annual growth rate of 2.55 per cent," he added.

Minister Aneeq took the opportunity to discuss this matter during a recent visit from his Saudi counterpart, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fauzan Al-Rabiah. Dr. Al-Rabiah, acknowledging the concern, assured him of an increase in the Hajj quota, subject to the completion of necessary procedural formalities. Highlighting the success of the "Road to Makkah" project, which significantly streamlined the pilgrimage process during Hajj 2023, the minister proposed extending the initiative to encompass multiple airports across Pakistan, including Lahore and Karachi. This expansion would undoubtedly facilitate pilgrims embarking on the sacred Hajj journey, he added. Furthermore, he advocated for exempting in-

dividuals aged 65 and above from mandatory biometric verification for the Hajj pilgrimage as this move would alleviate the inconvenience faced by senior citizens, who often encounter difficulties with fingerprint recognition during the verification process.

Addressing another crucial aspect, he recommended exploring alternative locations for the Pakistan Houses in Makkah and Madina adding that the structure had been dismantled to pave the way for the expansion of Haram Sharif particularly in Madina. Minister Aneeq emphasized that the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was actively working on a range of plans aimed at reducing the cost of the Hajj pilgrimage.

PM, Lord Aamer Safraz discuss ways to enhance Pakistan-UK relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday here held a meeting with Member of House of Lords of British Parliament Lord Aamer Safraz and discussed matters of mutual interest.

They discussed ways to expand cooperation between the two countries in trade, investment, development, planning and other fields.

The prime minister appreciated the services of

Pakistanis living in Britain, particularly their contribution to the British political system.

He said the Pakistanis residing in Britain were playing an important role in further improving ties of Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK).

Lord Aamer Safraz congratulated the prime minister for assuming the office and assured full cooperation from the British political leadership and the Pakistanis living in Britain.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti in a meeting with the dignitaries from Balochistan.

Jan Achakzai hails Chinese scholarships for Gwadar students

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has hailed the initiative of Chinese government about provision of scholarships to some 1200 students hailing from Gwadar.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Jan Achakzai said that Chinese initiative of scholarships is part of its strong resolve for investment in Balochistan.

The scholarships would help Gwadar students to get opportunities of education besides learning, he added.

He said that Balochistan is a gateway for the world, and China is focusing on the investment in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said that China and

Balochistan would extend more cooperation to increase assistance in education and other sectors in future.

Jan Achakzai also said that the bilateral relations between the two countries i.e., China and Pakistan would strengthen further and Balochistan would lay foundation for the same.

The Minister Information thanked the Chinese government and Embassy for its cooperation in different sectors in Balochistan.

Referring the CPEC, he said that this gigantic project would contribute tremendously in economic development of the province providing immense opportunities of employments for the local people.

Dawood Nasar posted as Registrar BHC; Pazir as D&SJ Quetta

QUETTA: The District & Sessions Judge, Mr. Muhammad Dawood Khan Nasar has been posted as the Registrar, Balochistan High Court (BHC) with immediate effect.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the BHC on Monday.

According to the notification, Muhammad Dawood Khan Nasar has also been given the additional responsibilities of the Director General Balochistan Judicial Academy.

Meanwhile, according to another notification, the District and Sessions Judge, Pazir Ahmed Baloch has been appointed as District and Sessions Judge Quetta. Similarly, District and Sessions Judge Chaghai at Dalbandin has also been given additional charge of the District and Sessions Judge Noshki.

Cipher case: Court approves 2-day further physical remand of Qureshi

ISLAMABAD (Online): The court has approved two days physical remand of former Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cipher case and handed over him to FIA. Judge Abul Hasnaat Zulqarnain of special court constituted under official secret act held in-camera hearing of cipher case Monday.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi was presented in the court on completion of three days physical remand. Babar Awan and Shoaib Shaheen counsels for Shah Mehmood Qureshi also appeared in the court. Special prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi appeared on behalf of FIA.

The court while accepting FIA plea approved further two days physical remand of Shah Mehmood Qureshi and handed him over to FIA.

Water supply will start in Gwadar Free Zone on August 30

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) is set to commence the establishment of the water supply network for the Gwadar Free Zone North on August 30th.

According to the plan, GPA is preparing to initiate an open bidding process. An official from GPA informed Gwadar Pro that it is expected that the work orders for this project will be released in the first week of September.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Gwadar Prof. Dr. Abdul Razaq Sabir meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Delay in holding general election unacceptable: Nayyar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) secretary-general Nayyar Hussain Bokhari has said his party wants timely general elections in Pakistan and any delay is not acceptable.

Bokhari in his statement said PPP understands the supremacy of the constitution. Our stance is clear on elections he said. He said, today, people are facing the brunt of inflation and held the PTI government responsible for this current economic turmoil. PTI government violated the agreement with the International Monetary Fund, which destabilised the country's economy, Bokhari said.

Delay in elections will not provide relief to any political party, he made it clear. Commenting on the smear campaign against IHC CJ Justice Aamer Farooq, the PPP leader said state-enmity should be discouraged.

Last week, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Executive Committee (CEC) decided to advocate the organisation of the general elections in 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly. Bilawal Bhatto Zardari chaired the session of the PPP CEC to make key decisions including general elections and consultations with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami leader Sirajul Haq addressing a press conference.

Flood funding for Pakistan is more or less on track: UN Resident Coordinator

KARACHI (APP): The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan Julien Harnais has said that the size of challenges is massive and the flood funding for Pakistan is more or less on track.

While talking about the Sustainable Development Goals Dialogue at Karachi Press Club (KPC) here on Monday, he said that the size of challenges to Pakistan was massive and there were millions of people, who were affected in the floods of 2022.

He said that the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, which was co-hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations (UN) in Geneva had pledged to provide over \$9 billion to support the people and the government of Pakistan.

Harnais said we continue to keep active. And, "Everybody wants to get things faster."

He was of the view that a commitment of over 9 billion dollars was expected. The Resident Coordinator said that the UN needed to keep working with Pakistan and needed to contribute to fixing the challenges.

He said that 2.5 million people became homeless due to floods and efforts being made to provide them with houses.

Harnais said that they were on a visit to 12 Pakistani cities and after Karachi their next destination would be Hyderabad, and Sukkur and the visit would continue until the last destination.

He said that the UN was on a mission of Sustainable Development Goals to eliminate poverty and make the earth a prosperous planet by 2030.

Jan Achakzai visits Kalat Publishers

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai visited the historic publication House, Kalat Publishers here on Monday.

During the visit, he viewed the books published by the prominent publication house of the province. He took deep interest in the books.

Moreover, he discussed with the Managing Director of Kalat Publishers, Major (Retd) Nazar Hussain Zamard about the related matters.

Also present on the occasion was the senior journalist, Qaiser Butt.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Advisor for Minerals Umair Muhammadhassani visiting Directorate of Minerals. Secretary Saisal Khan is also present.

DC inspects works of Levies Line BRC, Bypass Road

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Zhub Mehboob Ahmed Achakzai and Assistant Commissioner Zhub Hafiz Muhammad Tariq along with SHO Levies Line Muhammad Yasin visited the under construction Levies Line BRC Zhub.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Zhub inspected the Levies Line BRC building and Zhub Bypass Road and directed the concerned department to complete the outstanding construction work in the building and bypass road as soon as possible.

Poverty, inflated power bill claim life of prayer leader

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): A prayer leader disgruntled over poverty and recent inflated electricity bill committed suicide by consuming toxic pills here on Monday. According to details, Umair Yaqoob serving as prayer leader in local mosque of Safdarabad area of Sheikhupura was facing financial problems due to minute income and surge in inflation. The recent high electricity bills further added to miseries of Umair and he consumed toxic pills due to which his condition deteriorated. He was rushed to District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital but could not survive.

Umar Muhammadhassani says Govt taking steps for development mineral sector in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Provincial Adviser on Minerals Umair Muhammad Hassani on Monday said that the provincial government was taking all possible steps for the improvement of the mineral department in Balochistan.

He expressed these views during his visit to the Directorate General of Minerals Department to improve the efficiency of the department.

On this occasion, Secretary Minerals Syedal Khan Loni, Director General Minerals Abdullah

Shahwani, Director Minerals Abdul Salam Lehri, Deputy Director Minerals, Kamal Kakar, Deputy Director Minerals Hasan Bugti, Deputy Director Judicial Mateen Kakar and Deputy Director Marble Syed. Rafiullah Agha was also present.

The adviser said that all resources would be used to develop the Minerals Department on more modern lines.

He said that the problems related to the department could be solved on a priority basis.

Chaman CC appeals to PM Kakar to take notice of burning of trawler

QUETTA: The Chaman Chamber of Commerce has appealed to the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar to take notice of the torching of a trawler load of the dry fruits by unknown terrorists at Quetta-Lorail highway.

Addressing an emergent press conference at Chaman on Monday, the office bearers of Chaman Chamber of Commerce Shafiq Kakar, Abdul Bari, Sardar Olas Yar Khan, Qasim Khan, Attaullah, Adam Khan and others pointed out that some un-

known terrorists threw a patrol bomb on a trawler of an Afghan trader load of the figs and other dry fruit, on way to Wahga border from Chaman on Sunday night.

As a result, it was burnt completely causing financial loss of millions of rupees to the trader, they noted with concern. They said that the very incident shows that some unknown elements want to sabotage the trade relations of Pakistan with Afghanistan. They appealed to the caretaker Prime Minister and other provincial and federal high ups to take notice of the incident.

Pakistanis residing in Britain bridges between two countries: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledging the vital role played by Pakistanis residing in Britain termed them as bridges between the two countries. He urged immediate attention to the challenges faced by these expatriates and stressed the need for swift resolution.

The Chairman Senate was talking to Pakistan's newly designated High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Dr. Muhammad Faisal, who called on him here at the Parliament House on Monday. He warmly congratulated Dr. Faisal on his recent appointment, expressing his good wishes for his tenure.

Sadiq Sanjrani expressed that Dr. Faisal's role as the Pakistani High Commissioner would further enhance the already strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Emphasizing the importance of col-

laboration between the two nations, the Chairman Senate urged Dr. Faisal to actively promote cooperation in the fields of environment, trade, IT, education and other sectors.

Highlighting the potential for economic growth and stability, Chairman Senate exhorted British businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan. He underscored that the confidence of investors would contribute significantly to the country's economic stability. Additionally, Chairman Senate emphasized that strong business and economic ties would serve to strengthen the bond between the people of both nations. In his concluding remarks, Sanjrani expressed his confidence in Dr. Muhammad Faisal's capabilities and extended his best wishes for his endeavours as the Pakistani High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

Govt ensures good governance to State's socio-economic development: Anwar

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while reiterating his government's commitment to ensure good governance and supremacy of law, said that good governance was key to the region's socioeconomic development.

While talking to public delegations that called on him at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Monday the PM said that correcting the system and implementing reforms was the first and foremost priority of the present government.

He said that the public would benefit from the government initiatives only if service delivery in the state improves. He said that the government has reduced non-developmental

expenses with a view to putting an increased emphasis on the health, education and development of the region.

After taking up the reins of the state, the PM said that the coalition government had tried to solve the problems of the people and provide them with all the basic amenities of life. He said that development across the state can be visible on the ground only when the projects allocated in the current financial year's budget are completed.

"Our priorities are to raise the standard of living of the people by providing them with facilities at their doorstep and raising the voice for our oppressed Kashmiri brothers on the other side of the Line of Control", the PM said.



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan President, Abdul Rahim Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.