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Quetta

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Domki chairs first ever meeting on law & order: Caretaker CM directs police, other LEAs to ensure establishment of peaceful environment for polls

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki calls for increasing security to protect passengers at national highways; finalizing jail reforms; applauds role of police, Levies, Pak Army, FC, security forces for establishing peace in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that it is topmost priority of the caretaker governments to hold the free and fair general elections in peaceful manner. He directed the police, Levies and other law enforcement agencies to ensure establishment of peaceful environment for the elections. He also directed them to play their active and ef-

ficient role to combat the security challenges in the province establishing the effective coordination and system of exchange of information among all the agencies. It is also responsibility of the police and other LEAs to create sense of safety among general public by eliminating the general crimes along with terrorism. These directives were issued by the caretaker

Chief Minister while chairing the high level meeting on law and order situation in the province, here on Saturday. Needless to mention here is that it was the maiden meeting the caretaker Chief Minister chaired after his assuming the office of caretaker Chief Minister. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary,

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QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki chairing a meeting regarding law and order situation



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki chairing a meeting regarding law and order situation

President signs official secret amendment bill act, army act amendment bill

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Arif Alvi has signed official secret amendment bill act and army act amendment bill. Following the endorsement by the president Arif Alvi, Official secret act amendment bill has become law and stern action will be taken against the violators of law under this bill.

Any one found involved in leaking the information or documents against the interest of Pakistan will be considered guilty of offence.

According to National Assembly (NA) Secretariat army act was approved on July 31 in joint session of parliament. This bill was sent to the president of endorsement on August 01.

The previous NA had approved official secret act before expiry of its tenure. When Official secret act amendment bill was presented in Senate, govern-

ment allies along with the opposition expressed their displeasure. Raza Rabbani of PPP tore up the copies of several bills. Pakistan Bar Council had strongly condemned the amendment in official secret act. Pakistan bar council said federal government should immediately withdraw official secret act amendment bill forthwith. Bar will oppose every step against the supremacy of constitution and rule of law.

The bar council said through this bill, intelligence agencies have been given free hand to arrest any citizen and search any citizen or place without search warrant due to this amendment. Under army act if any one is found involved in electronic crimes which are aimed at defaming Pakistan army then he will be proceeded against under electronic crimes.

Caretaker govt committed to financial prudence: PM

Says govt to ensure reforms in power, energy sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday said that in the midst of economic challenges, their unwavering commitment to financial prudence stood strong. In a post on social media platform X, the prime minister said, "From vendors to lawyers, farmers to engineers, artists to doctors, and every other segment of the society, their contribution propels the Pakistani Dream."

"Together, with this diverse support, we are journeying towards a brighter and more prosperous future for our nation," he added.

The post also carried a short video clip of an ad-

dress by the caretaker prime minister to the cabinet members, regarding financial discipline, during a maiden meeting held on Friday.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday here held a meeting with former provincial minister Haji Muhammad Khan.

Haji Muhammad congratulated him on assuming the office of prime minister.

A delegation from Balochistan led by former Senator Rehmat Kakar also met the prime minister and felicitated him on assuming the office.

The prime minister thanked members of the delegation.

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo says: No grudge with anyone, agrees to decision of Ali Mardan's becoming as caretaker CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The former Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has stated that he has no grudge and complaint with anyone and as such accepts the decision of Mir Ali Mardan Domki's becoming caretaker Chief Minister.

In a statement issued here the other day, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo said that what happened, there was Allah's will included in it as referred to the appointment of Ali Mardan Domki as caretaker Chief Minister. He said that the authority of decisions rests with

the Allah Almighty, we only become source.

He said that all went good, he has no complaint with any political party or institution over the appointment of caretaker Chief Minister.

He also said that constitutionally the consensus on a name (of caretaker Chief Minister) by the parliamentary committee was necessary.

Mr. Bizenjo hoped that the decision of caretaker Chief Minister would be better for our people and province, and surely there the Will of Allah Almighty would be included in it.



QUETTA: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Chairman Senate meets caretaker CM Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani met the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Saturday.

During the course of meeting, the Chairman Senate greeted Mir Ali Mardan Domki on assuming the of-

fice of caretaker Chief Minister.

During the course of meeting, the Chairman Senate also expressed best wishes for success of the caretaker Chief Minister. Moreover, the political situation and other matters of mutual interests were also discussed between the two personalities.

Toshakhana case: Hearing of Imran plea seeking his release to take place on Aug 22

ISLAMABAD (Online): The hearing of PTI chairman plea seeking his release in Toshakhana case will take place on August 22 in Islamabad High Court (IHC).

IHC registrar office has issued cause list of next week. According to it the chairman PTI appeal plea

seeking his release by suspending his conviction is also fixed for hearing.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Amir Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri will hear this plea.

The court has issued notices to the respondents for next hearing besides summoning all record of the case from trial court.

PTI leader Qureshi arrested in Cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi has been arrested from Islamabad in the cipher case.

In a tweet from official page PTI spokesperson said in his response that PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi has been arrested and transferred to FIA headquarters.

It should be remembered that earlier Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that there can be no alternative to Imran Khan.

Caretaker PM Kakar to visit US next month

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will visit the United States next month where he will attend the annual United Nations session in New York, it was learnt on Saturday.

As preparations for the visit have been set into motion, PM Kakar will also hold talks with US officials in New York.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been instructed to chalk out a programme for the caretaker prime minister's US visit.

As per diplomatic sources, there is a strong possibility that caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Jillani will also travel with the prime minister.

Caretaker CM presented guard of honour in CM secretariat Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki was presented guard of honour by the smartly turned out contingent of the Balochistan police when he reached the CM secretariat on Saturday morning.

The caretaker Chief Minister got the salute from the Police contingent. Earlier, he was received by the senior staff of CM secretariat including the Principal Secretary to CM, Imran Gichki.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti in a meeting with the Saudi Ambassador H.E. Nawaf Bin Said Al Malki

Murtaza Solangi visits media houses, NPC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi visited multiple media houses and the National Press Club (NPC) on Saturday to discuss matters of mutual interest with the journalist community.

The visit marked the formal commencement of his duties in his newly assumed position as the Interim Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

Solangi expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome he received from the media community upon his appointment, acknowledging

the support, prayers, and well-wishes extended by his friends and colleagues in the media industry.

During his visits, Minister Solangi visited the offices of leading publications including Daily Nawa-i-Waqt, The Nation, and Ausaf, along with news networks such as Dunya News, Sama News, 24 News, ARY News, Express News, Suno News, Hum News and Dawn News.

In these interactions, he expressed gratitude for the affection shown by his

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New delimitation are need of election after census: EC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has said new delimitations are need of the election after census.

As per order issued by EC Statistics bureau issued result of census on August 7. According to election act new delimitations are essential after every census. Updating the voters lists after census is must.

As per new census 20805 census blocks increased. Some were changed. Delimitation and voters lists free from errors is need of election.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi visited multiple media houses and the National Press Club (NPC) to discuss matters of mutual interest with the journalist community.

Justice Isa vows to protect minority community

FAISALABAD (INP): The senior judge of the Supreme Court Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Saturday paid a visit to Christian Colony in Jaranwala tehsil of Faisalabad district and had a meeting with affected members of the minority community.

Justice Isa, who will take over as Chief Justice of Pakistan next month, was briefed by police and civil administration at the Danish School in Jaranwala over the situation.

He also met the victims of the displaced minority community and expressed deep sorrow over the incident. He also visited the affected church and settlement that was attacked by a violent mob.

On the occasion, Justice Isa said it was very sad

to see the losses. He told the people not to be worried. He said minority community would be protected in any case.

Justice Isa expressed his displeasure with the deputy commissioner and said three days had passed since the incident had occurred but the affected streets had not been cleaned. The nominated Chief Justice of Pakistan also instructed the deputy commissioner to clean the streets of Christian Colony immediately.

Justice Qazi Faiz Isa met the victims at Danish School after which he left.

On Wednesday a violent mob of hundreds of people ransacked and torched several churches and residences of members of the Christian community.



FAISALABAD: Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa is visiting Christian Colony Jaranwala.

PPP demands ECP to hold elections within 90 days

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan to hold general elections within 90 days as per the Constitution.

Provincial president PPP Sindh Senator Nisar Khuhro along with party leaders Senator Waqar Mehdi and Saeed Ghani while addressing a press conference on Saturday urged the Election Commission of Pakistan to re-consider the decision to complete delimitation process by December and said holding general election within 90 days was a constitutional requirement.

According to the Constitution, the Election Commission is bound to hold the elections within 90 days after dissolution of assemblies before completing

5 years term, Nisar Khuhro said and added that Pakistan cannot afford delay in elections.

PPP leaders demanded the Election Commission and the Chief Election Commissioner to review the decision regarding the duration of delimitation of Constituencies and hold elections on time.

Senator Khuhro said Assemblies were dissolved two days prior to give 90 days time to ECP for completing delimitation process therefore Chief Election Commissioner must take initiative for holding election as per constitution.

He said that new voter lists should be made under the new census, while there is no need for changes in the constituencies.

Int'l Day message UN calls for saluting courage, dedication of humanitarian aid workers everywhere

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday paid glowing tributes to humanitarian aid workers for their "determined and life-saving efforts" across the world, in a message marking World Humanitarian Day.

"On this World Humanitarian Day, we salute the courage and dedication of humanitarian aid workers everywhere," he said on the day that marks the 20th anniversary of the deadly attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, killing 22 UN personnel, including Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello. More than 150 people were injured in that attack, mainly local and international aid workers helping reconstruct the country following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. "That tragedy marked a change in the way humanitarians operate," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his message.

He noted that although humanitarians are respected around the world, they may also be targeted by people seeking to harm them.

This year, the UN and partners said they are aiming to reach 250 million people worldwide affected by conflict and other crises, or 10 times more than at the time of the Canal Hotel bombing, and amid a shortfall in humanitarian funding.

"As crises multiply, it is unacceptable that humanitarians are being forced to reduce aid to millions of people in need," the Secretary-General said.

The risks that humanitarians face have also multiplied, he added, citing rising geopolitical tensions, blatant disregard for international humanitarian and human rights law, deliberate assault and disinformation campaigns.

Last year, 444 aid workers fell victim to violence in 235 separate attacks. Of that number, 116 were killed, 143 were injured and 185 were kidnapped. Most were national staff working with non-governmental organizations.

"World Humanitarian Day and the Canal Hotel bombing will always be an occasion of mixed and still raw emotions for me and many others," the UN's humanitarian chief, Martin Griffiths, said earlier this week.

Griffiths and the UN's head of Safety and Security, Gilles Michaud, have published an op-ed that calls for "protecting the people who protect the world".

They said the Canal Hotel bombing "triggered an urgent review of the UN's security arrangements".

An independent panel, established in the wake of the tragedy, recognized the need for new approaches that would ensure "an acceptable balance between operational objectives and staff security in high-risk environments," they recalled.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar offering Fatcha on sad demise of Haji Abdul Quddus brother of Haji Atta Muhammad and Haji Jumma Khan

PIA's 11 planes with technical faults remain grounded due to financial crisis

ISLAMABAD (INP): As many as 11 planes of national flag carrier Pakistan International Airline (PIA) including three Boeing 777, grounded due to technical faults could not be reactivated due to poor financial condition of the airline.

According to official documents available with the organization, during 16 month tenure of PDM's coalition government, the national airline had to face severe financial crisis due to uncontrolled hike in dollar and petroleum products.

The PIA was unable to purchase spare parts for repair of the faulty aircrafts due to which they remained grounded and couldn't be reactivated enabling them to resume flights.

The documents further stated that three Boeing 777 aircraft of PIA were grounded, of which two aircraft were grounded in 2020, while one aircraft was grounded in 2021. On the other hand, five aircrafts of A320 are grounded, of which two aircraft were grounded in 2021 and three aircrafts were grounded in 2023.

Meanwhile, three planes of ATR remain grounded, out of which one plane was grounded in 2020, one plane was grounded in 2022 and one plane was grounded in 2023. Due to financial issues spare parts could not be purchased to enable these planes to resume flights.

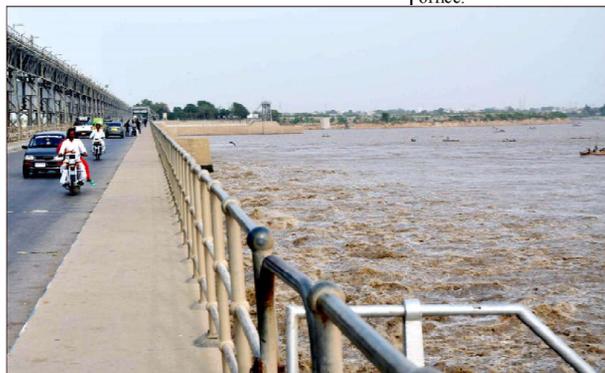
Forces killed two terrorist during an IBO in Khyber district

RAWALPINDI (Online): Security Forces killed two terrorist during an intelligence based operation (IBO) in Bara area of Khyber district on Saturday.

According to ISPR, during the conduct of operation, intense fire exchange took place between Pakistan Army troops and terrorists and resultantly two terrorists were killed.

The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as killing of innocent citizens.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism.



HYDERABAD: Water level increases while low grade flood water reaches into River Indus after heavy downpour of monsoon season, at Kotri Barrage near Hyderabad

Caretaker CM directs police...

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Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Saleh Muhammad Nasar, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, DIG FC, DIG CTD, Director General Levies, high ups of the intelligence agencies.

The divisional commissioners and regional police officers participated in the meeting through video link. The overall performance of law enforcement agencies, their capacity and other related matters were discussed during the meeting.

The Additional Chief Secretary Home and Inspector general of Police briefed the meeting about overall law and order situation in the province.

Moreover, the divisional commissioners and regional police officers also

briefed the meeting about law and order situation in their respective divisions.

Addressing the meeting, the caretaker chief Minister said that the caretaker governments have been established in the center and provinces according to the constitutional requirement. Now, it is the responsibility of caretaker governments to conduct the free and fair elections.

He on the occasion directed to provide protection to the passengers by increasing the security at national highways. In addition to this, the jail reforms should also be finalized working on the reforms process speedily, adding he stressed.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that the people of Balochistan are patriotic and respect their institutions. However, there is a

PM condoles demise of wife of Lt Gen® Abdul Qadir Baloch

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday condoled the demise of the wife of Lt General® Abdul Qadir Baloch.

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, "Deeply sorrowed to learn about the demise of the wife of Lt. General Abdul Qadir Baloch. May Allah elevate the station of the deceased and give comfort to the bereaved family. Ameen."

Murad awards 7 basic salaries to CM sectt staff before leaving

KARACHI (INP): What could be termed an act of extreme generosity on the part of ex-Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, the finance department of the government of Sindh, on his order, paid not one, not even two but seven basic salaries to the chief secretariat employees on Saturday.

The finance department of the government of Sindh released over Rs200 million for the purpose.

Murad had ordered the payment of the amount before leaving the office.

Degrees awarded to over 600 students at Iqra University degree awarding ceremony

ISLAMABAD (INP): Iqra University Islamabad H-9 Campus held its Degree Awarding Ceremony at the Jinnah Convention Center on August 19, 2023. The event celebrated the achievements of 600 graduates who completed their studies with dedication.

The Chief Guest, Professor Dr. Anis Ahmad, Vice Chancellor of Riphah University, delivered an insightful address on the challenges and opportunities graduates face in a globalized world. His message echoed with wisdom. "After graduation, now you are entering the world with enormous challenges. The real life has started now. You are in a time when the media has brainwashed you to leave the country which has caused an enormous amount of brain drain. Allah has

given you the 3rd largest reservoir with enormous resources and a population that has a lot to offer. Your country needs you." He commended Mr. Ibrahim Khan, Chairman of Iqra University Islamabad Campus, for their outstanding contributions.

The graduates, including 4 PhD holders, 24

Master's graduates, and 24 Gold Medalists, represented excellence in fields such as Business Administration, Computing and Technology, Social Sciences, Fashion and Design, and Media Studies. Parents, educators, and university officials also joined in celebrating their success.

Dr. Waseem Qazi, Vice Chancellor of Iqra University, congratulated the graduates and emphasized the university's mission to nurture critical thinking and civic responsibility. He highlighted Iqra University's achievements that "in its 2 decades of establishment, we have achieved significant milestones, particularly by achieving the number 1 rank among business universities of the country by the Higher Education Commission and currently being ranked number 1 for the past 1 decade by Charter Inspection and Evaluation Committee (CIEC). And the fact that today we have graduated more than 15,000 students. What's more, we have graduated more than 10,000 women. Let that sink in. 30,000 leaders educated. 30,000 lives transformed."



QUETTA: A delegation led by Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Abdul Jabbar Baloch meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

PNSC devises procurement plan to enhance fleet operations

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) will embark on a major procurement plan during the current fiscal year to strengthen its fleet in order to capitalise on the burgeoning shipping activities in the coming days.

Under the procurement plan for the current fiscal year, the PNCS intends to procure two second-hand oil tankers, a bulk carrier and chemical tanker to add in its fleet, which has turned old during the recent years.

Murtaza Solangi visits....

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well-wishers.

Addressing the journalist community, Murtaza Solangi underscored the critical role of the Election Commission in upholding the democratic process by ensuring free and fair elections.

He assured the caretaker government's complete backing in facilitating the commission in the discharge of its constitutional duties.

The minister highlighted the prevailing challenge of forging a national consensus on significant national matters.

He lamented the transformation of political disagreements into personal animosity, stressing the need for rectifying this trend and fostering unity among diverse segments of society.

Murtaza Solangi further emphasized the necessity of combating the growing intolerance within society.

The shipping sector in Pakistan is underutilised, as the vast majority of national trade is carried out by foreign shipping lines. Domestic entities such as PNCS offer an attractive value proposition by accepting Pakistani rupee as payment instead of US dollar and offering attractive credit terms. Pakistan's shipping sector can stand to benefit from these developments, ushering in sustainable growth and creating a strong local demand while also generating employment opportunities.

According to annual report of PNCS for 2022, PNCS, with a total DWT (deadweight tonnage) capacity of 1.045 million metric tons, lifted cargo of about 11.971 million tons in 2022 (FY 2021: 11.09 million tons), which is equivalent to about 11.21% of the country's total 106.820 million tons seaborne trade by volume.

The PNCS fleet, which shrunk over the years to 12 vessels operating in dry and liquid bulk cargo, has been facing difficulties in operating to its maximum capacity in the seaborne trade. On the other hand, trade restrictions in various countries have been severely denting its operational capability.

The PNCS vessels have lesser deadweight capacity in comparison to Baltic Standard Supermax, Handy max, Ultra max and Kamsar max, which represent the global standards for certain deadweight for a specific vessel.

He expressed his regret over the unfortunate incident involving senior journalist and anchor Kamran Yusuf, stating that the Punjab government was taking steps to apprehend the culprits who robbed him. The minister also offered his condolences over the demise of the father of senior journalist Shehbaz Rana and brother of senior journalist Sanauallah Khan.

Solangi prayed for the departed souls to find eternal peace and for strength and resilience to be granted to the grieving families to cope with their profound loss.

Continued illegal detention of Kashmiri detainees condemned

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter convenor, Mehmoed Ahmed Saghar, has expressed serious concern over the continued illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders lodged in different jails of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and India.

Scores of Hurriyat leaders including APHC Chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen,

Sindh caretaker CM, cabinet members meet Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqer and members of the provincial caretaker cabinet held a meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Saturday at Governor House.

In the meeting, the development plans for Sindh by the federal government, measures taken to improve the economic and the overall political situation came under discussion.

Mushataqul Islam, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Maulana Mushtaq Veeri, Abdul Rashid Doowoodi, Maulana Abdul Wahid Kishitwari were booked under frivolous cases and lodged in different jails of India and IIOJK. Senior APHC leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, continues to remain under house detention in Srinagar since August 2019.

Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in a statement issued in Islamabad said the jailed leaders who were already suffering from multiple ailments have been now kept in solitary confinement,

which is nothing but a sheer political vendetta.

He deplored that the Indian authorities are not producing these leaders before court on the date of hearing of their cases just to prolong their unlawful detention.

He appealed to the international community and world human rights organizations to conduct a thorough visit to all jails of India and IIOJK to get the firsthand account of the condition plight of the Kashmiri prisoners and put pressure on India to release them without any further delay.



KARACHI: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani along with Senators talking to media persons after paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah his visit at Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi

Demo in Jammu against anti-people policies of IIOJK authorities

JAMMU (INP): People staged a protest demonstration in Jammu city of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the anti-people policies of the authorities.

According to Kashmir Media Service, a large number of people participated in the protest and expressed their opposition to the installation of smart meters, citing concerns about their ability to afford the increased tariffs based on smart meter readings.

The protesters denounced the unilateral and unnecessary actions of the Jammu Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation

Limited (JKPDL) of installing the smart meters.

They said, people of Jammu have been diligently paying their electricity bills, but suddenly they appeared out of nowhere, cutting off the power supply and installing these meters. The protesters said they are not financially capable of paying the tariffs based on meter readings. They claimed that people from the unprivileged section wouldn't be able to make their both ends meet if they spend their earnings on power bills. They termed the move as "sheer injustice" inflicted upon the people.

US Masters T10 League: New York Warriors defeat Morrisville Unity by 10 runs

LAUDERHILL, Florida (INP): The New York Warriors defeated Morrisville Unity by six runs in the US Masters T10 League at Lauderhill, Florida. The New York Warriors posted 124/3 in their 10 overs before restricting Morrisville Unity to 118/5.

The Morrisville Unity couldn't get their batting innings going right from the beginning of their innings as Parthiv Patel was dismissed by Dhammika Prasad for 3 runs in the third over. Chris Gayle and Corey Anderson also departed in quick succession, leaving Morrisville Unity in deep trouble at 33/3 in 5 overs.

Thereafter, Obus Pienaar played a brilliant innings of 35 runs from 12 balls and Shehan Jayasuriya

smashed 28* runs off 10 balls, but they couldn't take the team over the line.

Earlier in the day, Morrisville Unity won the toss and put the New York Warriors into bat. Tillakaratne Dilshan got the Warriors off to a great start as he struck Calvin Savage for consecutive boundaries in the second over. However, he was trapped LBW by Obus Pienaar in the very next over. But Richard Levi ensured that the momentum stayed on the Warriors' side as he struck two fours and two sixes off Rahul Sharma's bowling in the fourth over.

Thereafter, Levi smacked Sreesanth for three consecutive sixes and took the Warriors' score to 73/1 in five overs.



QUETTA: Pakistan Milli Tehreek central Chairman Syed Agha Rabbani addressing a press conference

Caretaker minister vows to utilize all resources to promote Pak culture globally

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah Saturday assured that his ministry will take exemplary measures to utilize all available resources to promote art, culture in the global arena and would focus on various welfare projects for the artist community.

“Nowadays the world is gripped by technology so we have to incorporate technology with our culture to build the nation a modern and knowledge-based one generation after generation”, he said while talking to PTV news channel.

“Government is committed for all the possible

support to the department to promote language, literature and culture”, he added.

He further added that PNCA, Lok vira, letter of Academy and all other related departments’ up gradation will also be our priority areas, adding, the artists would be brought under the social safety net while promoting norms of societal peace and brotherhood through cultural activities.

“We want to strengthen the economy through promotion of art and culture, adding, efforts will be made to promote digital and visual art as well as performing art will also be patronized to provide healthy entertainment to

people”, he added.

He reiterated his government’s commitment to do whatever is necessary as they did in the past to improve and develop the culture of the country.

Replying to a question, he replied that we want timely free, fair, and transparent elections within three months, adding, the interim government is committed to complying with the directions of the Election Commission for transferring and posting of any individual, necessary to hold free and fair elections. To another question, he said revamping the economy is also a top priority of the caretaker government.



ISLAMABAD: Director General of NAB Rawalpindi/Islamabad Mr Mirza Muhammad Irfan Baig posing for group photo graph along with the participants of an event entitled “Umeed-e-Schar ki baat karo” in Federal Capital.

Afridi arrest despite court orders: IHC to indict DC I’abad, SSP Operations on Aug 28

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) will indict DC Islamabad and SSP operations on August 28 in the matter of arresting PTI leader Shehryar Afridi in MPO-3 despite court’s orders.

Justice Babar Sattar while issuing written order of contempt of court case against DC Islamabad Irfan Memon and SSP operations maintained that reply of district magistrate and SSP operations in connection with show cause notice is unsatisfactory.

It has been said in the order DC Islamabad Irfan Memon and SSP Operations Jamil Zafar will be indicted on August 28. DC Islamabad violated the decision already issued by IHC on MPO.

The court remarked high court had nullified MPO issued against Shehryar in June. But district magistrate issued illegal order against Shehryar Afridi on the basis of source report only.

On expiry of MPO

order of DC Rawalpindi, DC Islamabad issued MPO on next day.

Prima facie DC Islamabad violated orders of this court. DC tried to downgrade justice system by giving the impression that high court order is not binding on administration. DC considered justice system redundant by issuing executive order despite high court order.

DC, District magistrate if wills so can file his detailed reply again.

The court while declaring SSP Operations Jamil Zafar reply unsatisfactory remarked prima facie SSP Operations took source report as rubber stamp. SSP operations violated court’s orders.

It was further said in court’s orders SHO and DPO said before court they have taken charge after August 8. IG Islamabad will tell name of SHO and DPO who gave this source report.

Show cause notice was issued to SHO and DPO that they should give reply on next hearing.

Prolonged use of earbuds may lead to disabling hearing loss

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health expert on Saturday warned that billion teens and young people all around the world including Pakistan are potentially at risk of hearing loss because of prolonged use of headphones and earbuds and attendance at loud music venues. The headphones or earphones can harm hearing and result in ear damage, ENT Specialist DR Junaid Shahzad while talking to the PTV news channel said.

Hearing loss is usually seen in different age groups but is most commonly seen in people above the age of 60 years, but hearing loss due to the usage of headphones and earphones is usually nowadays seen in teens and younger adults, he further explained.

the specialist added that the headphones and earphones sound is played very near to the ear, which can be dangerous to the ear, adding, it can also produce very loud levels of sound.

When this loud sound is played very near to the ear drum itself, it can be a threat to the normal functioning of the eardrum and may result in hearing loss, he mentioned.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the traffic jam at Srinagar Highway due to the working of installation of overhead pedestrian bridge, which will be very beneficial for pedestrian, in Federal Capital.

Severe Covid may cause long-term innate immune system changes: Study

ISLAMABAD (APP): Severe Covid-19 may cause long-lasting alterations to the innate immune system, the first line of defence against pathogens, according to a small study.

These changes may help explain why the disease can damage so many different organs and why some people with long Covid have high levels of inflammation throughout the body.

The study, published online in the journal Cell, examined immune cells and molecules in blood samples from 38 people recovering from severe Covid and other severe illnesses, as well as from 19 healthy people.

Notably, researchers led by Steven Z. Josefowicz, from the Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City in the US, established a new technique for collecting, concentrating

and characterising very rare blood-forming stem cells that circulate in the blood, eliminating the need to extract such cells from bone marrow, Medical Daily reported.

In these rare stem cells—the parents of immune-system cells—taken from people recovering from Covid, the scientists identified changes in the instructions for which genes got turned on or off.

These changes were passed down to daughter cells, leading them to boost production of immune cells called monocytes. In the monocytes from people recovering from severe Covid, the changes in gene expression led the cells to pump out greater amounts of molecules called inflammatory cytokines called monocytes from people who were healthy or had non-Covid illnesses.

APHC leaders flay fresh arrest spree in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders have condemned the fresh spree of raids, crack-downs and arrest unleashed by the Indian forces in every nook and corner of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The APHC leaders including Saleem Zargar, Yasmeen Raja, Abdul Samad Inqilabi and Narendar Singh Khalsa in their separate statements, termed the house raids and arrest of youth by Indian forces’ personnel as the worst form of political vengeance to punish the Kashmiris for challenging India’s illegal occupation of their motherland. Indian police and troops have arrested dozens of youth during house raids across the occupied territory in the last few days, KMS reported on Saturday.

They expressed serious concern over the victimization of common people by the Indian forces’ personnel as well as sleuths of dreaded National Investigation Agency (NIA) and State Investigation Agency (SIA) during cordon and search operations and house raids in Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara, Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama, Bandipora, Islamabad, Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar and other districts.



ISLAMABAD: Charge Affairs of the Chinese Embassy Pang Chunxue, Advocate Sawal Nazer Khan caretaker Provincial Minister for Minister Local Government, Secretary PCFAC Syed Ali Nawaz Gillani and other cutting cake on 10 anniversary of PRL, CPEC ceremony held at KP house.

Minister leads crucial discussion on Hajj 2024, long term policy implementation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Saturday chaired a high-profile meeting centring on accelerating the application process for Hajj 2024 and delving into the comprehensive implementation of a long-term Hajj policy.

Religious Affairs Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary for Hajj, and Director General Hajj were present in this inclusive meeting.

Minister Aneeq emphasized the significance of learning from past Hajj arrangements to pave the way for further enhancements.

He underscored the importance of swift approval of the Hajj policy, highlighting its potential to optimize the overall arrangements.

During the meeting, it was affirmed that a comprehensive strategy would be implemented, catering to both short-term and long-term Hajj policy preparations.

The briefing’s notable highlight pertained to the allocation of surplus funds from Hajj expenses back to the revered pilgrims as an unprecedented sum of Rs12 billion was restituted to the pilgrims, marking the first instance of such an extensive refund in history.

The minister was told

that despite encountering formidable challenges posed by adverse weather conditions, the arrangements for Hajj 2023 stood as a model of excellence in all aspects.

As the discussion drew to a close, a resolute commitment was made to expedite the processing of Hajj 2024 applications, ensuring a seamless process for aspiring pilgrims. Additionally, a progressive proposal garnered attention, focusing on the collection of funds for future pilgrims through convenient installments as this forward-looking approach would facilitate the financial aspect of the pilgrimage for years to come.

PNCA National Puppet Theater presents “Story of Pakistan”

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Saturday organized a special puppet show titled “Story of Pakistan” in connection with Independence Day.

Director General PNCA Muhammad Ayub Jamali told APP that National Puppet Theatre showcased the skills of its puppeteers featuring vibrant costumed puppets and will present national songs, folk tales, skits and folk dances to provide

infotainment.

He said that National Puppet Theatre highlighted Pakistan’s independence journey and its historical background. Children along with parents invited to attend the show held at PNCA Auditorium.

According to PNCA, the art of puppetry has long been a part of country culture. The role of such events in providing the required boost to puppetry and spreading awareness among people.

Indian police arrest 10 innocent youth in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian police have arrested at least ten innocent Kashmiri youth in Baramulla district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the Indian police along with army and paramilitary personnel arrested the youth from in Churunda, Powarian Thalaj and Sopore areas of the district. The police dubbed the arrested youth as members of mujahid organizations to justify their illegal detention.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the welcoming banners on poles at Constitution Avenue about the visits of Minister of Hajj and Umrah of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Tawafiq Bin Fawazan Al-Rabiah, in Federal Capital.

After lithium, Modi regime to rob IIOJK’s Sapphire mines

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Narendra Modi-led Indian government is hell bent upon robbing the precious resources of internationally recognized disputed territory of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). After announcing the auction of Lithium mines discovered in Reasi district of Jammu division, the Modi regime is all set to auction Kishtwar’s Sapphire mines, the Kashmir

Media Service (KMS) reported on Saturday. The announcement to this effect was made by the Delhi-appointed Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, while speaking in Kishtwar on Friday. He said, in the next one year, we will be in a position to auction the Sapphire mines in a scientific way. Earlier, the Indian government said that 5.9 million tonnes of lithium reserves had been

found for the first time in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Lithium is a non-ferrous metal and is one of the key components in EV batteries, among other industries. Speaking during an event in New Delhi in May this year, Secretary of Indian Ministry of Mines, Vivek Bhardwaj said that the auction of lithium reserves would start by December.

Funeral prayer of Police official offered at Police Lines Headquarters

ISLAMABAD: Funeral prayer of Islamabad capital police Constable Khalid Mehmood was offered at Police Lines Headquarters. Senior police officers and a large number of police officials offered the funeral prayer. According to the details, the funeral prayer of Constable Khalid Mehmood posted at the Security division of

Islamabad capital police was offered at Police Lines Headquarters. Late police officer was shifted to hospital due to sickness but he could not survive and was reunited with his real Creator. A smartly turned-out contingent of the police personnel presented a guard of honour. Police officers shouldered the coffins and later the bodies were sent to his respective native town.

Popular folk singer Esakhelvi turns 72

ISLAMABAD (APP): Popular singer and folk icon Attallah Khan Esakhelvi turned 72 on Saturday.

Born on August 19, 1951, in Esakhel, district Mianwali Attallah developed an interest in music as a child, but music was strictly forbidden in his home. Disillusioned by ban on singing, he left home and continued his training and performed at local villages where his songs were recorded on audio cassettes by his fans.

In 1972, Esakhelvi was invited to perform on Radio Pakistan, Bahawalpur and performed on the television show Neelam Ghar in 1973.

Later he was invited by a music company in Faisalabad to record folk songs in its studio and recorded four albums in one recording session.

Mirwaiz continues to face restrictions on Friday prayers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Mohammed Umar Farooq was once again prevented from leading the Majlis-e-waz-o-tableg and offering the obligatory Jumma prayers for the 208th consecutive Friday at Jama Masjid in Srinagar.

The Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid has reported in a statement that its intention is to pursue legal action against the continuous house detention of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq by the administration installed by Delhi.

The report states that news circulated on social media indicating the possibility of Mirwaiz’s attendance at Jama Masjid in Srinagar, following an interview with the “Lieutenant Governor” of the State, where he suggested that Mirwaiz might be allowed to offer Friday prayers there. Seeking clarity on this matter, Anjuman reached out to the concerned police authorities in Srinagar.

However, the authorities stated that they had not

received any communication from higher authorities regarding the matter, leading to the continuation of Mirwaiz’s detention.

Despite conflicting statements and repeated appeals for his release, Mirwaiz has remained under house detention for the past four years.

In response, Anjuman has announced Mirwaiz’s decision to take the legal route by sending a legal notice to the concerned authorities.

This step aims to clarify his status and initiate proceedings for his release from house detention, ensuring that his religious and public obligations are not further compromised.

The Anjuman expressed hope that through legal channels, Mirwaiz’s relief would be secured, enabling his return to the centuries-old Jama Masjid’s silent pulpit. The people, eagerly awaiting his presence, anticipate hearing him once again address them from this historic place of worship.

ISLAMABAD: Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Fakhr e Alam Irfan calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Fakhr e Alam Irfan calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

World Humanitarian Day observed with theme “no matter what”

LAHORE (APP): To highlight the dignity and esteem of humanity, World Humanitarian Day was observed on August 19 across the globe including Pakistan.

The theme of this year’s day was “no matter what”. In a video message on World Humanitarian Day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, “we salute the courage and dedication of humanitarian aid workers everywhere.”

Like other parts of the country, in Lahore some forums and bodies spoke to the press and respective circles to help spread the key message of World Humanitarian Day, while some groups organised public events including seminars, conferences and walks featuring humanitarian work.

The day was marked to honour all humanitarians, who work to promote the humanitarian cause, and those who lost their lives in the cause of duty. According to a UN report, the total number of people affected by natural disasters has risen over the past

decade, and about 211 million people are directly affected each year.

Kashif Mukhtar, a social and human rights activist, expressed his resolve to increase public awareness about humanitarian assistance activities globally and the importance of international cooperation.

The World Humanitarian Day is a day dedicated to humanitarians worldwide, as well as to increase public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities. The day aims to honour humanitarian workers, who have lost their lives or injured in the course of achieving their task and to acknowledge the ongoing work of humanitarian staff around the world, Mukhtar added.

Many communities and organisations try to stress the importance of humanitarian work by distributing publicity and information material. So far, more than 700 humanitarian workers have died or experienced the most dangerous situations while trying to help those in need.

ANF officers visits Safe City Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, ANF officers visited Safe City Islamabad, a police public relations officer said.

He said that a delegation of ANF officers visited

age of the Safe City Project to different areas of the city and installed 900 more cameras.

The Safe City services have been integrated with important commercial centers, buildings, metro bus



Safe City Islamabad and was briefed about the Centralized System, Command and Control Center, data hub unit and the functioning and benefits of modern technology.

Safe City Islamabad is playing a vital role in various sections, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the “Pukar-15” helpline.

Safe City Islamabad’s modern technology-enabled cameras are playing a crucial role in the city’s security, crime prevention and protection of citizens’ lives and property. After assuming the charge Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, extended the cover-

stations, shopping malls, and private housing societies across the city. Facial recognition cameras have been installed on the city’s entry and exit points, which play a significant role in identifying suspicious elements.

Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) officers met with the Capital Police Officer (CPO) Safe City. They expressed their appreciation for the modern technological system implemented by the Islamabad Capital Police, noting its impressive effectiveness.

During the meeting, the Anti-Narcotics Force officials sought guidance and assistance in implementing a similar modern technical system for their own operations.

Sunday August 20, 2023

Delayed polls

With the ECP saying on Thursday that the delimitation process will be wrapped up by mid-December, polls within the constitutional window of 90 days appear to be an impossibility.

This paper has consistently argued that the law of the land must be respected, and polls should not be delayed.

Yet the movers and shakers — both in Islamabad and Rawalpindi — have other ideas; it appears that a deliberate situation of legal and constitutional confusion was created to make timely polls difficult.

The PML-N-led dispensation bears primary responsibility for the delay. The newly notified census and fresh delimitation of constituencies thereafter are being cited as reasons behind the delayed polls. But provisional numbers for the 2023 census were ready in May.

Had the PDM government so desired, it could have discussed the issue with all parties and called a CCI meeting to notify the results several months ago, paving the way for timely polls.

Instead, consensus was reached in the Aug 5 CCI meeting over fresh census data, after the PPP, for example, was 'magically' convinced to approve the 2023 headcount.

The appointment of a rather large caretaker cabinet is also cause for concern. A caretaker set-up should be a bare-bones operation tasked with running day-to-day affairs — primarily law and order and keeping the economy on track — and ensuring timely and fair polls.

Therefore, a 24-member cabinet, which includes portfolios for departments such as national heritage and tourism, is unnecessary and fuels rumours that the caretakers are in for the long run.

In this regard, the interim prime minister, during his maiden cabinet meeting on Friday, made a 'reassuring' statement that he and his team do not have a "perpetual mandate". The interim information minister also remarked that the caretakers do not intend to prolong their stay.

Some observers say that the Constitution is vague on delimitations — the reason behind the electoral delay — but clear on the period available to caretakers, therefore the 90-day limit is sacrosanct.

Ideally, the caretakers should go home in 90 days, and a new elected government should then emerge. Realistically though, polls are unlikely before February, as several political leaders have pointed out.

Yet any delays beyond this date will throw up a fresh constitutional crisis, as Senate elections are due in March, and the provincial assemblies, along with the National Assembly, form the electoral college of the Upper House.

Without elected assemblies, there will be no Senate polls. Ignoring constitutional imperatives — it has already been done in the case of the KP and Punjab caretaker administrations — is abhorrent, but if delays are inevitable, they must be kept to a minimum, and the ECP should clear the air by announcing a definitive date for general elections.

**Zeba Sathar**

Rizwana, a young teenager and uneducated sister of nine siblings, is just one of millions of girls born into poor households across Pakistan. While the tragedy that is now flashed in the media might, fortunately, save whatever is left of Rizwana's abused and damaged mental and physical being, millions of girls born into poor households across the country face a similar situation. Unfortunately, many of them will not escape nor even be noticed.

As Pakistan celebrated 76 years of independence earlier this week, we should have been asking ourselves whether it occurs to many fortunate Pakistanis, who think about getting foreign passports to escape the heat, the taxes, and the nuisance that is Pakistan, to

look around them and see how the other half lives, in fact, barely survives.

Women and girls suffer the most. They have no hopes or dreams — not because they cannot but because our society has already decided their fate, depriving them of their rights. The worst fate is the lot of the poorest women.

Rizwana, if she were allowed a voice, would ask the state why she was one among several unwanted children in her family. She would then ask why she did not go to school at the age of five and learn to read or write and why she did not have a chance to go on to secondary school.

Rizwana would ask the state why she was sent hundreds of miles away from her parents and siblings to a judge's family. Above all, she would ask the state what gave her employer (or so-called protector or guardian) the right to deny her a minimum wage, and instead, to mete out the abuse that left the poor girl close to death.

Does the blame lie with the parents? Each year, Pakistani women go through 9m pregnancies, half of which are unwanted

or mistimed. They face pregnancies without having the power to delay or avoid them, either because they do not know how to negotiate with their husbands or lack information on contraception. Most end up with an unwanted abortion or, worse, a baby that is not welcome, and is, in fact, considered a huge burden on the family, especially if it is a girl.

Millions of women, especially those who are too young or too poor to think of alternatives end up having unwanted pregnancies out of "majboori" and lack of options.

Does the blame lie with society and the state? The Constitution is a guarantor, not just in words but also in spirit, of the rights of children to survival, security, safety and education. When we do not provide families with these resources, we are cruelly ignoring Article 25-A that gives the 20 million-plus out-of-school children the right to primary education.

While we still quibble about whether family planning and the right of women to plan each pregnancy are permitted by Islamic injunctions, other Muslim

states like Bangladesh, Iran and Indonesia simply disseminate information and provide family planning service options as state policy. Children from families too poor to educate them are not in the wrong — it is we who are violating the Constitution of Pakistan by not providing them their right.

Does the blame lie with the judiciary? Surely, the judiciary is the primary custodian of human rights, and the forum where Rizwana should and must get justice.

The Law and Judicial Commission held a meeting on 'Calibrating Population and Resources' last month. The discussion centred on the rights of women and girls and families to have the number of children they want and on the balance to be created between resources and numbers.

The two-day meeting was well attended by the judicial fraternity. Can we expect them to rise to the occasion and take action on the most basic right, i.e. to be born with full rights including primary education that currently is being denied to 20m children in Pakistan?

Does the blame lie with intellectuals, influencers and development practitioners? If Rizwana had been born in any of our neighbouring countries (apart from Afghanistan), she would have been entitled to free primary education, and her parents would have the choice to educate their children rather than send them to work.

Above all, there would be labour laws that would protect her from abuse at work, and in fact, being employed as a child. But development fads move fast, from schooling to nutrition to climate resilience, without ever going deep or long enough to eliminate basically flawed solutions.

Bureaucrats, technocrats and other Pakistanis with influence must remain focused on urgent national priorities such as 4m unwanted pregnancies and over 20m out-of-school children.

One can only hope we will give some thought to the gaping inequalities between the poor and rich. If we allow things to continue, Rizwana's family will have no choice but to

send their children to work.

An accident of birth leads millions of children to suffer gross violations that we would never endure for our own children. We hope the media, instead of devoting prime-time discussions to when elections, as per the Constitution, must be held, also turns to the most fundamental violation of the Constitution that underlies Rizwana's fate.

While the caretaker government has limited powers to undertake new reforms, it can begin to include the rights of families, women and children to health and education on its priority list.

The government can do more by directing greater resources towards lowering the numbers of unwanted children through public information and family planning services.

Above all, the under-resourced regions of Pakistan desperately require additional means to improve living conditions that have now reached an all-time low, as manifested in the painful story of Rizwana. -- Courtesy Dawn

Financing climate action**Sherry Rehman**

The global climate crisis has left no country untouched, but it is the developing world that is facing the most severe impacts. For countries like Pakistan, already struggling with economic instability, climate change 'burn' presents not just a threat to the environment but also stresses our national and human security.

It has already claimed thousands of lives and caused billions of dollars in damages. At one estimate, just in 2022, Pakistan faced a cumulative drag of eight per cent on its GDP from climate change. According to the World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report, Pakistan faces a fairly quantum challenge if climate response and development needs are to be met, amounting to a staggering \$348 billion between 2022 and 2030. To achieve deep

decarbonization, \$196 billion is necessary, while \$152 billion is needed for adaptation and resilience, and this is the bare minimum. Strategic responses are further complicated by recurring floods and the return of the El Nino phenomenon, that creates a recovery trap, with countries like Pakistan struggling to rebuild and reconstruct while simultaneously coping with ongoing heatwaves and extreme weather events.

These are no small numbers. From severe heatwaves that melt our glaciers, to catastrophic floods last year that have devastated one-third of Pakistan, it is clear to policymakers that the climate crisis has compounded our nation's challenges in ways that even today go unrecorded. Livelihoods and income impacts in rural areas are only yet seen as a calculus of growing impoverishment, food insecurity and ongoing soil and hydromet challenges.

Hidden costs across all sectors have not even been registered, as they remain fragmented, systemic and un-processed. Health impacts in terms of high morbidity and mortality are linked directly to municipal over-stress in peri-urban and urban dwellings, not to mention the poor governance of pollution laws and green zoning. Yet it is only at the crosshairs of climate events that the connection between environmental degradation and inaction is publicly linked to surges in composite crises for the most vulnerable.

We know now that water-borne diseases and lack of access to basic health facilities in crisis burdens women and children the hardest and swiftest. Yet the social costs are far from understood in most developing countries, including Pakistan. Unicef alone estimates that 76 per cent of children under 18 in South Asia — 460 million — are exposed to extreme high temperatures where 83 or more days exceed 35 C.

Globally, many developing countries are already struggling with the twin challenges of energy security and debt crises. As a country with less than one per cent of the global emissions, Pakistan is not responsible for adding bulk to the world's greenhouse gas emissions, yet we are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis. Like others in the arc of climate vul-

nerability and development, we lack both the capacity and resources to manage the accelerated risks posed by climate change.

Given that adaptation is a top priority which requires significant investments in climate resilient infrastructure, the higher costs of such resilient development must also be flagged. Adaptation can cost up to four times more than conventional development and, even though its returns are potentially equally high, speedy access to financing remains difficult. Despite the international hype about global green financing, climate fund pipelines by and large continue to be projected, resistant to agile withdrawal and rarely provide budgetary support for countries in crisis.

Despite climate finance pivoting as the backbone of climate action, it remains notoriously elusive for many developing countries on the frontlines of the climate crisis. The international community in 2019/20 had pledged to mobilize \$100 billion per year in climate finance for developing countries, but the actual disbursement has fallen well short of the target, and

climate finance has both been short and slow to reach the countries that need it most. This lack of funding and adaptive capacity is one of the main reasons why climate action is being held back in Pakistan and other developing countries.

The recently created Loss and Damage Fund remains yet to be operationalized, let alone act as a trigger for financing shortfalls in climate emergencies in the Global South, and many fear that if it too remains unfunded due to lack of political will and out-of-the-box solutions for funding, it may well become another 'ghost fund'.

Many developing countries are often told that they need to undertake painful structural reforms by creditors. This is not unreasonable, but in times of a climate polycrisis, there is a compulsion for global multilateral institutions to find innovative sources of funding and financing for those it should service without piling on more debt. One way of course to do this is to bring in the private sector into the room, but not as a conventional investor, because that leaves a huge debt-risks hole in the piece, and leeches cli-

mate smart investments away from countries that are both debt and climate stressed.

Conventional wisdom toolkits are well past their capacity in even providing coping-expense buffers for frontline countries. In existing scenarios, the private sector only comes in when it appraises profits on its investments. When climate-stressed unpredictability comes into the mix, which it invariably does today, the power-point presentations to transform entire countries from a Shakespearean 'blasted heath' to booming-farm-utopia all melt away, reinforcing the fact that investors shy away from high levels of risk. Yet the solutions too lie at the heart of the crisis in global capitalism, where the oil and gas sector rakes in unprecedented profits from the fossil fuel industry, and barely gets tapped as a profit-percentage pegged capital investor in high-risk countries. Without these difficult conversations to fund climate stress, or carbon trade frameworks that are not universal, multilateralism will never catch up to climate change. -- Courtesy TheNews

**Zofeen T. Ebrahim**

Would former chief minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah be able to live in a house that has been sliced and has no boundary wall at the back, exposing the house completely? Would he be able to live in one for two years? I know I would feel very unsafe.

But that is exactly how thousands of people living next to three nullahs feel. Since 2021, they have been living like the homeless in their own homes after the Sindh government bulldozed 6,932 houses situated along three of Karachi's biggest water channels — the Orangi, Gujjar and Mehmoodabad nullahs — on the orders of the Supreme Court.

The dust emerging from the nullah wall and road construction and the noise of the dredgers and bulldozers cleaning the nullahs must not have been easy for those living on the site. Roshan Sajid, along with her family of eight, living in the informal settlement of Thorani Goth, Sector 15-D, in Orangi, said that living on a pile of rubble for two years has been agonising.

Not only has the demolished wall exposed the kitchen to the elements of nature, rodents from the stormwater drain, and stray dogs and cats, too, come and go at will.

The family's only bathroom, draped with a blanket to cover the gaping hole which was once a wall, is keeping Roshan "forever anxious for our safety and privacy" and the newly built bedroom of her married son, on the

Living on rubble

first floor, is in ruins, with the staircase in a fragile state.

After August 2020's record-breaking rains of up to 484 millimetres, which submerged a large part of the city, the common refrain was that Karachi had flooded because of the encroachments throttling the waterways.

The former chief minister, while on a round inspecting the various choked arteries of the city, reportedly censured the residents saying the "city is sinking because of your encroachments".

"Why would anyone want to live close to filthy nullahs and get their homes flooded at the slightest rainfall, if one could afford better neighbourhoods?" countered Roshan. Karachi faces an acute shortage of affordable housing with an estimated 50 per cent of its residents living in informal settlements.

The provincial government's disparaging attitude towards informal settlements was seen to have influenced the court's decisions.

Faisal Siddiqi, counsel for the affected families, says that former chief justice of Pakistan, Gulzar Ahmed, had "labelled the affected encroachers and land grabbers" and regretted that Article 184(3) of the Constitution that aimed at protecting fundamental rights, such as dignity, property, a fair judicial process, and livelihoods, was "misapplied", leading to far-reaching consequences for the people who had lost their homes, jobs and peace due to the "hasty order by the then-CJP, who was unwilling to listen to reason or reflect on the consequences or... to explore alternative solutions".

The Orangi drain had been used as a garbage dump and the exercise continues in the absence of a proper solid waste management system. However, after the drain was cleaned, most admitted that 2022 was the first good year when their homes did not flood with nullah sludge.

But the affected residents have certainly been given short shrift in the process. The paltry sum of Rs180,000 paid in the last two years, which was half the promised temporary compensation till the government resettles the affected families, was not even enough to carry out repair work on their homes. Today, most say they are living in debt.

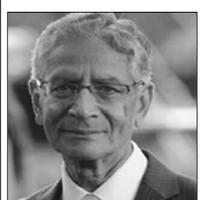
A fluid order

The three constitutional petitions filed by over 40 civil society organisations against the Sindh government's contempt of court, at various points back in 2021, had failed to shake off the latter's stupor.

Another petition filed against the former CM for not complying with the court's earlier directives and for not honouring his pledges was heard by the Supreme Court this week. Swift orders were given for the release of the unpaid amount within the next 30 days. As for resettlement, the court was told the government was mulling over two proposals. It had been mulling over this for some time now and nobody knows what the hitch is.

But in either scenario — whether the affected get land and a house or land and money to build a house — the lives of thousands will be turned topsy-turvy because of job losses, longer commutes, which would mean paying a higher fare, and the discontinuation or interruption in studies for many.

In addition, they will get a much smaller unit than most are living in right now, in an unfamiliar neighbourhood without old friends and neighbours. It is indeed a heavy price to pay for getting three of Karachi's water channels cleaned. -- Courtesy Dawn

Living on rubble**Touqir Hussain**

The US and China may be the central players in a global struggle for influence, but under the umbrella of their rivalry, many middle and small powers are making their own mark on the international order. In partnership with the US on most issues, in alignment with China on some, and independently on others, they are helping to reshape the world economy by reconfiguring technology cooperation, diversifying investment, and rearranging supply chains. In so doing, they are affecting the global balance of power, and raising their own economic weight, military potential, and diplomatic stature.

Pakistan needs to understand these changes. What has caused them? First, the unhappiness with globalisation in the West, especially in America, as factories and jobs were going to China, causing economic anxiety, social discontent and political backlash. Domestic politics began weighing heavily on perceptions of China and globalisation. It led to the rise of Donald Trump, and attempts at de-globalisation.

Then Covid-19 exposed the risks of over-reliance on another country, especially a rival, for vital supplies. Russia's invasion of Ukraine revealed how much the EU had come to depend on Moscow for energy. These events exposed the vulnerability of interdependence and tarnished globalisation further, spurring the search for a new geo-economics.

Along came a new

A fluid order

geopolitics. The rise of China rattled not just the US but many other countries too that felt they were dealing with a new China under Xi Jinping. The Indo-Pacific strategy is basically a "leverage against any future aggressiveness by China", they argue.

US allies in the Indo-Pacific are strengthening their defences through military and technological cooperation with Washington. Japan's fiscal 2023 defence budget registered a 26.3 per cent increase. Australia and India are engaged in more 'forward-postured' security policies and defence strategies, tying their regional ambitions with geopolitics. They have recalculated their interests independently of America although their policies are in synch with US strategies.

Geo-economics and geopolitics have merged. The US is taking the lead in redefining globalisation that does not harm national security, technological supremacy and economic leadership. It is doing so by denying high technology to China, to limit Beijing's capability for AI and military advancement. Most allies are going along. An EU-led consensus seems to be emerging between America and its allies that, given Beijing's centrality to the global economy, they cannot 'decouple' their economies from China's. Yet they must de-risk.

As for geopolitics, the hawkish rhetoric on Taiwan captures the headlines but away from the glare of politics, traditional diplomacy is at work as seen in the flurry of diplomatic contacts since the Bali G20 summit of 2022 between Europe and China on the one hand and the US and China on the other. Washington now awaits the Chinese foreign minister's visit.

India is at the cross-

A fluid order

roads of new geo-economics and geopolitics. Its geopolitical position on the Indian Ocean and border dispute with China make it America's natural geopolitical partner while its technology and economic potential make it an attractive partner in geo-economics. In the joint statement issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington, the two governments committed themselves to facilitating "greater technology sharing, co-development, and co-production opportunities between US and Indian industry, government and academic institutions".

India and many other middle powers are benefiting not only by allying themselves with the US but also by forming independent groupings at the global or regional levels. India's strategic outreach to the Gulf and Asean stand out. While mini forums like I2U2 (India, Israel, the UAE and US) are tied with the American agenda, India has also advanced its bilateral ties with the capital-rich Gulf independently of Washington. On some issues, India and its cohorts are aligned with China, for instance, through BRICS and SCO.

China is engaged in its own high-profile geopolitics and geo-economics via trade and infrastructure projects, with many of its partners having overlapping relations with the US. So what appears to be a great power rivalry on the surface is much more than that. There are several players multi-aligning and multi-networking through mini forums, ad hoc groupings and shifting coalitions with or without getting involved in the US-China rivalry. That makes the international order very fluid in which Pakistan with its current weaknesses is struggling to find a place with little to offer and much to ask for. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM observes inaugural ceremony of expansion block at Children's Hospital

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi oversaw the inauguration of the Emergency Expansion Block and Shelter at Children's Hospital on Saturday.

The event was graced by young patients Maah Noor and nine-year-old Muhammad Qamar Javed, who despite their thalassemia affliction, symbolically inaugurated the project by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

The formal inauguration of the Children's Hospital Shelter was conducted by pharmacist Dr. Aqeela Iqbal. Notably, the Emergency Expansion Project at the Children's Hospital was a collaborative effort involving Islamic Aid Pakistan. The extensive Children's Hospital Emergency Expansion Project is designed to

accommodate a total of 200 beds, providing critical healthcare services to the region. The initial phase of the expansion has established a fully functional ward with 38 beds.

During his visit, Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi meticulously inspected various hospital facilities including the ORS room, isolation wards, and radiology departments. He also took time to assess specially designed facilities, such as the accessible toilets for children with special needs. Impressed by the construction standards of the Children's Hospital Emergency Expansion Block, the Chief Minister also personally examined the residential rooms. He engaged with resident parents, discussing the range of facilities available to them. Given the prominence of patients

from Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, many of the parents were residing within the hospital's accommodations. Noteworthy individuals under treatment included children from Afghanistan such as Mohammad Naseer, Aamir Hussain, Saraj from Lucky Marwat, and Saifullah from Batgram. Their parents praised the exceptional quality of treatment provided at Punjab's Children's Hospital.

The Chief Minister engaged in detailed discussions with parents about the quality of accommodation and food facilities, demonstrating his dedication to their welfare. Additionally, Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi visited the under-construction site of the Children's University project located behind the hospital.



KARACHI: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani along with Senators Laying Wreath at Mazar-i-Quaid-e-Azam.

Irfan Ali Soomro says: Political participation of disabled people in LBs a commendable practice

NAWABSHAH (APP): Pakistan U.S. Alumni Network led by Abid Lashari, organized a project closing ceremony to ensure political participation of persons with disabilities in Local Government is in Sindh.

During the ceremony Abid Lashari President NDF and member PUAN Sukkur Chapter shared experience of project implementation and progress of activities which were highly acknowledged by the participants.

Irfan Ali Soomro President PUAN Sukkur Chapter, Anwar Ali Siyal Ex-President PUAN, Ghulam Murtaza Channar Regional Director DEP, Rafiq Ahmed Buller Zonal Manager NADRA and other civil society activists attended the event.

Speakers including Lal Chand Lohana, Farooq Ali Bhatti, Asma Munir Arain, Tariq Hussain Channar, Manthar Magsi, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Chana and others said that allocation of special seats for the disabled by the local government was a commendable act. The Councilors with disabilities in local departments are performing their duties, they said. On this occasion, the awareness campaign during the said project for the political participation of the disabled was highly appreciated. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act is a comprehensive law that provides complete information and guidance on the rights of persons with disabilities in every sphere of life. Such as the provision of a disability-friendly environment.

LHC orders to take solid steps to stop child marriage

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to take solid steps for stopping child marriage.

The court dismissed bail before arrest of the person accused in abducting 14 years old girl and raping her.

Justice Anwar ul Haq Punnu has issued a 22-page detailed decision.

The court ordered to send copy of decision to IG Punjab, Prosecutor General Punjab and Director local government.

It has been said in written order Prosecutor General Punjab should make SOPs related to child marriage with the help of

IG Punjab. According to doctors the age of girl who was kidnapped is 13 or 14 years.

According to accused he has not kidnapped the girl and he has married to her.

As per record the accused has violated the prevention of child marriage act. The accused was bound to abide by Pakistani laws before marriage.

The court remarked the affected girl has given statement against the accused of abducting and raping her. The accused has been found guilty during police investigation.



LAHORE: Senator Lieutenant General (R) Abdul Qayyum visits Jinnah House along with others in Provincial Capital.

Man shot dead over domestic dispute

ATTOCK (APP): A man shot dead his second wife over a domestic dispute in the Hamza town area in the limits of model police station Attock on Saturday. Noman Akram has reported to police that his sister Medhia Akram contracted marriage some four years ago with Sajjad Haider which was his second marriage.

He said that Mr Haider has shot dead his sister with his pistol over a domestic dispute. Moreover, a man set on fire his brother-in-law over revenge for subjecting his sister to domestic violence in Mohallah Sahaeedabad in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station.

Police sources said that Sajid poured petrol over brother in law and set him on fire for subjecting his sister to serve torture and later surrendered himself to Police.

Two killed, two injured in road accident

ATTOCK (APP): At least two persons were killed while others including a minor sustained injuries in separate incidents in the various parts of Attock on Saturday, police and rescue sources said.

In the first incident, Muhammad Asif- a native of Gangawali with his family was crossing the road when a speeding car hit them. Resultantly, his wife died on the spot while he and his two years old daughter were injured critically. The injured were shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital Pindigheb. In another incident, a man was killed while his friend was injured critically when a speeding dumper.

Addressing the press conference, Ijaz Alam Augustine condemned the Jaranwala tragedy and said that in the 76-year history of Pakistan, such an incident of burning churches, schools and Bibles had never happened. "Today, the Christian



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Mohammad Kamran Tessori sworn-in a 10-members caretaker cabinet at Governor House as Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar also present on the Occasion.

Governor KP takes oath from caretaker cabinet

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Haji Ghulam Ali took oath from the caretaker provincial cabinet in a ceremony held here at Governor House on Saturday.

The provincial cabinet includes nine ministers namely Syed Masood Shah, Feroz Jamal Shah, Justice Retd Irshad Qaiser, Ahmad Rasool Bangash, Asif Rafiq, Dr Najeerullah, Dr Muhammad Qasim Jan, Justice Retired Rashid Hussain Shah, Syed Amir

Abdullah took the oath of the Caretaker ministers.

Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) Azam Khan was also present at the Jirga Hall of the Governor House.

Besides IG KP, other Police officers were also present. Earlier, KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali received the CM and other members of his cabinet soon after their arrival at the Governor's House.

Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan

reached Governor House Peshawar on Saturday. Nine new members of caretaker cabinet were also accompanying him at the Jirga Hall of the Governor House.

IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and officers were also present at the swearing-in ceremony. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali received the Chief Minister soon after his arrival at the Governor House and would shortly administer oaths to the members of the new caretaker cabinet.

Malaysian CG calls on Governor Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, on Saturday, stressed on the need of expansion of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia particularly in fields of education, health, science and technology.

He expressed the views while talking to Consul General of Malaysia Herman Hardynata Bin Ahmad who called on Sindh Governor here at Governor House Karachi.

Pakistan-Malaysia relations, measures to further enhance the bilateral ties, exchange of delegations in various sectors and other issues of mutual interest were discussed in the meeting.

Governor Sindh speaking at the occasion said that relations of Pakistan and Malaysia spanned over many decades and both the countries were linked in the

eternal bond of Islamic brotherhood.

Kamran Khan Tessori said that there was a huge potential of Pak-Malaysia mutual cooperation in education, health, science and technology and other sectors.

The Malaysian Envoy lauded the Sindh Governor's vision for public welfare and said that the Sindh Governor's IT program was a commendable effort for providing the youth a decent source of livelihood. On the occasion, the Malaysian CG viewed artifacts and items used by the father of the nation Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He also rang the bell of hope installed at the Governor House for listening to grievances of the public. He also reviewed the distribution of food rations in deserving people under the "Taqatwar Pakistan" initiative.

7 dead, 1,201 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least seven persons were killed and 1,201 others injured in 1,165 road traffic crashes in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to a press release, issued by Rescue-1122 here on Saturday.

As many as 590 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 611 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 619 drivers, 49 underage drivers, 162 pedestrians, and 427 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 297 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 308 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 81 in Multan with 82 victims, and at third Faisalabad with 56 accidents and 56 victims.



KARACHI: Christians hold a torchlight rally to condemn the attacks on churches in Pakistan at Teen Talwar area of the Provincial Capital.

Christian leaders call for judicial probe into Jaranwala tragedy

LAHORE (APP): Former Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Ijaz Alam Augustine has called for setting up a judicial commission headed by a high court judge for a transparent investigation into the Jaranwala tragedy.

In a press conference at the Lahore Press Club on Saturday, he along with other leaders underlined the importance of bringing to the fore the motives behind blasphemy allegations. They demanded accountability of those involved in the encirclement and torching of churches and homes and called for severe punishment to those who made hate speeches and an apology to the state of Pakistan.

Addressing the press conference, Ijaz Alam Augustine condemned the Jaranwala tragedy and said that in the 76-year history of Pakistan, such an incident of burning churches, schools and Bibles had never happened. "Today, the Christian

community is very sad all over the world. We have a question from the Punjab government that when the miscreants first acted at 5am, why did the police and the administration reach the crime scene after sixteen hours? Why were the riots not stopped and why was the police absent? Churches were burnt in the presence of the police. We demand that the administration be brought to justice. Why was a Christian Assistant Commissioner suspended?" Ijaz Alam emphasized that had the criminals involved in the incidents of Shanti Nagar, Joseph Colony and Gojra been punished, the Jaranwala tragedy might not have happened today.

Tolerance Movement Chairman of Samson Salam said, "My question is why the Chief Minister of Punjab has not yet visited Jaranwala? He is only meeting representatives of religious minorities in his office. The government of Punjab has announced construction.

Funeral of martyred FC soldier offered with military honors

ABBOTTABAD (APP): The funeral prayer of the brave Frontier Constabulary (FC) soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice in Terah was offered with military honours in the ancestral village of Nazarabad Khanpur.

The martyred soldier, Syed Munazim Hussain Shah, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty in Terah, was laid to rest in the Nazarabad area of Tehsil Khanpur, district Haripur, amongst a heartfelt gathering of mourners, local residents, municipal representatives, and dignitaries from the Pakistan Army.

The funeral procession was marked by military precision, a smartly turned out contingent of the Pak Army presented him with a guard of honour and also laid a floral wreath on the grave of the martyred soldier.

Amidst the gathering, the father of the martyr, Syed Mukhtar Hussain Shah.

Sindh caretaker cabinet sworn in

KARACHI (APP): The 10 member Sindh caretaker cabinet sworn in, in a ceremony held here at Sindh Governor House on Saturday following the recommendation of Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar.

The Governor Sindh Mohammad Kamran Khan Tessori, administered the oath to members of the caretaker cabinet. The caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar witnessed the oath-taking.

The caretaker ministers sworn in, include Brigadier (retd) Haris Nawaz, Muhammad

Younus Dhaga, Mubeen Jumani, Dr Saad Khalid Niaz, Dr Junaid Shah, Mrs. Rana Hussain, Ishwar Lal, Arshad Wali Muhammad, Omar Soomro and Khuda Bux Marri.

The ceremony was conducted by provincial Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput and was attended by acting Inspector General of Police Imran Yakoob Minhas, Chairman Planning and Development Hassan Naqvi, provincial secretaries, former IT Minister Taimur Talpur, MQM leader Khwaja Izhar, Dr. Farooq Sattar, family members of the caretaker ministers and others.



PESHAWAR: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali takes oath from the caretaker provincial cabinet in a ceremony held here at Governor House.

SHC directs Provincial task force to place special focus on cases of disappearance of children

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has directed provincial task force to place special focus on the cases of disappearance of children.

The petition regarding recovery of one girl Mariyam who is missing since 2011 came up for hearing before SHC. The missing girl could not be located despite lapse of 12 years.

Federal government filed progress report in the court wherein it was said the missing girl has not been located so far.

The investigation officer told the court 14 sessions of provincial task force have taken place in connection with recovery of girl.

The court during the

hearing of the case expressed displeasure over non recovery of girl remarking the provincial task force should review recovery of every missing citizen minutely.

The court directed the provincial task force special focus be placed on the cases of disappearance of children.

The SHC summoned progress report from JIT chief and provincial task force till September 18 directing that every possible effort be made to recover missing girl.

The counsel for petitioner said girl went missing from jurisdiction of Malir city Police station since 2011. The girl has not been traced despite lapse of 12 years.

6,500 cops performing duties in Jaranwala: IG

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has given details about the security of the Christian community in Jaranwala, restoration of houses and places of worship and said that the journey to return to peace has now begun in Jaranwala.

Dr Usman Anwar said that more than 6,500 police officers and personnel were on high alert and performing their duties. He added that according to the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and directions of the Chief Minister Punjab, the process of reconciliation and

reconstruction had started. "Consequently, members of the peace committee, scholars, Christian community leaders, priests are sitting together and there has been a discussion; they hugged each other," he added, terming it a great progress in the process of reconciliation and reconstruction.

He said that many Christian families had returned to their homes, Punjab Police shifted their children and families to Daanish School and the restoration and renovation work of their homes was being completed at a war footing.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement MQM-P Senior Deputy Convener, Dr. Farooq Sattar visits Railway Colony and strongly condemned the brutal action of the Railways authorities on demolished the shops and houses of the poor citizens and demanded immediately provide compensation.

Farman announces withdrawal from electoral politics

PESHAWAR (APP): Former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and senior leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Shah Farman on Saturday announced his withdrawal from electoral politics. In a video statement, he said that there is a conspiracy against him within the party, and he will hand over his constituency to party workers.

He also emphasized that his brothers and children have no intention of contesting elections.

Shah Farman revealed that baseless allegations of betrayal were imposed on him including two other leaders during a committee meeting. Shah Farman clarified that politics is not his family's profession, nor is it their source of income. Hence, he is leaving his constituency vacant for party workers.

He also emphasized that his brothers and children have no intention of contesting elections.

Uzbek Envoy expects bilateral trade with Pakistan to touch \$1 billion in couple of years

KARACHI (APP): Pak-Uzbek bilateral trade with consecutive annual growth of over 50 percent is expected to touch \$1 billion in the next two years owing to transit and preferential trade agreements between both countries.

Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan Oybek Arif Usmanov said at a meeting during a visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI).

He informed that trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan has constantly grown at a pace of 50 to 55 percent annually during the last three years starting from US\$50 million to US\$240 million last year whereas. The Transit Trade Agreement signed in 2021 and Preferential Trade Agreement inked in 2022 facilitated growth while \$1 billion trade roadmap has also been signed by the joint ministerial commission on Finance, he

stated and added "We, hence, expect trade volume to reach US\$400 million by the end of this year and hopefully, it would reach US\$1 billion in the next two years."

Uzbek Envoy said that Liberalization of economy, business-friendly policies and facilitation of banking & finance have resulted in industrial and agricultural growth along with technology and innovation and Uzbekistan has not just become an emergent economy of Central & South Asia but also in the global arena."

He mentioned that Karachi was always dear to the hearts and minds of the Uzbek people which can be gauged from the fact that after Uzbekistan's independence, the first flight arrived in Karachi while the first Consulate General of Uzbekistan was also opened in Karachi.

Regular flights

between Tashkent and Karachi and the exchange of trade delegations helped to maintain good business relations, building trust and cooperation as well as diplomatic relations, he observed and assured: "Uzbek Government is always ready to adopt any model or mechanism which facilitates traders, industrialists and transport companies of both countries."

Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan were likely to meet at the ministerial level in October 2023 to discuss Trilateral Trade Agreement on transit trade, transport facilitation and tariff ease, he informed.

President KCCI Mohammed Tariq Yousuf, while underscoring the need to explore new avenues between the two countries for trade and investment growth suggested expanding trade and investment ties and setting up a proper banking channel.



LAHORE: Members of Awami Rickshaw Union are holding protest demonstration against the price hike of petroleum products, at Lahore press club.

Over \$1bn textile products exported

ISLAMABAD (APP): Textile exports reached \$1,311,659 million during the first month of the current financial year (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Textile exports showed a decline of 11.44 percent from \$1,481,173 million during the same month of last year (July 2022-23).

The textile commodities that contributed in trade growth included cotton yarn the exports of which increased by 35.96 percent to \$97,031 million during the July 2023 as compared to the exports of \$71,365 million last July year.

The other commodities that witnessed growth in trade included tents, canvas and tarpulin, the exports of which grew by 9.02 percent to \$9,523 million from \$8,735 million whereas the export of cotton carded

rose by 100 percent to \$0.209 million.

The textile commodities that witnessed negative growth in trade included cotton cloth, the exports of which declined by 22.56 percent, from \$181,985 million to \$140,936 million.

Likewise, the exports of knitwear also went down by 16.13, from \$434,642 million, bed wear by 14.60 percent, from \$253,988 million to \$216,910 million, towels by 2.93 percent, from \$74,965 million to \$72,766 million and ready made garments by 9.80 percent, from \$304,571 million to \$274,733 million.

The exports of art, silk and synthetic textile also went down by 16.18 percent from \$31,218 million to \$26,167 million, made up article (excluding towels and bedwear) decreased by 7.54 percent from \$55,199 million from \$51,039.

Pak handicrafts in hot demand at Kunming expo

BEIJING (INP): Pakistani handicrafts in hot demand at the 7th China-South Asia Exposition and the 27th China Kunming Import and Export Fair that kicked off this week in Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province.

The five-day expo invited substantial impetus for fast-growing trade and business relations between China and South Asian countries.

"China-South Asia Exposition is the biggest expo in Yunnan province. We've been participating in this expo for a couple of years, exhibiting carpets and scarves."

This year, as Covid-19 has finished, more exhibitors and visitors are coming here," said Muzaffar, a Pakistani exhibitor, according to Gwadar Pro.

This year, around 300 Pakistani participate in the expo, among which there are more than 60 exhibitors and 40 delegates and others.

Pakistani jade, leather jacket, football, and brass ornament are attracting a lot of Chinese buyers.

"Pakistani traditional handicrafts, including brass and wooden furniture, are very popular among Chinese customers, which always sales fast on the expo," said another Pakistani exhibitor from Sialkot who has been doing business in China for decades.

This is the first time he participates in the China-South Asia Expo. He brought leather jackets and footballs to the event.

"The exhibitors can get long-term business opportunities through participating in the exhibition, which is more important than sales volume. I have met many new business partners here."

A Cambodian exhibitor told Gwadar Pro that she added a lot of WeChat contacts at the expo. "WeChat makes sales easy."



RAWALPINDI: Workers off-loading bundles of sugarcane from a delivery truck at Fruit Market.

China's Chery sets new record sales of 741,400 units in H1

BEIJING (APP): China's auto exports in the first quarter of 2023 exceeded 1.07 million units, surpassing Japan and becoming the world's largest auto exporter, according to data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM).

Chinese vehicles are running at full speed around the world, and Chery Group is also creating its own "Chery effect", China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

In the first half of 2023, Chery Group made further efforts, with a cumulative sales volume of 741,400 vehicles, up 56% year-on-year. This not only set a new record high sales in the history of semi-annual, but also exceeded 100,000 vehicles in a single month for 13 consecutive months, and the growth rate ranked second in the industry. Among them, the cumulative sales volume of the Chery brand in the first half of the year was 539,400, a year-on-year increase of 50.9%.

New Center on UAV industry launched in Beijing to boost coop

BEIJING (INP): The launching ceremony of ECCAC UAV Industry International Cooperation Center was held here.

On the occasion, Khan Muhammad Wazir, Science and Technology Counsellor at the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, was nominated as the first director of ECCAC UAV Industry International Cooperation Center.

Wazir pinpointed that at present, China has obtained a complete drone industry chain, including a full range of products from consumer drones to industrial drones, and a complete cooperation plan integrating research and development, design,



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

PTA, PITB inaugurate Lahore IXP to boost digital connectivity

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) marked a historic milestone with the inauguration of the Lahore Internet Exchange Point (IXP).

The inauguration ceremony was held at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP) with esteemed industry leaders, government officials, vital stakeholders and prominent Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in attendance. International stakeholders namely Internet Society (ISOC), Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) and Japan Registry Services (JPRS)

attended the event remotely.

The launch event featured presentations and insightful speeches from key industry figures, emphasizing the IXP's potential to enhance digital infrastructure and support the growth of Pakistan's internet economy.

Speaking at the event, Chairman PTA, Major General @ Hafeez-Ur-Rehman emphasized the critical importance of the Lahore IXP, highlighting its multifaceted benefits. He lauded the IXP's potential to galvanize economic growth, facilitate greater access to digital services and enhance network efficiency.

Faisal Yousaf said, "Launching IXP locally would reduce our dependence on international data routes. Additionally, it would ensure a rather reliable and robust internet connectivity."

Key speakers at the ceremony also included Chief Information Officer PITB Sajjad Ghani, Director General CVD PTA, Dr. Muhammad Mukaram Khan; Regional Director ISOC, Naveed Haq; IXP Specialist ISOC, Aftab Siddiqui; Director General APNIC, Paul Wilson, and GM JPRS, Kazuhiro Kitamura.

The Lahore IXP reflects a commitment to bolstering digital infrastructure.

Cutting indirect taxes to help alleviate poverty in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Persistent poverty in Pakistan is rooted in indirect taxation, warranting the government cutting its dependence on indirect taxes, which disproportionately impact the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Muhammad Tahseen, Chairman of Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), said this while talking to WealthPK.

Indirect taxes, such as goods and services tax (GST), gas and electricity tariffs, and other consumption taxes, take up a larger proportion of income from lower-income individuals compared to those with higher incomes. As a result, the poor bear a disproportionately heavier burden of these taxes on

their income. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey (PES), direct taxes contributed 37.2% of total FBR tax collection, while indirect tax contribution was 62.8% during FY2022. Within total FBR collection, sales tax remained the top revenue-generating source with a 41.2% share, customs duty 16.4%, and FED 5.2%, respectively. "A substantial portion of the population is engaged in the informal economy, where incomes are irregular and often insufficient. Indirect taxes, being consumption-based, affect these individuals more because their entire income is spent on basic necessities. As a result, they may not have the financial buffer to absorb the impact of increased prices.



ISLAMABAD: An ironsmiths are busy in their work at Steel products factory in Federal Capital.

PBF hopes interim govt to improve fiscal indicators

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has expressed the optimism that the interim federal government would help improve fiscal indicators of the country.

Forum's Vice President Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad told the media here on Saturday that, in a letter to the caretaker prime minister, the PBF hoped that he would focus on economic revival, besides paying attention to uplift of deprived areas of Pakistan.

Ahmad Jawad said that Pak Rupee depreciated by Rs 163 against the US dollar during the last five years, which had adverse effects on the common man's living, businesses and manufacturing sector, besides imports and exports of the country. He opposed free float policy on currency, initiated by the last parliament, as it resulted in unprecedented decline of rupee against the US dollar.

Since 1947 until 1988, Ahmad Jawad cited, Pakistan approached the International Monetary Fund (IMF) four times; however, from 1989

onwards, successive governments had made it a custom to get an IMF package instead of reducing their expenses. He claimed that no government had ever paid a serious heed to revival of agriculture sector or work on small and medium enterprises to make them more viable to transform the country's economy in the long run.

Thus, instead of building the capacity to pay back loans, the government continued to borrow to service the previous loans. This situation demanded effective steps to stabilise the Pak Rupee besides ending market speculations. "As we believe that the real exchange rate of the US dollar against the Pak Rupee is less than Rs 200, and for all practical reasons, the current depreciation cycle is the direct result of speculative trading, lack of regulatory oversight and mismanagement of the forex market," he asserted.

The PBF vice president urged the interim government to stabilise the currency to propel the economic activity.

8th Color & Chem Expo begins in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice President Mian Anjum Nisar inaugurated the two-day 8th Color & Chem Expo here at Expo Center on Saturday.

Local and foreign guests and PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Sehgal was also present.

After the inauguration, the organizer of the exhibition, Rashidul Haque, took the chief guest and other dignitaries to the stalls and briefed them about displayed products.

The Pakistan chapter of American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists was also launched during the exhibition, with Abdul Rahim Chughtai appointed as its President.

Talking to media, Mian Anjum Nisar said that caretaker government needed to reduce the cost of doing business for the ailing industry of the country. "The past mistakes have already dragged the country towards a grave economic crisis so the interim government should avoid repeating such mistakes.

China's investment surges by 23.2% in BRI countries during first 7 months

BEIJING (APP): Chinese enterprises made non-financial direct investments totalling RMB 95.34 billion in Belt and Road countries between January and July of 2023, showcasing a robust 23.2% surge compared to the previous year.

This growth, which translates to around US\$13.69 billion (a 15.3% year-on-year hike), accounts for nearly a fifth of the overall investment during the same period. These figures were disclosed by Shu Juetin, spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce, during the routine press conference held on August 17th.

China has managed to maintain a steady upward trajectory in non-financial overseas investments; the growth rate of China's direct investment in Belt and Road countries is notably higher than the average level. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

Ministry of

Commerce data has revealed a sustained growth in China's foreign investments, with non-financial direct investments totalling RMB500.94 billion reflecting an 18.1% year-on-year increase (approximately USD71.93 billion, with a 10.6% year-on-year climb).

Over the same period, China's foreign contracted project earnings saw a 6.3% boost to reach RMB563.76 billion. The value of newly signed contracts tallied up to RMB746.36 billion, marking a slight 0.6% uptick year-on-year. Chinese enterprises operating within Belt and Road countries contributed substantially, driving completed turnover from contracted projects to the tune of RMB312 billion. Newly inked contracts within the same countries reached RMB 367.23 billion constituting 55.3% and 49.2% of the total, respectively, for that period.



KARACHI: Cobblers are busy in making "Peshawari Chappal" at their working area in Lee-Market of Provincial Capital.

ICCI calls for addressing issues of hotel industry to facilitate its growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Vice Chairman of Pakistan Hotels Association Mian Akram Farid visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) here Saturday and discussed the key issues of the hotel industry with ICCI Office Bearers for their redress.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said that the government should address the key issues of the hotel industry to facilitate its better growth that would enable it to create more jobs.

He said that the hotel industry is an important source of revenue generation for the country, while 5 to 6 million people are associated with the hotel industry.

He said that since 1990s, no new big hotel chain has come to Pakistan due to lack of a national tourism policy and a consistent policy

framework for the government for the hotel industry.

He said that the government can generate more revenue by creating a favourable environment for this industry and solving its major issues.

Mian Akram Farid stressed that the government should abolish the import/regulatory duty on the import of machinery and other items for the hotel industry as these duties have increased the cost of doing business manifold.

He said that according to the current market rate, the land prices have increased many times while imposition of various taxes and levies on the hotel industry has created further problems.

He said that the bulk of the capital is spent on the purchase of land for hotels and stressed that the land should be provided this industry at government rates.

TDAP organizes Pakistan Mango Festival in China

URUMQI (Online): Ministry of Commerce through Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) organized Pakistan Mango Festival at the China Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo-2023 on 17th August 2023 in Urumqi, China.

The Festival was jointly inaugurated by Governor of Xinjiang, Senator Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan and Professor Ahsan Iqbal former Federal Minister. At the Festival, the Pakistani growers introduced a new variety of white Chaunsa at the Pakistan Pavilion.

Senator Mahmood-ul-Hassan shared with the audience that the "Mango diplomacy" has played a historical role in developing Pakistan's economy by providing the much-needed infrastructure and energy projects at the time when Pakistan needed them the most. He said that the 10th anniversary of CPEC is a landmark occasion.

Professors Ahsan Iqbal, former Federal Minister lauded the efforts of the organizers for hosting the Festival which lent an opportunity to Pakistan to exhibit Pakistani mangoes. He further expressed the importance of CPEC under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. He added that the CPEC has transformed Pakistan's economy by providing the much-needed infrastructure and energy projects at the time when Pakistan needed them the most. He said that the 10th anniversary of CPEC is a landmark occasion.



LAHORE: Labourers busy in loading sacks of rice after drying in the field.

US salutes 'new era' of united Tokyo, Seoul in face of China

Monitoring Desk
CAMP DAVID: US President Joe Biden and the leaders of Japan and South Korea said they saw a "new chapter" with greater three-way security cooperation as they met for a first-of-a-kind summit.

Going tieless in the Camp David presidential retreat, Biden praised the "political courage" of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in turning the page on historical animosity.

"Our countries are stronger — and the world will be safer — as we stand together. I know that's a belief that we all three share," he told them as he opened the talks.

Biden said the three would pursue "this new era of cooperation and renew our resolve to serve as a force of good across the Indo-Pacific and, quite frankly, around the world."

In a joint statement, the three leaders said they opposed the "dangerous and aggressive behaviour" by China as it exerts itself in maritime disputes in the East and South China Sea. "We strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the waters of the Indo-Pacific," it said.

The two treaty-bound US allies largely see eye to eye on the world — and together are the base for some 84,500 US troops — but such a summit would have been unthinkable until recently due to the legacy of Japan's harsh 1910-1945

occupation of the Korean peninsula.

Biden, Yoon and Fumio Kishida will agree to a multiyear plan of regular exercises in all domains, going beyond one-off drills in response to North Korea, and will announce a "commitment to consult" during crises, said Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser.

The summit aims to institutionalise three-way cooperation to make it difficult for any reversal by a future leader — a South Korean president who again seizes on hostility with Japan or, potentially, a return of Donald Trump, who has disparaged US troop commitments overseas as wasteful. Yoon's embrace of Japan has drawn relatively muted protests at home.



Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman meets with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

W. Africa military chiefs prepare possible Niger mission

Monitoring Desk
ACCRA: West African military chiefs held a second day of talks in Ghana on Friday, preparing for a possible armed intervention in Niger after a coup there ousted President Mohamed Bazoum.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has agreed to activate a "standby force" as a last resort to restore democracy in Niger after generals toppled and detained Bazoum last month.

ECOWAS defence chiefs were meeting in the Ghanaian capital Accra to fine tune details of the potential military operation to restore Bazoum if ongoing negotiations with coup leaders fail.

"Let no one be in doubt that if everything else fails the valiant forces of

Fighting spreads to Sudan's south, stirs fears of catastrophe

Monitoring Desk
WAD MADANI: Fighting between two rival generals spread to cities in war-ravaged Sudan's south on Friday, raising concerns for hundreds of thousands who have fled violence in the Darfur region.

The vast western region has seen some of the worst bloodshed since the conflict erupted on April 15 between the army under General Abdel Fattah el-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

Battles resumed in the North Darfur state capital of El Fasher, witnesses said, disrupting nearly two months of calm in the densely populated city that has become a shelter from the shelling, looting, rapes and summary executions reported in other parts of Darfur.

"This is the biggest gathering of civilians displaced in Darfur, with 600,000 people in El Fasher," said Nathaniel Raymond of the Humanitarian Research Lab at the Yale School of Public Health.

Japanese turn to wearable tech to beat the heat

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Selling jackets with built-in fans, neck coolers and T-shirts that feel cold, Japanese firms are tapping into a growing market for products to help people handle the summer heat. Japan — like other countries — is seeing ever-hotter summers. This July was the warmest in 100 years, with at least 53 people dying of heatstroke and almost 50,000 needing emergency medical attention.

Workman, which makes clothes for construction workers, launched a version of their fan-fitted jackets adapted for the high street in 2020 as demand grew. The mechanism is simple — two electric, palm-sized fans powered by a rechargeable battery are fitted into the back of the jacket. They draw in air to then deliver a breeze — at variable speeds — onto the wearer's body.

The jackets retail for

North Korea scrambled warplanes after U.S. spy aircraft approached - KCNA

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea's military said it had scrambled warplanes after a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft intruded into its economic zone off its east coast, state news agency KCNA reported on Friday. The incident, which occurred on Thursday, was "a dangerous military provocation" and North Korea was considering measures to deter future incursions, an unnamed spokesperson of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army said in the report.



Young women using portable fans to seek relief from the heat while walking outside Shinjuku station, as temperatures of 35C-plus (95F) have scorched the Japanese capital Tokyo for weeks.



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio hold a joint news conference following three-way talks at Camp David in Camp David, Maryland.

China holds military drills near Taiwan after vice president's US visit

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China launched a series of military exercises around Taiwan as an angry response towards the island's separatist forces, after the recent visit of Taiwan's Vice President William Lai to the United States.

China regards Taiwan as its own territory, and Beijing hasn't ruled out using force to seize control of the democratic, self-governing island, which has support from the US.

During recent years, Beijing has increased military activities close to the island as a reaction to what it considers "collusion" between Taipei and Washington. The military drills were

called a "stern warning" to separatist opponent forces of China on the island state, reported Al Jazeera.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Eastern Theatre Command, responsible for the area around Taiwan, said in a brief statement on Saturday morning that it was carrying out joint naval and air combat readiness patrols around Taiwan.

The PLA would be holding joint naval and air force exercises focused on subjects such as ship-aircraft coordination to test seizing control of air and sea spaces, and "actual combat capabilities", the eastern theatre command added.

"The armed forces' ability to fight in real combat conditions will be tested", a spokesperson for the eastern command told China's state-run Xinhua news.

"The patrols and exercises serve as a stern warning to the collusion of Taiwan independence separatists with foreign elements and their provocations," the spokesperson said.

On Saturday, Taiwan's defence ministry fiercely denounced China's most recent military exercises close to the island, declaring that it will send the necessary forces to retaliate and that it had the capability, desire, and confidence to maintain national security.

Russia says destroys drones in Moscow, Black Sea

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian forces destroyed Ukrainian drones targeting Moscow and its Black Sea Fleet, officials said Friday, the latest in a surge of attacks on the capital and the flashpoint waterway.

The drone assaults came as a Russian-proxy official confirmed speculation that Ukrainian forces had breached the left bank of the Dnipro river, the de facto frontline in the south of the country.

Russia's defence ministry said its air force downed a Ukrainian drone over the capital at about 04:00 (0100 GMT) on Friday. "The UAV, after being exposed to air defence weapons, changed its flight path and fell on a non-residential building in the Krasnopresnenskaya embankment area of Moscow," the ministry said.

Moscow's mayor said emergency services were on the scene, but that early reports indicated there were no casualties. "The wreckage of the UAV fell in the area of the Expo Centre, and did not cause significant damage to the building," Sergei Sobyannin said on social media. The walls of the venue's pavilion had partially collapsed, AFP journalists on the scene reported.

Thai ex-PM Thaksin to return from exile amid political deadlock

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Thailand's self-exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra plans to return to the country on Tuesday, his daughter said, as the country is struggling to overcome a political deadlock after a May national election.

The former telecommunications tycoon, premier from 2001 until he was ousted in a 2006 coup, lives in self-imposed exile after fleeing Thailand to avoid a jail sentence for graft in 2008. He would still be subject to jail upon a return.

In a social media post on Saturday, Thaksin's youngest daughter, Paetongtarn Shinawatra,



ECOWAS Committee of Chiefs of Defense staff brief the press on plans to deploy its standby force to the Republic of Niger, in Accra, Ghana.

UN peacekeepers hurt in Cyprus buffer zone clash with Turkish forces

Monitoring Desk
NICOSIA: Scuffles broke out between United Nations peacekeepers and Turkish Cypriot security forces in ethnically split Cyprus on Friday over unauthorised construction work in an area under U.N. control, the peacekeeping mission said.

U.N. peacekeepers were manhandled by personnel in Turkish Cypriot police and military uniforms, a witness said. Turkish Cypriot bulldozers had moved U.N. trucks, cement ballards and barbed wire in the United Nations-administered buffer zone splitting the island. The incident occurred in an area known as Sector 4, under control of a Slovakian military contingent. It was reinforced by British peacekeepers.

A spokesperson for the U.N. mission said three peacekeepers were seriously injured and required hospitalisation. "One was kicked to the ground," the spokesperson, Aleem Siddique, said. No shots were fired, however.

Friday's incident was condemned by the United States, Britain and France, three of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Over 2,400 killed in Haiti gang violence since January: UN

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: More than 2,400 people have been killed in Haiti since the start of 2023 amid rampant gang violence, including hundreds killed in lynchings by vigilante mobs, the UN said Friday.

The toll comes as clashes in Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince this week left 30 residents dead and more than a dozen wounded. "Between January 1 and August 15 of this year, at least 2,439 people have been killed and a further 902 injured," UN rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told.

Wildfire grips another region in Canada

Monitoring Desk
YELLOWKNIFE: A massive wildfire in Canada's western province of British Columbia prompted evacuation orders early on Friday while residents from the remote northern city of Yellowknife scrambled to get out of town before flames block their exit.

A state of emergency was declared early on Friday in Kelowna, a city some 300km east of Vancouver with a population of about 150,000. The Pacific province says the next 24 to 48 hours could be the most difficult.

Some of the hills around the city blazed in the pre-dawn light after wildfires that had been burning since Tuesday jumped Lake Okanagan and spread into parts of Kelowna. "Residents under Evacuation Alert are advised to be ready to leave their home at a moment's notice," the city said in a statement, adding that people should prepare to be away from their home for an extended period.

Some 1,425km to the northeast, the massive blaze threatening Yellowknife, the Northwest Territories' capital city, made little progress on Thursday, but changing winds meant it could reach the outskirts by the weekend.

Putin meets top generals in charge of Russia's war efforts in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin visited the commander of Russia's operation in Ukraine and other top military brass, the Kremlin said on Saturday, a meeting that came after Ukraine claimed counteroffensive gains on the south-eastern front. "Vladimir Putin held a meeting at the headquarters of the special military operation group in Rostov-on-Don," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Russia, which launched its invasion in Ukraine in February 2022, calls its actions a special military operation. The Kremlin added that Putin, Russia's supreme commander-in-chief, listened to reports from Valery Gerasimov, the chief of the General Staff of the Army in charge of Moscow's operations in Ukraine, and other top military commanders and officers. The meeting came after Ukraine, whose counteroffensive to recapture land taken by Russia in the first months of the war has been slower than expected, said it liberated a small village along the frontline, its first since July.

The Kremlin did not provide any additional details of the meeting and it was not clear when the meeting took place. Videos published by the RIA state news agency showed Gerasimov greeting Putin in what appeared to be night-time and leading him into a building after a brief handshake. Gerasimov, who has been seen rarely in public in recent months, had been the target of savage criticism from Wagner mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin and some Russian military bloggers over Russia's failings in the war.

China's defense minister promises to boost cooperation with Russian ally Belarus

Monitoring Desk
TALLINN: Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu on Thursday visited Belarus and said his country would increase military cooperation with Russia's neighbor and ally, where Moscow is deploying tactical nuclear weapons.

Shangfu met with strongman President Alexander Lukashenko in Minsk and said "the purpose of my visit to Belarus is precisely the implementation of important agreements at the level of heads of state and the further strengthening of bilateral military cooperation."

Neither side gave details of what the cooperation will entail, but the two countries have agreed to hold joint military exercises next year.

Li visited Russia just before going to Belarus. Russian troops that were deployed in Belarus were part of Russia's invading force in Ukraine and

Japan's Fukushima water release plan fuels fear despite IAEA backing

Monitoring Desk
FUKUSHIMA: Japan plans to release more than 1 million metric tonnes of treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean by the end of August. After years of debate, and despite a green light from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the plan continues to stoke fears among the local population and in nearby countries.

Twelve years after the triple catastrophe — earthquake, tsunami, reactor meltdown — that struck the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station in 2011, Japan is preparing to release part of the treated wastewater from the stricken plant into the Pacific Ocean this month. A recent article from the daily Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun revealed the upcoming release without specifying a date.

The release of contaminated water by the Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) has been on the cards since 2018 but it was repeatedly postponed until it finally received endorsement from the International Atomic Energy Agency in early July. After a two-year review, five review missions to Japan, six technical reports and five missions on the ground, the international nuclear watchdog said the discharges of the treated water were consistent with the agency's safety standards, with "negligible radiological impact to people and the environment".

The green light, which cleared the path for the completion of the project, was greeted with scepticism by some members of the scientific community and with animosity by many local fishermen who fear that consumers will shun their products.

Storage capacities reaching their limit

On March 11, 2011, the three reactor cores of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant experienced a meltdown.

FEMA has paid out more than \$5.6 million to Maui survivors, a figure expected to grow significantly

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: The Federal Emergency Management Agency said Friday it has approved more than \$5.6 million in assistance to nearly 2,000 households in Maui so far as the federal government tries to help survivors of the devastating wildfires.

The White House and FEMA approved a one-time payment of \$700 per household for needs like clothing, food, or transportation. The agency will also pay to put survivors up in hotels and motels and says it has paid out \$1.6 million in rental assistance as of Friday.

The amounts are expected to grow significantly. Estimates are that thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed in the fire, which consumed much of historic community of Lahaina. In the wake of the Northern California wildfire in 2018, which decimated the city of Paradise, FEMA paid out \$238 million in assistance.

FEMA said Wednesday that it will open a disaster recovery center in Maui in order to better and more quickly facilitate the distribution of aid.

Survivors need to register with FEMA to be eligible for the payout and other assistance. Roughly 4,400 Hawaii fire survivors have applied for so-called critical need assistance as of Wednesday afternoon, according to Jeremy M. Edwards, press secretary for FEMA.

Longer-term aid that could amount to thousands or tens of thousands of dollars will likely come with documentation requirements.

Besides the hotel and motel programs and rental assistance, FEMA is offering Hawaii fire survivors home repair and personal property reimbursements and other needs that may not be covered by insurance, Edwards said.

I will live and die with Pakistan: Nawaz Sharif

MANAWALA (Online): PML-N former Prime Minister (PM) Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that my heart beats with 24 crore people. I will live and die with Pakistan and soon I will be there among my people in Pakistan.

PML-N will win the next elections and form the government. Former selected puppet captain and clumsy troupe caused irreparable damage to country and consequences of which will be borne by the coming generations. The uncontrollable inflation is due to PTI poor policies.

Former PM Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif expressed his views in meeting with PML-N expected candidate Khan Jahanzaib Khan from PP-142 Sheikhupura and his father Advocate Haji Mohammad Aurangzeb

Khan in London.

He said to Haji and Aurangzeb that I will fulfill the promise which I made with you.

As you have always been loyal to me, whether it was the election of 1990 or the martial law of 1993 or 1999, you have always stood by me like a rock.

Old friends like you are assets of PML-N. They are my arm who supported PML-N in every difficult time.

PML-N Expected candidate Khan Jahanzaib Khan from PP-142 conveyed the loving message of the people of his constituency to Mian Nawaz Sharif.

While presenting a bouquet of flowers and expressed his determination to welcome Nawaz Sharif on his return home along with a convoy of hundreds of vehicles.



President Pakistan Peoples Party Balochistan Mir Changez Khan Jamali meeting with party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House

Elections on basis of old delimitations would be unconstitutional: Rana

LAHORE (INP): Amid the ongoing controversy over the 90-day limit, PML-N Punjab President Rana Sanaullah said general elections were to be held in February and any polls on the basis of old delimitations would be unconstitutional.

Expressing his views in a programme hosted by a private TV channel, the seasoned politician said they respected the objection raised by the PPP over the delay in elections but the notifying the census results meant that the delimitation had to be carried out on the basis of that.

It was a constitutional obligation that the fresh elections after 2018 would be organised according to the latest census, Rana Sana said.

Delimitation was a constitutional requirement, he made it clear and added that elections could not be held without fulfilling the

same.

He also told the TV channel that the PPP should have had complete understanding of the constitutional scheme. "Should we conclude that the PPP did not have any knowledge about Clause V of Article 51?" the PML-N leader questioned. Rana Sana went on to say that the census was notified with consensus [as the PPP was a part of the government and the cabinet while also being represented by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah in the CCI (Council of Common Interests)].

The census issue, he said, had been going on for the last six years and the PPP was in the CCI during that period.

However, the PML-N also explained his personal point of view that he supported the idea of holding elections within 60 days, not 90.



FAISALABAD: Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council & President International Faith Harmony Council Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi is visiting to Christian Colony Jaranwala.

Imran used to say he wants to bring revolution against army: Khattak

PESHAWAR (Online): Pervaiz Khattak, head of PTI Parliamentarians said that Chairman PTI wanted to run the entire country sitting in Islamabad and he said that he wanted to bring revolution against the army.

In a statement, PTI Parliamentarians chief Pervaiz Khattak said that I have 35 to 40 electable with me at the moment and there

are also other people in contact with me but I have rejected entry of seven people.

He said that the electable have their votes, Chairman PTI will come to know in the elections.

Pervaiz Khattak said that the elections should be held in February in any case and if the matter goes to the courts then the elections can go beyond February.

Tarar inspects Hazara Motorway, M.1, orders safety improvements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Communications Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar Saturday visited Hazara Motorway and M.1 and issued instructions for keeping the motorways in the best condition. He gave a 10-day deadline to the concerned officials while expressing his indignation over the non-cleaning of green belts and the non-sorting of waste. The minister also issued instructions for the installation of new signboards at various points as required.

He expressed his displeasure over potholes at various places on the national highway and directed

immediate repairs. To avoid accidents on the motorways, anti-glare screens should be repaired immediately, he added.

The minister directed the installation of safety fences at several places on the motorways. The full presence and sustainability of the security fence should be ensured, he added.

He gave a one-month deadline for the delay of work on under construction rest area near Shah Maqsood on Hazara Motorway 35-E.

He also directed to open mosques and restrooms for passengers after completion of construction work.



ISLAMABAD: Nawabzada Jamal Raisani calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Prominent politicians from Balochistan were also present in the meeting.

Chairman Senate says: Next general election to be held on time after completion of delimitation process

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Saturday affirmed that next general elections would be conducted on time immediately after the completion of delimitation process on the basis of new census.

While talking to media at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Chairman Senate said that PDM coalition government was consisted of almost all the political parties that had taken decisions in this regard.

The previous coalition government in the Council of Common Interests, also granted approval to the census 2023 being

cognizant of the constitutional requirement of delimitation of electoral constituencies on the basis of new census data, he recalled adding that now Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would carry out delimitation process on the basis of new census.

As soon as delimitation exercise is completed, the ECP would announce the date for next general election, he maintained reiterating that next general election would take place and on the right time as the ECP would conduct the elections and the nation should remain contented.

The Upper House of the parliament is present as

the representative of all the federating units of Pakistan and it will continue working to ensure the rights of all the four provinces of the country during the tenure of the caretaker government, Sanjrani stated.

Senate is a constitutional body and it does not have executive authority but senators as representatives of the people were effectively raising their voice on the issues concerning the country and the nation while as chairman of the Upper House he was also playing his role, the Senate Chairman said. Responding to a query on the election of the President, the Chairman Senate said that though

the tenure of the incumbent president was being completed on September 09, 2023, the constitution provides for continuity of the outgoing president till the election of the new president. He added that following the general election in the country, the electoral college for the presidential election would come into being with the formation of National and provincial assemblies and the election for the next president would also be conducted subsequently as well. Pakistan is on the path of democratic progress and it will keep moving forward and things will improve day by day.

Jamali grieved over demise of wife of Qadir Baloch

QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali has expressed grief and sorrow over demise of wife of former Governor, Lt General (Retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch.

In a condolence statement issued here on Saturday, the Speaker said that we share the grief with the bereaved family of the former Governor.

Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into His eternal peace and give enough patience and strength to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss.

Rahim Kakar his two sons acquitted

QUETTA (Online): PTI leader and former mayor Quetta, Rahim Kakar and his two sons have been acquitted.

Justice Ijaz Swati of Balochistan High Court (BHC) while hearing the case acquitted Rahim Kakar and his two sons advocate Umar Farooq Kakar and Abdullah Kakar in MPO-3 case.

The case was persuaded by SC lawyer and president ILF Balochistan Syed Iqbal Shah advocate.

It is pertinent to mention here Quetta Civil Lines police have arrested PTI leader and his two sons on August 6 for blocking roads and staging protest.

Riffat posted as IG Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Riffat Mukhtar, an officer of Police Service of Pakistan (BS-21) was posted as Provincial Police Officer (IGP) Sindh vice Ghulam Nabi Memon transferred.

According to notification issued by the Establishment Division, Riffat Mukhtar, presently serving under Punjab Government has been posted as Inspector General Police Sindh with immediate effect and until further orders while Ghulam Nabi Memon was transferred and directed to report to Establishment Division.

Massive increase in flour prices at USC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Caretaker Government has massively increased the flour prices at Utility Stores across Pakistan.

As per details, the price of 20kg flour bag has increased by Rs1544 whereas the 10kg has been hiked by Rs772 in Utility Stores.

After the increase, the 20kg flour price has reached from Rs1296 to Rs2840 whereas the 10kg bag price has been jacked up to Rs1420.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presenting traditional carpet to Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili during a farewell dinner hosted in his honour

20-member committee to review Jaranwala incident, supervise rehabilitation: Tahir Ashrafi

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman and International Faith Harmony Council President Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said that Pakistan Ulama Council had decided to form a 20-member committee with Christian leaders to review the Jaranwala tragedy from all the aspects in addition to supervise the restoration and rehabilitation work of the affected houses, buildings and churches of Christians.

Talking to media persons in a press conference at Jaranwala on Saturday, he said the incident was not an attack on the Christians but it was an attack on Pakistanis. "The attackers have shamed us for which I apologize to the Christians of all over the world including Pakistan", he added.

He said, "I was traveling when I saw the pictures of Christian daughters spending the night in the fields. The tears came out from my eyes as I felt that these were not Christian daughters but these were my own daughters". He said that the Christian and Muslim leaders had equally condemned the Jaranwala incident as it was the worst example of terror and horror. He, however, appreciated the role of those Pakistanis and Muslims who tried to save Christian resi-

dences and churches on August 16 and said that now a 20-member committee would be formed. "I and Bishop Azad Marshall will supervise the committee which would work to review all aspects of the incident in addition to rehabilitation work on a daily basis." The lawyers would also be included in this committee to investigate the tragedy from the legal point of view, he said and added that the committee would also investigate that why such incidents occur after every two or three months. He, however, expressed his dismay that if the perpetrators of Joseph Colony and other incidents.



QUETTA: Former Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar meeting with senior politician and former Senator Nawabzada Haji Mir Lashkari Khan Raisani at Sarawan House

Jaranwala Incident: Punjab IG see RAW's hand behind

GUJRANWALA (INP): A Christian leader on Saturday said that the Inspector General (IG) Punjab has claimed that the Indian secret agency 'RAW' is behind the ugly incident that occurred in Jaranwala.

According to the details, Christian leaders expressed gratitude to scholars and the Pakistani state during a press conference after the Jaranwala incident.

The Christian leader stated that the Punjab IG mentioned a conspiracy by RAW in the Jaranwala incident, he added that if there

is any foreign conspiracy to spark the riot, it should be thoroughly investigated. The Christian leader also mentioned that India should protect its minorities, put stop in the killing of Kashmiris.

"Our religion teaches respect for all faiths," the Christian leader said.

Christian leaders demanded that a comprehensive investigation be conducted into the Jaranwala incident, highlighting the significant role the Christian community has always played in building and preserving Pakistan.

CTD arrests 13 terrorists, including 3 main Daesh commanders

LAHORE (INP): Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Saturday apprehended 13 terrorists including three main commanders of Daesh. CTD conducted an intelligence-based operation in various districts of Punjab including Lahore, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Chiniot, Kasur, Multan, and Mandi Bahauddin. According to a statement by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Spokesman, the arrested terrorist was planning dangerous activities.

During the operation, a substantial cache of arms and ammunitions including explosive materials, detonators, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), fuses, and a substantial amount of cash, was recovered from the apprehended terrorists.

The CTD launched a thorough investigation into the matter, filing cases against the detained individuals.

AJK President urges global action against HRs abuses in IIOJK

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has called upon the international community to intensify efforts to halt state terrorism and human rights violations in the Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) State.

Speaking during a meeting with prominent thinker and writer Nida Jamal at the Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis, President AJK stressed the urgency for international human rights organizations to take effective notice of the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian-held territory, coinciding with World Humanitarian Day on August 19.

Expressing deep con-

cern over the global community's lack of action in addressing the suffering of the Kashmiri people, President criticized the world's failure to curb bloodshed and violence in the occupied region.

He lamented the discrepancy between the efforts invested in resolving other global disputes and the insufficient attention given to the Kashmir issue.

President urged entities such as the United Nations Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International to play a more active role in ending the ongoing human rights abuses in Indian-Occupied Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of resolving the longstanding dispute peacefully, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George visiting Jinnah House.

SC requested to take stern action against Jaranwala church attackers

ISLAMABAD (INP): A petition was moved in the Supreme Court demanding action over the Jaranwala tragedy in which 20 churches and dozens of homes belonging to the Christian community were ransacked. The single-page application was moved by the Voice of Christians International (VCI) under Order 33 Rule 6 of the Supreme Court Rules 1980.

VCI Director for Human Rights Samuel Makson urged the top court to take action against the culprits involved in the unfortunate incident. "The churches, Holy Bibles and residences of Christian community were burnt on Aug 16 in the gruesome incident," said the applicant. He added that a case related to the implementation of a 2014 judgement regarding minorities' rights is also pending with the apex court.

The Supreme Court gave a ruling in 2014 that the law enforcement agen-

cies would register criminal cases for desecrating the places of worship of minorities or violation of any of their rights guaranteed under the law.

The federal government was also asked to ensure that the hate speech was discouraged on social media, according to the SC verdict. It was also directed in the 32-page judgement that a national council for minority rights must be formed. The verdict had come on suo motu notice taken in Sept 2013 over Peshawar church bomb attack which claimed 81 lives.

Meanwhile, the religious scholars hailing from all the sects have termed the Jaranwala incident against the teachings of Islam. "A high-level inquiry commission should be constituted to probe the tragedy and government must take stern action against the culprits," Central Ruet-i-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abul Khabir Azad said.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited a hospital to meet and enquire after the health of Former Provincial Minister Mir Sarfraz Chakar.

Qureshi raises concerns about election delay tactics in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Vice-Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Shah Mahmood Qureshi, expressed strong condemnation on Saturday regarding the actions taken against party leader Usman Dar and his family. Qureshi voiced his outrage over the eviction of Dar's children and family members during the late hours of the night.

He also highlighted the sealing of Usman Dar's factory and property, deeming these actions highly condemnable.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he questioned the motives behind such actions, directing his concerns toward Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar. He emphasized the importance of creating a conducive environment for upcoming elections and urged Kakar to fulfill his role accordingly.

Qureshi firmly refuted any propaganda targeting PTI and dismissed claims

of internal party divisions, labeling them as false rumors spread by certain media outlets. He unequivocally asserted that Imran Khan remains, and will continue to be, the chairman of PTI. He expressed his faith in Imran Khan's 27-year-long struggle, considering it a valuable commitment held within the core committee.

Expressing hope for Imran Khan's release, Qureshi underscored the significance of holding timely elections as mandated by the Constitution. He cautioned that failure to hold elections within 90 days would constitute a grave violation.

Qureshi pointed out a legal flaw in the composition of the CCI due to the presence of two interim chief ministers. He mentioned that the Pakistan Bar Council issued a press release while the Supreme Court Bar Association approached the Supreme Court in favor of timely elections.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Sheikh Jaffar Khan Kandokhail, former Senator Saeedul Hassan Mandokhail and others meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki