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PM directs to accelerate execution of identified projects under SIFC

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

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

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

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

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

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

synergy.

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

The Apex Committee expressed confidence on SIFC initiatives and displayed its resolve and support in maintaining positive trajectory towards the revival of country's

economy.

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

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



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



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

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

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

He said that the artificial intelligence is affecting the economy and human behaviours very fast. Therefore, it is necessary for us to meet the modern needs of the ever changing world.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to the Vice Chancellor, University of Gwadar, Professor Dr. Abdul Razzaq

Sabir, who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

While speaking to the Vice Chancellor, the Governor said that thousands of people of Balochistan are forced to work hard away from their families.

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

tant, he maintained.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, government employees and businessmen also registered

their protest against the inflated electricity bills. They demanded that facility of free electricity to officers should be withdrawn.

The members of Wasa Phool Union also protested in the offices against the increase in electricity bills.

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

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



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

Jan Achakzai assures every possible efforts for welfare of journalists

Independent Report

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

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

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

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

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Infor-

mation said that media persons are his companions, and his heart beats with them.

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

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

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

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

Power ministry finalises proposals on inflated bills

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

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

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

According to the state-

ment, the ministry has formulated the recommendations regarding the issue which will be presented during the federal cabinet meeting for final approval tomorrow.

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

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

The committee met here under the chair of Senator Saifullah Abro also

asked about the 'Capacity Charges' which are being paid to Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee questioned about the electricity theft and electricity subsidy for the current financial year. The officials stated that approximately Rs.467 billion worth electricity theft and around Rs. 976 billion electric subsidy has been provided in the financial year 2023.

Senator Saifullah Abro lambasted the IPPs and attributed them as the primary reason behind the unjustified electricity costs.

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Caretaker CM reaches Karachi on brief visit

Independent Report

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

During the stay in Karachi, Ali Mardan Khan Domki would meet the former Chief Minister, Jam Kamal Khan and other personalities.

It may be mentioned here the caretaker Chief Minister went to Islamabad from Quetta a couple of days back. From Islamabad, Mr. Domki reached Karachi on Monday.

IHC to announce Toshakhana verdict today

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

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

The IHC will announce the verdict today (Tuesday) at 11am.

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

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

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

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

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar had taken notice of inflated electricity bills,

Solangi said, adding, "We are responsible caretaker government and cannot ignore the issue."

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

The minister resolved that the cabinet would decide in favour of passing on the relief to the masses.

He said the prime minister held a meeting with the relevant stakeholders today too. The media should inform the masses about the reasons behind increase in electricity bills, he said while responding to a query.



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

Inclusion of some ministers and Advisors in caretaker cabinet of Balochistan challenges in BHC

Independent Report
QUETTA: The inclusion of some ministers and advisors in the cabinet of Balochistan has been challenged in the Balochistan High Court (BHC) here on Monday.

The division bench of High Court headed by Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan heard the constitutional petition initially.

The petition was filed on the matter by a citizen namely Bayazeed Khan.

After initial hearing, the High Court issued notices to the Advocate General of Balochistan and Attorney General of Pakistan.

The petitioner's stance was that the caretaker cabinet of the province com-

prised some political, convicted and non-local persons.

It was also pointed out that a political government has been formed in the province instead of caretaker government. He also claimed that some ministers and advisors included in the caretaker cabinet don't meet the criteria under various articles and clauses of the constitution and as such the election would be controversial due to them.

The petitioner also submitted certain proofs along with his petition filed in the High Court.

The BHC has fixed the date of August 30 for regular hearing of the petition.

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

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has quashed the FIR registered against the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi that was lodged with Police Station Bijli road, Quetta under sections 124-A, 153-A, 505 P.P.C r/w section 20 of the Act, 2016.

The court also declared that non-bailable warrants of the petitioner issued by Judicial Magistrate-I, Quetta are without lawful authority and are of no legal effect, and thus the non-bailable warrants are cancelled.

The division bench

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

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

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

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that his success is a big honour for the country.

He also said that the players happen to be the ambassadors of peace everywhere, and the national flag is hoisted in every nook and corner of the world.

The caretaker Chief Minister hoped that Arshad Nadeem would continue to perform in the same manner and get more achievements at the international level brightening the name of country.



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

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

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

damaged by high-level flood last year.

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

He said that the NHA department would utilize all

available resources for the improvement of the high-ways saying that the NA 65 Bolan National Highway was badly affected by heavy rains and high level floods last year and the Pinjra Bridge was completely destroyed.

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

Pak to host UN Peacekeeping Ministerial preparatory meeting on Aug 30-31

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan will host a preparatory meeting of the forthcoming United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Ministerial in Islamabad on August 30-31.

The meeting will be held under the theme of "Safety and Security of UN Peacekeepers."

Japan is co-host of the meeting being held at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), Pakistan's premier training institute offering courses, workshops and seminars to UN peacekeepers from all over the world, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release on Monday.

The foreign minister and the defence minister will deliver keynote addresses at the preparatory meeting.

Member States represented in the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations – comprising

156 countries – will participate along with local and international experts, besides senior officials from the UN Secretariat including the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, and the UN Police advisor will also attend it.

Panel discussions will be held during the two-day meeting on various sub-themes to deliberate on capacity-building needs; safety and security of UN peacekeepers from the perspective of international law; enhancing medical capacity of UN peacekeeping missions; and leveraging technology and strategic communication. The meeting will also feature an expert talk on the threats posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and a briefing on the system of pledging.

The UN Peacekeeping Ministerial is the seminal high-level event for UN peacekeeping, held biennially with the participation of foreign and defence ministers.

The 2023 ministerial will be held in Ghana in December, preceded by a series of four preparatory meetings, including one being hosted by Pakistan, with a focus on specific areas to facilitate concrete outcomes for improving UN peacekeeping operations.

Pakistan is an active player in the field of UN peacekeeping, both at the policy and operational levels. Pakistan is among the largest troop contributors and, since 1960, has contributed over 230,000 men and women peacekeepers to 46 UN peacekeeping missions in almost all continents of the world, the spokesperson said.



ISLAMABAD: Lord Amir Sarfraz called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar

Moonis calls for 'reconciliation' with PTI chief

LONDON (INP): Moonis Elahi son of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf President Parvez Elahi has said reconciliation with the PTI chief is the way to move Pakistan forward from current political and economic turmoil.

This he said in an informal interaction with the journalists in London. The former MNA said Shehbaz Sharif had the opportunity to serve the masses but failed to deliver.

Replying to a question, Moonis Elahi said former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and former finance minister Ishaq Dar remained successful in their 'goals'. Both caused a major dent in the economy, he added. Delay in elections will further dent the

country's already ill economy, he added.

Elahi said inflated electricity bills have made the lives of the masses miserable and asked the government to provide relief to the masses. It may be noted that Moonis Elahi had been declared an absconder over continued absence in the money laundering case by a Lahore district court.

The case against Pervaiz and Moonis includes charges of fraud, money laundering, and corruption. It is alleged that the father-son duo concealed billions of rupees in five Panama-based companies, with Pervaiz Elahi using apparent money laundering techniques to acquire these companies.

Magnitude 5.1 earthquake jolts parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

SWAT, (INP): An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale jolted different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Monday.

The National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) confirmed that tremors were felt in Swat, Lower Dir, Malakand, Kohat, Mardan, Mohmand and adjoining areas.

People came out of their houses in fear by reciting Kalma-e-Tayyaba. No loss is reported as per initial reports.

The epicenter of the earthquake was in the Hindukush mountain range in Afghanistan.

Two policemen killed, three injured in Laki Marwat firing

LAKI MARWAT (APP): Two policemen were killed and three injured in a firing incident that occurred near the Pizoo area of Laki Marwat, police and TV channels reported on Monday.

According to details, unknown assailants opened fire on a police van near the Pizoo area of Laki Marwat, resulting in the killing of two policemen on the spot.

Three injured were taken to a nearby hospital for necessary treatment. A police team rushed to the site and cordoned off the area to arrest the perpetrators behind this gruesome killing. No success has been made so far till the filing of this report. Investigations are underway.



MULTAN: Nepal cricket team arrived for the upcoming First match of Asia Cup 2023 between Pakistan and Nepal teams at Multan Cricket Stadium.

Chinese Consulate approves project for financial support to orphan students of Gwadar

QUETTA (APP): The Chinese Consulate Karachi has approved a project to provide financial support to the orphan students of Gwadar under which 350,000 RMB would be spent.

Balochistan Education Department has compiled a list of 1201 orphan children in Gwadar, said in press release issued here on Monday.

It is reported that two-thirds of the RMB 350,000 will be used to purchase school bags and stationery for students while the remaining amount will be distributed among the orphan students in the form of cash.

China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), District Administration and Education

Department of Gwadar have discussed the method of distribution of money under the project.

The official of Gwadar district administration said that China's diplomatic missions in Pakistan have accelerated socio-economic and human resource development projects in Gwadar with the cooperation of Chinese institutions working in Gwadar.

Up-gradation of schools in Gwadar is also in progress, recently the Chinese Consulate distributed 10,000 free ration bags to the deserving people of Gwadar and most of the recipients belonged to the fishing community.

PCB reveals Star Nation Jersey for ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Star Nation Jersey signifies more than a mere piece of apparel; it embodies the profound connection between Pakistan's cricketing heroes and their steadfast supporters.

The Pakistan Cricket Board unveiled the Star Nation Jersey today at a grand ceremony held at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The ceremony, led by Mr Zaka Ashraf, Chairman of the PCB Management Committee, marked a significant step as the national team prepares for the forthcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.

NHA released..

Continued from page 1 He said that due to lack of funds, traffic flow has been restored by constructing a temporary passage on Pijra Bridge. The work of the bridge will be started in September next month and will be completed in six months, he said.

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

Committee: "The Star Nation Jersey bears witness to the enduring bond between our cricketers and the passionate fans who stand by them through every match. This jersey encapsulates our rich cricketing heritage and the luminous future that awaits."

Usman Waheed, Director – Commercial: "The Star Nation Jersey isn't just a uniform; it's a canvas woven with stories, sacrifices, and triumphs. Each star on this jersey represents the unwavering support of our fans and the radiant legacy of our cricketing heroes."

Zaka Ashraf, Chairman of the PCB Management



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Zaka Ashraf unveiling the new kit of Pakistan Cricket Team for Asia Cup, during media talk at Gaddafi Stadium in Provincial Capital

Asia's cricket giants square up ahead of WC

COLOMBO (INP): Asia's cricket giants India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will get a final chance to size each other up before October's 50-over World Cup when the Asia Cup begins on Wednesday.

Fiery rivals India and Pakistan could clash as many as three times if they go all the way in the six-nation continental championship. Pakistan and Sri Lanka are co-hosts, a hybrid model agreed after World Cup hosts India refused to tour Pakistan, with the final on Sept 17 in Colombo.

Babar Azam's Pakistan, who became the world's top-ranked ODI team after last week's 3-0 series sweep against Afghanistan, open their campaign at home on Wednesday against Asia Cup debutants Nepal in Multan. Azam, who scored 113 runs in the Afghanistan series, leads a side containing

ing a triple-pronged fast bowling attack in Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf.

World Cup hosts India, led by Rohit Sharma, will open their campaign against Pakistan in a hotly anticipated clash on Saturday in Pallekele. India and Pakistan, who only play against each other in international tournaments due to the countries' long-standing political tensions, are expected to meet again in the Super Four stage and could face off for a third time in the final.

"It's not just Pakistan, there are other teams," Rohit said of the hype surrounding the Pakistan clashes, with the rivals also scheduled to meet in the 50-over World Cup in Ahmedabad on Oct 14. "Sri Lanka won the Asia Cup last year. So there are other teams who are playing good cricket and will challenge us."

Memorable "reunion" of members of Pak-US Alumni Network Quetta chapter held

Independent Report QUETTA: The reunion of Alumni members of the Pak-US Alumni Network Quetta chapter was held here on Monday.

The media persons, teachers, doctors, social activists and members from different other walks of life proceeding USA under various fellowship programmes participated in the reunion.

Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan, Professor Dr. Shafiqur Rehman was chief guest at the event.

Also participated in the event was by the Manager Alumni Affairs, Sindh, US Consulate, Karachi, Ms. Faria Fatima, President, US-Pakistan Alumni Net-

work Quetta chapter, Mir Behram Baloch, Vice President, Salman Khan, Exchange Ambassador, Adeel Lashari, Youth Director, Ms. Saira Batool, former Presidents of Quetta chapter, Gul Khan Naseer Baloch, Qudratullah Shah, Jahangir Khan, Ms. Shazia Langove, Ms. Saira Baloch, Ali Lehri, President of Gwadar chapter, Dr. Adnan Ahmed and others.

He said that Pakistan especially Balochistan is a bouquet of colourful multi cultures of different nationalities and communities living there.

He was of the strong view that Pak-US relations can be promoted by projecting our beautiful culture at the international level. Earlier, speaking on the occasion, Adeel Lashari briefed the participants about the projects successfully completed in different sectors by the alumni members including health, education, sports, protection of women rights, climate change, etc.

He told that members of the Quetta chapter conducted orientation and awareness programmes for

Quetta chapter in order to provide ample opportunities to the young women. An awareness walk was also organized in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Speaking at the reunion, President of the Quetta chapter, Mir Behram Baloch said that it is an excellent opportunity for the alumni members to speak to each other and share their experiences.

He also appreciated the role of US Consulate for making the reunion successful.

The Manager Alumni Affairs Sindh, Balochistan US Consulate, Ms. Faria was also highly appreciative of the Pak-US Alumni Network Quetta chapter



for arranging an excellent reunion of the members. She also informed the participants about becoming part of the Alumni Network by taking part in different fellowship programmes under the US Consulate.

In the end, a cultural music programme was also arranged that enthralled the participants.

The Alumni members and volunteers were also given commemorative shields and certificates for showing excellent performance.

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Power ministry finalises....

Continued from page 1

He pointed out that IPPs have inflated the invoices of three significant power plants, a fact acknowledged by the Secretary of the Power Division. He maintained that unless the IPP issue is resolved, the electricity crisis cannot be effectively tackled.

The Senate body also discussed the public petition of Ashraf Ansari regarding non-payment of group life insurance to retired employees of WAPDA.

The officials informed that Group Life Insurance has been provided in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Civil Servant Retirement Benefit and Death Compensation Act, 2014", however, there is currently no existing Act that serves as a basis for providing Group Life Insurance to the WAPDA employees.

After detailed deliberations, the committee decided to amend the Act to resolve the issue of WAPDA employees.

Moreover, as to the current status of implementations relating to 765kV Dasu - Mansehra - Islamabad T/L (Lot-I) and

consultant M/s GOPA Intec, the officials of Power Division apprised that a Committee to analyse the bidding process of Lot-I and investigate the alleged irregularities of M/s GOPA Intec has been formed and a comprehensive report will be submitted before the committee within a month period time.

The body also discussed 765kV Dasu-Mansehra-Islamabad T/L (Lot-II) in which after detailed deliberations the committee unanimously decided that M/s Harbin Electric International is a disqualified firm for Lot-II and huge irregularities have been found by the body. Power Division may take action against the company and M/s GOPA Intec as per discussion in the previous Committee meeting related to Lot-I.

The meeting was attended by Senators Fida Muhammad, Bahramand Khan Tangi, Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee, Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai, Sana Jamali, Haji Hidayatullah Khan, Asad Ali Khan Junejo, Additional Secretary Power Division Arshad Majeed and other senior officers of relevant departments were also in attendance.

BHC quashes FIR..

Continued from page 1

It was also observed that in this case, registration of FIR, issuance of non-bailable warrants. Investigation of the case and submission of interim challan against the petitioner are the "acts" done by the officer in-charge and Investigating officer of PS Bijli road without lawful authority for the prosecution was launched against the petitioner without complaint made by the order of the federal government or the provincial government or by an officer authorized in this behalf by either of the two governments.

Therefore, constitution petition to review such acts is held competent. Reliance in this regard is placed on the case reported as FIA through Director General, FIA and others vs Syed Hamid Ali Shah and others (PLD 2023 SC 265).



QUETTA: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam

PTI rally organisers booked in seven cases in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Seven cases were registered on Monday against those who took out a rally of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Karachi.

The cases were registered at Malir, Korangi, Sharqi, Malir city, Khokhrapar, Tipu Sultan, Brigade, Soldier Bazaar and Bahadurabad police stations.

Provisions such as violating Section 144 and spreading disorder were included in the cases.

The arrested and absconding accused were nominated in the cases, police said.

10 people were nominated in cases at Bahadurabad police sta-

tion, 15 at Brigade, 17 at Tipu Sultan, seven at Soldier Bazaar, eight at Malir city and 23 at Khokhrapar police stations.

"The participants of the rally continued to cause traffic jams on various highways," the text of the cases read.

"The cases have been registered on the government's complaint," police said.

It is to be noted here that Karachi police detained several members of the PTI on Sunday who had reached the city's Numaish Chowangi area while participating in a bike rally organised to express solidarity with incarcerated PTI chief Imran Khan.

Mashal urges world to hold India accountable for rights violations in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Human Rights Minister Mashal Malik Monday urged that the international community should hold India accountable for human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Kashmiris must be given the right to decide for their fate like all other nations," she said while talking to a Private news channel.

"India has to respect democracy, the United Nations (UN) resolution, and the will of the people, she said, adding, that the time is not far when India will become the victim of its own agenda and aggressive policies."

She further said, "The permanent members of the

UNSC and the civilized world must play a role to ensure the smooth implementation of the UN resolutions on the Kashmir dispute."

Minister said, "Kashmiris have been struggling to get their right to self-determination for the last many decades as per UN charter, adding, that this struggle will continue until and unless the Kashmiris are given the right of plebiscite."

"The International community is well aware of the importance of the Kashmir issue in the region and also aware of Indian atrocities on innocent Kashmiris," she said.

"Unfortunately, the world is hesitant to force

India to stop its aggression in the occupied valley," she added.

"The entire Hurriyet leadership is under house arrest, she said.

"The Kashmir valley has turned into the largest prison in the world," she added.

"The world needs to take concrete measures and force India to stop its human rights violations in the valley," she said.

"Sooner or later, the Kashmiris will get their fundamental right to self-determination."

Replying to a question, she said, "Pakistan will remain firm on its stand on Kashmir and will continue to support the Kashmir cause at all international forums."



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting to review Governance related matters.

Issues of police employees to be addressed on priority: ICCPO

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan on Monday said that the Islamabad police would leave no stone unturned to ensure protection to the lives and property of the citizens and all issues of its employees would be addressed on priority to boost the morale of the force.

He convened a significant gathering at the Police Line Headquarters. This gathering, known as the "police darbar," saw the active participation of male and female police officers, as well as employees representing various divisions of the Islamabad Capital Police.

During the Darbar, attended by Chief Police Officers (CPOs), Assistant Inspector Generals (AIGs), Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), Superintendents of Police (SPs), Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), and Station House Officers (SHOs),

officers had the opportunity to raise both personal and official concerns before the police chief Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan.

Immediate resolutions were provided for some of the issues presented during the gathering, underlining the commitment to swiftly address the challenges faced by the police force.

Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized the importance of maintaining high morale among the police force and reminded officers of their unique responsibility as chosen individuals, stating, "Allah has chosen you out of millions to serve the people. You should use these powers for the pleasure of Allah and the protection of your citizens."

Islamabad police chief also highlighted ongoing measures taken to enhance the welfare of police employees. These include agreements with various institutions to provide top-notch educational and medical facilities to the families

of police personnel.

Additionally, modern facilities are being introduced at the police lines headquarters, and the construction of the National Police Hospital is underway. Promoting a fair and efficient promotion system, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan assured that all pending promotions would be expedited, as he reaffirmed, "Promotion is your fundamental right. If you face any challenges, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office doors are always open for you."

In closing, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan encouraged officers and young recruits to work diligently and with dedication. He vowed to continue supporting their efforts and reminded them of their pivotal role in enhancing the city's well-being. He said, "If you are strong, your commander will be strong. You represent an excellent force. Treat your uniform as your pride and wear it with honor."



ISLAMABAD: Former Mayor of Karachi Farooq Sattar is talking to media persons along with others outside Election Commission of Pakistan in Federal Capital.

HEC announces Scholarship Program for students of GB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced a Scholarship Program for students of Gilgit-Baltistan to study in top Pakistani universities or institutions.

According to an official of HEC, the applications have been invited from outstanding students of Gilgit-Baltistan who intend to pursue undergraduate studies (four/five years BS programs) from HEC recognized public sector universities/degree awarding institutions (DAIs).

The scholarships are being offered for the academic year 2023-24 in all areas of study or disciplines under the project titled, "Undergraduate Scholarship Program for the Students of Gilgit-Baltistan in Top Pakistani Universities/Institutions (Batch-III)".

About the eligibility criteria, the official informed that the applicants must domicile or local certificate of Gilgit-Baltistan and have completed Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) Equivalent.

The award of scholarship will be purely merit-based and irrespective of gender, caste, race and religion. The applicant can apply to any Public Sector University/Institution of Pakistan however, any expenditure over and above the cost given in Project PC-I.

years as on closing date of application submission. The candidates will have to meet HEC and university criteria for admission in BS programs. About the scholarship program, the official revealed that the scholarship will cover tuition fee, hostel fee and other charges—maximum Rs. 240,000 per year, stipend of Rs. 15,000 per month and books and traveling allowances of Rs. 30,000 per annum.

The candidates will be shortlisted based on their scores in Aptitude Test (to be conducted by Education Testing Council, HEC) and academic credentials in which the candidates must secure at least 50 percent marks. The students already enrolled in any BS Program in public sector universities/institutions prior to the advertisement or announcement (maximum one academic year/session) may also apply.

The award of scholarship will be purely merit-based and irrespective of gender, caste, race and religion. The applicant can apply to any Public Sector University/Institution of Pakistan however, any expenditure over and above the cost given in Project PC-I.

Earthquake jolts various cities of KPK, Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Online): Severe earthquake tremors have been felt in various cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) including federal capital Islamabad.

According to details, fear and panic spread in the provincial capital Peshawar, Attock, Swat, Dirbala, Malakand, Shabqadar, Abbottabad, Mardan and its surroundings and people came out of houses in panic.

According to seismological center, the magnitude of earthquake was 5.2 on rector scale while epicenter was in the Hindukush region of Afghanistan.

Seismological center said that the depth of earthquake has been recorded at 184 Km underground.

IHC orders inquiry regarding lift malfunction

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Registrar Office of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered an inquiry into malfunctioning of the lift and sought a report within two days from the Director General of Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD).

The Registrar Office also issued directives to the PWD for the inspection of all lifts of the IHC building and decided to appoint lift operators as well. The office, in its directive, said that the lift of the judges' block got stuck at second floor of the building on August 25, at 12:00 p.m. The lift was carrying lawyers including Latif Khosa Advocate and some newsmen.



Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi met with representatives of students and their parents in Islamabad.

Journey to progress pivoted on adherence to good governance principles: Sami

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Monday said the journey to progress and development pivoted on adhering to the principles of good governance in institutions and the system.

Chairing a review meeting on governance-related issues, he stressed that the process of development should continue by adhering to the principles of good governance in institutions and the system.

Officials from the Governance Section of the

Ministry of Planning participated in the meeting.

The minister said the cross-cutting function of the governance section called for its proper and efficient monitoring of all projects. Sami Saeed underscored that the economic and social outcomes obtained from the projects should be closely monitored while focusing on the optimal utilization of every single penny incurred on the projects. He added that projects of national importance should be continued on a priority basis to pass on their due benefits to the masses.

Reports on facilities available to Imran in Attock jail filed in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Report on facilities available to PTI chairman in Attock jail has been filed in Supreme Court (SC).

The report was filed in the chamber of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial.

Sources said the report was also filed in the chambers of Justice Mazahar and Justice Mandokhail.

It has been said in the report that B class facilities have been provided to

chairman PTI in jail. Desi chicken cooked in desi ghee is provided to chairman PTI on his demand. Mutton cooked in desi ghee is also provided to him.

The chairman PTI pays the cost of the things provided to him on his demand from his own pocket.

All the facilities have been provided to chairman PTI as per jail manual and laws.

He is also allowed to have a walk in the corridor in front of jail.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Ghulam-e-All-o-Ashab are shouting slogans and holds banners during protest at Murree Road, against the FIR on "Mufti Hanif Qureshi".

BISP conducts E-Kachehri to address beneficiaries' concerns

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) on Monday conducted E-Kachehri to address the grievances of the beneficiaries, in order to improve service delivery. This virtual event aims to directly engage with beneficiaries and address their concerns in real-time, reinforcing BISP's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people.

The E-Kachehri, received an overwhelming response from beneficiaries all across the country. This enthusiastic participation underscored the importance of such platforms for the people who rely on the vital support provided by BISP. During the E-Kachehri, Addl. Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Tahir Noor and his team tried to promptly address the majority of the complaints.

For the remaining grievances that required further attention, he directed the relevant authorities to ensure their resolution within one day, further emphasizing BISP's commitment to responsive governance.

The BISP, through its flagship initiative Benazir Kafaalat, provides quarterly financial assistance of Rs 9,000 to nine million registered beneficiary families. Additionally, registered families also benefit from stipends under the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif and Benazir Nashonuma Programme, which collectively contribute to improving the socio-economic conditions of the most vulnerable segments of society. In case of any complaint, the BISP encourages beneficiaries to reach out to the nearest BISP Tehsil Offices or contact the toll-free helpline at 0800-26477.

MIH organizes free medical camp

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Hospital's (MIH) Clinical Investigation Centre and Research Department has organized a free medical camp at Nala Musalmana to provide treatment services and blood screening free of cost to the local community.

The camp was set up at Nala Musalmana Kalar Syedan Rawalpindi for extending vital healthcare to local rural communities.

The camp was placed targeting communities in distant small towns that often lack access to essential medical facilities.

In a joint effort that underscores the commitment to enhancing healthcare accessibility, the Clinical Investigation Centre and Research Department of MIH partnered with Resham Barkat Memorial Hospital to organize this free medical checkup and blood screening camp.

Dr. Saboor, Associate Director of MIH and other specialist doctors provided essential services on HBV, HCV, Malaria, Dengue Screenings, H. Pylori tests and more.

Personalized care, free medicines, and expert guidance on hypertension and diabetes were also provided to patients. Over 100 patients attended the free medical and screening camp. During medical checkups and screening, the most prevalent health issues among attendees were gastric diseases.

Brazilian ambassador calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Brazilian Ambassador to Pakistan, Olyntho Vieira called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations on Monday. The Brazilian ambassador congratulated the minister on assuming this responsibility. He said the appointment of a world-renowned public

ensuring all measures to strengthen the global health security system." He said that effective measures are being taken to ensure universal health coverage. An integrated strategy has been formulated to protect against epidemics, he added. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that health facilities in hospitals are being developed on modern lines. He said that Border Health Services



health expert is a positive development for the health sector. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that Pakistan and Brazil have deep and strong relations and cooperation between the two countries are commendable. The minister said, "We are determined to eradicate polio from the country and will work on an emergency basis for the eradication of polio. We are

are being strengthened to deal with epidemics. "We are ensuring compliance with the recommendations of the International Health Regulations." He said that it is my mission to pursue the agenda of development and prosperity under the leadership of the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan. Secretary Health Iftekhar Ali Shallwani was also present on the occasion.

Ministry committed to take up exams issue with Cambridge International

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi on Monday reiterated his commitment to take up the issues being faced by the students related to Cambridge International exams.

He said that his ministry would write a letter to Cambridge International to look into the problems of the students regarding exams.

He was speaking during a meeting with the students and parents held here to discuss their issues related to the Cambridge Examination.

Madad Ali Sindhi stated that the ministry's earlier decision, which asked schools to retake exams, will be implemented.

He said that disciplinary action will be taken against all educational institutions that do not implement the decision.

The federal minister said that Cambridge International has its own separate system of examination which is practiced on the same scale all over the world.

The students thanked the Federal Minister of Education for taking care of the students in these difficult situations and not only raised their demands with Cambridge International but also made every possible effort to resolve them.

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Professional Training, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry also attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the police personnel riding three colleagues on one bike without wearing helmet at Constitution, which is the open sign of the darkness under the lamp.

IWMI Islamabad Building resilient water infrastructure can help communities withstand extreme weather events in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): The International Water Management Institute (IWMI), in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), organized a comprehensive workshop and panel discussion titled "Climate Change...Implications for the Water Sector" on Monday. The event convened experts, practitioners, and stakeholders to discuss the critical challenges posed by climate change on water resources, both globally and in Pakistan. The workshop provided a platform for participants to engage in insightful discussions on various dimensions of the climate change-water nexus.

Among the topics addressed were the effects of climate change on global and national water resources, economic impact of climate change, climate change and water governance, changing patterns of water availability and quality, and the exacerbation of water scarcity issues in water-stressed regions such as Pakistan.

happening already. In 2022 initially temperature shoot up and suddenly dropped resulting in heavy down-pour that was 87 percent heavier than country's average rainfall. These abrupt changes refer to climate change. Policy should be based on science and facts otherwise it would be gambling. The event's focus turned to the pressing need for enhanced water security and equitable access to water resources in the face of evolving climate conditions.

Dr. Novaira Junaid, Researcher at IWMI Pakistan, drew attention to the economic impacts of climate change in Pakistan. She emphasized the country's vulnerability despite its minor contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Dr. Azeem Ali Shah, Chief of the Party of the Water Management for Enhanced Productivity initiative (WMIEP) at IWMI Pakistan, delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the achievements and challenges associated with water governance and productivity initiatives in the region.

Muhammad Nawaz, Development Specialist, USAID Pakistan said climate change is real, and it is

First Lady for creating awareness on socio economic, health issues

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

She urged teachers, students, mediapersons, and health professionals to play their proactive role in that regard which would help create an equitable and inclusive society, she added. The first lady was speaking at an Interactive Dialogue on Breast Cancer, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Mental Health Issues, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) at Hamdard University.

Besides experts from

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

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

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

balanced and healthy lifestyle, women must adopt the habit of a five-minute self-examination every month to detect the disease at early stages and seek medical help if they notice any lump or unusual change in their bodies, she added. She said she had been raising awareness about breast cancer since 2018 and due to the efforts of her team and support from the media, more women with breast cancer were being diagnosed at early stages.

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



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

Mayor Karachi for accelerating work to bring streetlights on solar system

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

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

Earlier, as an administrator, he had started work to bring streetlights to the solar system in Karachi, but then this work was stopped, the Mayor of Karachi said. The engineering department should start the work of solar streetlights from Shahrah-e-Faisal and gradually extend it to other important roads and streets of Karachi, he said.

Murtaza said that

non-functioning of street lights except load shedding hours on the city's major corridors like Shahrah-e-Faisal, Rashid Minhas Road, Shahrah-e-Pakistan, Mai Kolachi Road, M.T.Khan Road and other main roads and highways cannot be tolerated any further. He said that the engineering department must ensure that the street lights installed on all these roads are kept lit within a week and the concerned engineers should visit the areas personally and take immediate steps where required, but provide convenience to the citizens at any cost.

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

Jaranwala incident Registrar LHC raises objection over petition seeking judicial inquiry

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

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

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

LHC will hear objected petition.

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

Following decisions were made;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overwhelming victory of independent candidates in KP LG poll

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

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

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

In Peshawar, PTI

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

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

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

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

SACM rules out compromise on corruption

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

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



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

Political parties pledge to elevate girls' education in KP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seven more dengue cases surface in 24 hours

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

Governor Punjab for preserving cultural heritage of Uch Sharif

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman further said Uch Sharif is home to one of the ancient cultures in the country, and it must be preserved. He said Uch Sharif is full of prospects of religious tourism for its affinity with Alexander the



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

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

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

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

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

against the heads of pension commutation, gratuity and LPR.

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

The minister was briefed that several cases of massive irregularities were found in the District treasuries in which the officials found involved were penalized. However, the system cannot still be termed as foolproof for any such fraud in the future. Younus Dagher directed the Secretary of Finance to remove the ill-reputed treasury officials from their positions and take disciplinary actions against them.

Intelligence agency of enemy country involved in Jaranwala tragedy: IGP

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

Addressing a press conference, he said they had broken the network of the enemy and assured the nation that such incidents would not happen in future. The tragedy was an attempt to foment a clash between Muslim and

Christian communities, he said and added that religious scholars and civil society played their role in controlling the situation.

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



HYDERABAD: Members of Sohni Dharti Youth Council are holding protest demanding a reduction in electricity and fuel prices, at HyderChowk in Hyderabad.

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

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

Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal took up the case for hearing

Monday.

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

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

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

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

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

President Alvi for strengthening financial inclusion, gender equality

KARACHI (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Monday asked the banking institutions to take measures to further strengthening financial inclusion and gender equality in the sector. Besides ensuring easy and accessible financial services to women and differently-abled persons, he emphasized the banking sector to focus on providing more employment opportunities and financing facilities as well as extending job training and financial literacy to them. The president was

chairing a meeting of representatives of banking industry here at the Sindh Governor House to review progress on initiatives aimed at financial inclusion of women and differently-abled persons, progress on measures taken to ensure employment and financial opportunities for them, and other issues of the banking industry. The meeting was attended by senior officials of State Bank of Pakistan and chief executive officers of different commercial banks. Terming meaningful participation of women in economic activities vital

for progress and prosperity of the country, the president said it was encouraging to see the ratio of female in bank account holders and banking sector jobs had recorded a significant growth in previous years but still more efforts were required by the sector to promote gender equality and inclusion of all segments of the society for achieving the objectives of inclusive banking. He said the jobs for the people with disabilities could be tailored in the banking industry and the process of bank account

opening could be made easy further. President Alvi also proposed the bank officials to explore part-time job avenues in their institutions for the household women. Referring to the fast-paced growth of digital technologies across the world, he said the banking industry in Pakistan had to keep pace with the evolving trends with the maximum use of information technology as "the IT driven financial inclusion at the grassroots level not only encourages taxable economy.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting with representatives of banking industry to review progress on initiatives for financial inclusion, gender equality and issues of banking sector at Sindh Governor House.



LAHORE: A delegation of All Pakistan Crockery Importers Association met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore.

Pak, Iran, Turkiye trade route can be vital to China's BRI Project: PCJCCI

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan, Iran and Turkiye Road Transport Corridor, in conjunction with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project, will prove to be a game-changer in promoting regional trade among the four friendly nations. Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki expressed these views in a think-tank meeting on Pak-Turkiye-China tripartite trade, here on Monday. He said that Turkiye, like China, had been an all-weather friend of Pakistan

and the friendly relationship was now more integrated into international trade because of CPEC and BRI projects, which had created new opportunities for Turkiye as well as Pakistan. Turkiye's exports to China would be able to route through Pakistan towards China, he said, asserting that Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Transport Corridor Project was successfully carrying commercial cargo on Pakistani trucks to Turkiye and vice versa up to Chinese markets. The PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong

said that both countries shared positive trade relations and investments by Turkish companies in Pakistan had increased by over US\$1 billion. The two countries also signed a Strategic Economic Framework agreement that covers a broad spectrum of cooperation in science and technology, defense, tourism, education, and health. He said that PCJCCI would enhance Chinese investment in this sector to create a sustainable economic triangle amongst the three friendly states.

Despite difficult conditions Business community plays active role in country's economic development

LAHORE (Online): A delegation of All Pakistan Crockery Importers Association met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation apprised the governor of Punjab about the various problems faced by them. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that despite the difficult conditions, the business community is playing an active role in the

country's economic development. Governor Punjab said that all businesses are very important even if it is a small shop. He said that business not only leads to social-economic development, but also provides employment opportunities to millions of people. He further said that the government is well aware of the problems of the business community and steps are being taken to provide them conducive environment.

China's Internet users total 1.079b with steady app growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): China's Internet users totalled 1.079 billion by June 2023, an increase of 11.09 million since December 2022, alongside steady growth in internet applications, a report revealed Monday.

China's Internet penetration reached 76.4 percent, according to the statistical report on China's Internet development released by the China Internet Network Information Center, Xinhua reported. Regarding Internet applications, as of June 2023, the user scale of instant messaging, internet video, and short video stood at 1.047 billion, 1.044 billion, and 1.026 billion, respectively.

Meat exports grew by 37.22% in first month of FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Meat and meat preparations exports from the country during the first month of the current financial year increased by 37.22 per cent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year. In July 2023, about 8,910 metric tons of meat and meat products valued at \$9.926 million were exported as compared to 5,705 metric tons worth \$25.408 million in the same period last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Meanwhile, 10,284

metric tons of fish and fish products valued at \$18.980 million were also exported during the period under review as compared to the exports of 8,084 metric tons worth \$18.572 million in the same month of last year. During the first month of the current financial year, seafood exports grew by 2.20 per cent, whereas the exports of fruits increased by 4.61 per cent. In July 2023 food commodities valued at \$329.156 million were exported as compared to the exports of \$356.073 million of the same month last year.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, Vancouver and Al-Karamu, carrying Container and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal and Bulk Terminal, respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Shay, Okyroe and Southern Robin, carrying Container, Mogas and Chemicals also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours. A total of 07 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours.

ML-1 to start by end of this year: Railways CEO

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Railways Chief Executive Officer Shahid Aziz said that work is underway for improvement of railway track and ML-1 project will start by the end of this year. He said this while responding to questions of people on Facebook court on Monday. He said that all possible steps were being taken for the betterment of train operation and to facilitate passengers. The CEO said that more trains would be restored on availability of racks and improvement of resources. In Green Line, quality service and food standard was well maintained, he

added and said its fare was finalized keeping in view the facilities provided in it. Shahid Aziz said that in view of security, CCTV cameras had been installed at all big railway stations and its horizon would be expanded to other stations as well. He further said that if Pakistan Railways get some investment it could become profitable department. He said, "We want that government of Pakistan bears the burden of pensioners so that burden of railways can be reduced to some extent." Due to limited resources there were difficulties in timely payment of salaries, he maintained.

SIALKOT: President Chamber of Commerce Abdul Ghafoor Malik presenting a shield to Farrukh Amil Chairman Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan.

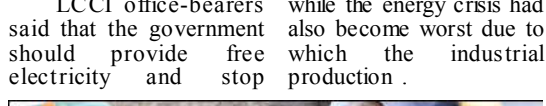


SIALKOT: President Chamber of Commerce Abdul Ghafoor Malik presenting a shield to Farrukh Amil Chairman Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan.

LCCI demands cut in power tariff

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Monday expressed deep concern over increase in electricity tariff, over-billing, and nationwide protests against them and has urged the government to cut the electricity tariff. LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry and Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt said in a media statement here that recent electricity bills had left the industry, trade and people in a lurch. They said that nationwide protests against over-billing, hike in tax and multi-fold increase in electricity prices could lead to an economic stress and the country could not afford such circumstances. LCCI office-bearers said that the government should provide free electricity and stop

electricity theft instead of increasing the electricity prices. They demanded that facility of free electricity for all segments should be withdrawn immediately as the country, facing economic challenges and enormous debt burden, could not afford to provide such facilities. They said that no tax should be levied on electricity bills up to 300 units. They said that electricity was the main raw material of industries, if such anti-industry measures were not avoided, the manufacturing sector would be completely destroyed and the country would remain only a trading place. They said that despite hike in power tariff, the circular debt could not be controlled, while the energy crisis had also become worst due to which the industrial production



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is preparing traditional stone rings on a green belt alongside a road at Aabpara area in Federal Capital.

Stable US-China ties 'profoundly important': Gina

BEIJING (AFP/APP): US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo met with her Chinese counterpart in Beijing on Monday, saying it was "profoundly important" for the world's two biggest economies to have a stable relationship. Her visit is the latest in a series of high-level trips to China by US officials in recent months as Washington works to cool trade tensions with Beijing. The trips could culminate in a meeting between their leaders, with US President Joe Biden saying recently that he was

expecting to sit down with China's Xi Jinping this year. Raimondo met on Monday morning with Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao, describing the economic relationship between the two countries as "the most significant in the world." "We share \$700 billion dollars of trade and I concur with you that it is profoundly important that we have a stable economic relationship," she said, according to a readout from the US Commerce Department.

Gohar asks for framework to take exports of Pharma industry to 1 bn dollars

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry Dr. Gohar Ijaz asked for a framework to take the exports of the pharma industry to one billion dollars. He said this in a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association (PPMA), led by Chairman Farooq Bukhari, said a press release issued here. The main agenda of the meeting was the strategy to increase exports of the pharmaceutical industry. During the meeting, an ambitious target of achieving a one-billion-dollar export milestone for the industry was set. Dr. Gohar Ejaz expressed his unwavering commitment and support to the pharmaceutical sector, not only in his official capacity but also on a personal level. He assured the delegation of his dedication to creating an environment conducive to the industry's growth. He further emphasized the importance of focusing on exports as a

means to enhance the country's economic conditions. In a remarkable display of patriotism, Dr. Gohar Ejaz announced his decision to donate his entire income for the year to the welfare of the country. This gesture showcased his deep concern for the well-being of the nation and his dedication to its progress. Recognizing the need for a competitive edge in the global market, the minister urged the pharmaceutical delegation to formulate a comparative policy framework.

and due to the delays the number of stuck containers is also increasing, Motiwala added. "This slowdown has been in process and if it further continues, then it would further badly affect the Afghan Transit Trade (ATT) and bilateral business ties significantly," Chairman PAJCCI went on to say. As per reports, currently, 2000+ Pakistani Trucks are held in Afghanistan. On the other hand, transportation rates are increasing, due to the shortage of vehicles in Pakistan. The detention charges (120\$ - 140\$) are another expense, which is also accumulated on a daily basis on every container, raising the costs enormously.

PSX loses 192 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 192.61 points on Monday, showing negative change of 0.40 percent, closing at 47,478.61 points against 47,671.22 points the previous trading day. A total of 184,138,134 shares were traded during the day as compared to 192,036,691 shares, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs 6.465 billion against Rs 6.528 billion on the last trading day. As many as 313 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 90 of them recorded gains and 202 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 21 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd. with 19,236,327 shares at Rs 2.02 per share; Bank Islami Pak.

IG FC urged to expedite release of vehicles at Torkhem border

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Muhammad Zubair Motiwala has requested IG FC KP to intervene in the resolution of the slow processing of vehicles loaded with empty containers at the Torkhem border. In a letter sent to IG FC and Secretary Commerce Ministry of Commerce, Muhammad Sulaeh Ahmad Faruqi, Chairman PAJCCI apprised that complaints were being received from our members pertaining to the stoppage and slow release of vehicles loaded with empty containers at the Torkhem border. This situation is further aggravated on a daily basis

and due to the delays the number of stuck containers is also increasing, Motiwala added. "This slowdown has been in process and if it further continues, then it would further badly affect the Afghan Transit Trade (ATT) and bilateral business ties significantly," Chairman PAJCCI went on to say. As per reports, currently, 2000+ Pakistani Trucks are held in Afghanistan. On the other hand, transportation rates are increasing, due to the shortage of vehicles in Pakistan. The detention charges (120\$ - 140\$) are another expense, which is also accumulated on a daily basis on every container, raising the costs enormously.



HYDERABAD: Markets are seen closed due to strike call by traders against rise in electricity bills, at Channi market.

Rupee sheds 99 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Monday witnessed a 99 paise devaluation against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs301.99 against the previous day's closing of Rs301. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs316 and Rs319 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.34 to close at Rs326.15 against the last day's closing of Rs324.81, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and stood at Rs2.06, whereas an increase of 80 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs379.67 as compared to the last closing of Rs378.87. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 28 paise and 26 paise to close at Rs82.22 and Rs80.49 respectively.

Expo Centre Sharjah announces bustling event calendar with 18 exhibitions in 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Expo Centre Sharjah has announced its bustling event calendar for the last quarter of 2023, revealing an impressive line-up of local, regional, and international events. These events are scheduled to take place not only at the Expo Centre Sharjah but also at its affiliated centres located in Khor Fakkan and Al Dhaid. With 18 economic, trade, and cultural exhibitions on the horizon, there is a significant 63 per cent jump in events compared to the same period in the previous year, which hosted 11 exhibitions and events, WAM News Agency reported. Major companies from around the globe are expected to participate, and the Centre is gearing up to welcome a surge in exhibitors and visitors. The expansive event line-up solidifies Sharjah's position as a premier regional and international hub for exhibitions and conferences. Kicking off on 27th September 2023, and

running until 1st January 2024, the season's highlights feature the 52nd Watch & Jewellery Middle East Show, the Gulf Coatings Show, the National Career Exhibition, and the International Education Show. Also on the agenda is the much-awaited Sharjah International Book Fair, an annual celebration of the literary arts. The enriched event calendar underscores Sharjah's continued commitment to fostering business, culture, and education on an international scale. Additionally, the Expo Centre has an action-packed schedule for the upcoming period, featuring five premier events and exhibitions making their debut in the Emirate of Sharjah. The standout events include the "Emirates Perfumes and Oud" exhibition, scheduled from 6th October to 14th, 2023; the agenda also features the trade fair, which will be held on 21st and 22nd November 2023.



LAHORE: Members of National Labor Federation Pakistan Punjab are holding protest demonstration for rise of basic salary, at Lahore press club.

Top US and Chinese commerce officials express support for easier trade, but deep differences remain

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and her Chinese counterpart expressed a desire to improve trade conditions on Monday, as Raimondo began a visit to Beijing aimed at warming chilly relations, but neither side appeared willing to make concessions on the other's main demands.

Raimondo joined American officials including Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in July who have visited China in the past three months. They expressed optimism about improving communication but have announced no progress on technology, security, human rights and other disputes that have plunged relations to their lowest level in decades.

For its part, Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government wants to revive foreign investor interest in

China as it tries to reverse a deepening economic slump. Beijing is ready to work together to "foster a more favorable policy environment for stronger cooperation" and "bolster bilateral trade and investment." Commerce Minister Wang Wentao told Raimondo.

Wang gave no details of possible initiatives. Raimondo said the two sides are working on establishing "new information exchanges" for "more consistent engagement."

"It is profoundly important that we have a stable economic relationship," she said. "I believe that we can make progress if we are direct, open and practical."

Beijing broke off dialogue with Washington on military, climate and other issues in August 2022 in retaliation for a visit to Taiwan by then-Speaker

Nancy Pelosi of the House of Representatives. The mainland's ruling Communist Party claims the self-ruled island democracy as part of its territory and objects to foreign governments having contact with it. The state press has given positive coverage to the American visits to Beijing, but China has given no indication it might change trade, strategic, market access and other policies that irk Washington and its Asian neighbors.

Raimondo told reporters before leaving Washington she was looking for "actionable, concrete steps" to move forward in commercial relations but gave no details. She said she was realistic that the "challenges are significant."

The visits take place under an agreement made by Xi and President Joe Biden during a meeting last November in Indonesia.



Indonesian President Joko Widodo speaks as he launches the Light Rail Transit (LRT) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Poland, Baltics will shut Belarus border if 'critical incident' occurs

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland and the Baltic states will close their borders with Belarus entirely if a "critical incident" involving Wagner mercenaries takes place, Polish Interior Minister Mariusz Kaminski said on Monday.

EU members Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, which share a border with Belarus, have been increasingly concerned about border security

since hundreds of Russian battle-hardened Wagner mercenaries arrived in Belarus at the invitation of President Alexander Lukashenko. Poland has also seen an increase in the number of mainly Middle Eastern and African migrants trying to cross the border in recent months and has accused Belarus of facilitating them. "We demand from the authorities in Minsk that the Wagner

Group immediately leave the territory of Belarus and that illegal migrants immediately leave the border area and are sent back to their home countries," Kaminski told a press conference.

"If there is a critical incident, regardless of whether it is at the Polish or Lithuanian border, we will retaliate immediately. All border crossings that have been opened so far will be closed," he said.

Iran summons Swiss diplomat over US seizure of Iranian crude oil that's now at port in Houston

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran has summoned a Swiss diplomat over the apparent U.S. seizure of Iranian crude oil from a ship that sat for months off Texas, an official said Monday, as the oil now appeared to be moored in Houston.

The remarks by Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani mark the latest twist in the saga of the oil once aboard the tanker Suez Rajan, which had become mired in the wider tensions between the U.S. and the Islamic Republic. That's even as Tehran and Washington work toward a trade of billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets in

South Korea for the release of five Iranian-Americans held in Tehran. Iran has been trying to evade sanctions and continue selling its oil abroad, while the U.S. and its allies have been seizing cargoes since 2019 after the country's nuclear deal allowing the trade collapsed.

Speaking to journalists Monday, Kanaani said Tehran had summoned the Swiss Embassy in Iran to express a "strong objection" over the U.S. seizing the oil. Switzerland has looked out for America's interests in Iran since the 1979 U.S. Embassy hostage crisis.

Kanaani's comments also acknowledged the oil was Iranian.

White Florida shooter who killed three Black victims bought guns legally

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The white gunman who shot and killed three Black people at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Florida on Saturday was a 21-year-old who bought his guns legally and had no criminal history, local law enforcement said. The shooter, Ryan Christopher Palmeter, lived with his parents in a suburb of Jacksonville, Sheriff T.K. Waters told a news conference. He died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Waters said the shooting was racially motivated. Authorities say the shooter left behind several manifestos for media, his parents and law enforcement detailing his hatred for Black people.



People shout slogans during a protest against the redevelopment of Dharavi, one of Asia's largest slums, in Mumbai, India.

Republicans pillory Biden over 'disgraceful' Afghan pullout

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Republican lawmakers launched their campaign for the 2024 presidential elections this weekend by underlining President Joe Biden's role in the withdrawal of US and Nato troops from Afghanistan. Speaker Kevin McCarthy of the US House of Representatives ordered that flags at the US Capitol be put at half-staff in honor of 13 American service members who died on Aug 26 in Afghanistan during the US evacuation two years ago.

Congressman Cory Mills, a Florida Republican, introduced a resolution seeking to impeach US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin for allegedly committing "high crimes and misdemeanors" by supervising a pullout the Republicans see as disgraceful. "The fact that this was a

preventable tragedy makes this day all the more difficult," another Republican, Congressman Mark Green of Tennessee, said in a tweet.

On Aug 26, 2021, a suicide bombing at the Kabul airport killed at least 183 people, including 170 Afghan civilians and 13 members of the United States military. And on Aug 31, 2021, the last American soldiers lifted off from this airport, officially ending the 20-year war in Afghanistan, the longest in US history. At its peak in 2011, the US had approximately 100,000 troops across at least ten military bases from Bagram to Kandahar. Although the Doha agreement that led to the US withdrawal was finalised by a Republican president, Donald Trump, the actual evacuation happened under a Democrat, President Joe Biden.

8 US marines in hospital after deadly Australia crash

Monitoring Desk
DARWIN: Eight US marines were in hospital on Monday — one of them in intensive care — following a military aircraft crash in northern Australia that killed three of their comrades, authorities said.

Twenty-three marines were on board the Boeing MV-22B Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft when it crashed on Melville Island, north of Darwin, during a military exercise for locally based troops. Northern Territory Chief Minister Natasha Fyles said eight marines were still receiving treatment and that she wanted to "assure their families that they are getting the best care possible and we're working to ensure they're supported".

Tehran & Baghdad reach a deal to disarm & relocate Iranian dissident groups based in north Iraq

Monitoring Desk
BAGHDAD: Iran and Iraq have reached an agreement to disarm members of Iranian Kurdish dissident groups based in northern Iraq and relocate their members from their current bases, officials from the two countries said Monday.

Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, said in a news briefing Monday that the Iraqi government had agreed to disarm the armed terrorist groups stationed in Iraq's territory by September 19, and then, evacuate and transfer them from their military bases to camps designated by the Iraqi government.

He added that the deadline would not be extended and that while relations between the two countries are "entirely friendly and warm."



Protesters shut the ruling Baath party headquarters in the southwestern Syrian Druze city.

Indonesian school shaves 14 girls' hair over teacher's hijab complaint

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: A school on Indonesia's main island has partially shaved the heads of more than a dozen girls, its headmaster said on Monday, after they were accused of wearing their Islamic hijab headscarves incorrectly.

Activists say Muslim and non-Muslim girls have been forced for years to wear a hijab in conservative parts of the nation of 270 million people, which moved in 2021 to ban schools from such mandatory dress codes.

An unidentified teacher at state-owned Jun-

ior high school SMPN 1 in the East Java town of Lamongan partially shaved the hair of 14 Muslim girls last Wednesday, headmaster Harto, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, said.

Harto said the school had apologised and the teacher had been suspended. He said the schoolgirls did not wear inner caps under their headscarves, leaving their fringes visible.

"There is no obligation for female students to wear hijab, but they were advised to wear the inner caps for neat appearance," Harto told AFP.

Trump campaign says it raised \$7.1m after mugshot

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's presidential campaign said on Sunday that it has raised \$7.1 million since the Republican billionaire's mugshot was released after he was booked on racketeering and conspiracy charges at a Georgia jail this week.

The campaign had quickly embraced the scowling image of the former president — the first mugshot of a serving or former US leader — as the symbol of his bid to take back the White House.

Canada expects 900,000 overseas students this year

Monitoring Desk
OTTAWA: Canada is concerned about the overall integrity of the system that educates hundreds of thousands of international students and not just the added pressure they put on housing. Immigration Minister Marc Miller said in an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Canada is on track to bring in 900,000 international students this year, Miller said in the interview aired late on Saturday, which was more than at any point in history and roughly triple the number who entered the country a decade ago. The university ecosystem that brings in foreign students "is very lucrative and it's come with some perverse effects."

Zelenskiy says elections could happen under fire if West helps

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, responding to calls by a US senator this week to announce elections in 2024, said voting could take place during wartime if partners shared the cost, legislators approved, and everyone got to the polls.

Elections cannot currently be held in Ukraine under martial law, which must be extended every 90 days and is next due to expire on Nov. 15, after the normal date in October for parliamentary polls but before presidential elections which would normally be held in March 2024.

Top American legislators visited Kyiv Aug 23, among them Senator Lindsey Graham, who heaped praise on Kyiv's fight against Russian President Vladimir Putin but said

the country needed to show it was different by holding elections in wartime.

Zelenskiy, in a television interview with Natalia Moseichuk, an anchor for the 1+1 Channel, said he had discussed the issue with Graham, including the question of funding and the need to change the law.

"I gave Lindsey a very simple answer very quickly," he said. "He was very pleased with it. As long as our legislators are willing to do it." He said it cost 5 billion hryvnia (\$135 million) to hold elections in peacetime. "I don't know how much is needed in wartime," he said. "So I told him that if the US and Europe provide financial support..." He added, "I will not take money from weapons and give it to elections. And this is stipulated by the law."

China, Japan agree to postpone head of Japan coalition partner visit: Chinese ministry

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's foreign ministry said on Monday that China and Japan have agreed to postpone a visit by the head of Japan's Komeito party, the junior partner in the coalition government, given current strains between the two countries.

Natsuo Yamaguchi was planning to visit China from Aug. 28 to 30 in hopes of meeting China's President Xi Jinping and to hand over a personal letter from Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

"In light of current China-Japan relations, the two sides have agreed to postpone the Komeito delegation's visit to China," ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a regular news briefing.

Wang added that China attached great importance to exchanges and cooperation with the party which has long been committed to promoting friendship between China

and Japan, and "stands ready to work with it to make active efforts for improving and growing China-Japan relations".

Despite opposition both within Japan and from abroad, the country began releasing treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific last week.

China has strongly opposed the move and banned all aquatic product imports from Japan.

Japan summoned the Chinese ambassador on Monday after various offices received what it called harassing phone calls from China regarding the release of the treated water.

Further straining Sino-Japanese ties, Kishida and the leaders of the United States and South Korea met last week and issued their strongest joint condemnation yet of China's "dangerous and aggressive behaviour" in the South China Sea.

Libya's foreign minister suspended after meeting with Israel's chief diplomat

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: One of Libya's rival prime ministers said Monday he has suspended his foreign minister a day after Israel revealed that its chief diplomat met with her last week — news that prompted scattered street protests in the chaotic North African nation.

Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, who heads the government of national unity in the capital, Tripoli, also referred Foreign Minister Najla Mangoush, for investigation over the meeting, which was the first ever between top diplomats of Libya and Israel. Mangoush fled to Turkey following the Israeli announcement of the meeting, according to a Libyan foreign ministry official.

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and Mangoush met in Rome last week. It was a small breakthrough for Israel's government, whose hard-line policies toward the Palestinians have led to a cooling of its burgeoning ties with the Arab world.

Cohen said they dis-

cussed the importance of preserving the heritage of Libya's former Jewish community, including renovating synagogues and cemeteries. The talks also touched on possible Israeli assistance for humanitarian issues, agriculture and water management, according to Israel's Foreign Ministry.

The Libyan foreign ministry, meanwhile, sought to downplay the importance of the meeting as "unprepared and an unofficial meeting during a meeting with Italy's foreign minister. It said in a statement that Mangoush's encounter with Cohen didn't include "any talks, agreements or consultations."

Dbeibah's decision to suspend Mangoush suggested that he was not aware of the meeting. However, two senior Libyan government officials told The Associated Press the prime minister did know about the talks between his foreign minister and the Israeli chief diplomat.

Clashes between US-allied Arab & Kurdish fighters in east Syria kill 3

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Clashes broke out Monday between two U.S.-backed groups in eastern Syria, leaving three gunmen dead and raising tensions in the region where hundreds of American troops are deployed, opposition activists said.

The clashes raise concerns of more divisions between U.S.-backed Kurdish and Arab fighters in eastern Syria that borders Iraq and where the Islamic State group once enjoyed wide presence. U.S.-backed fighters play a major role in targeting sleeper cells of the Islamic State group that still carry out deadly attacks.

Monday's clashes came a day after the U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces detained the commander of a formerly allied group and several other members of his faction after they were invited to a meeting in the northeastern city of Hassakeh on Sunday.

The SDF did not confirm the detention of Ahmad Kheibel, better known as Abu Khawla. He heads the Deir el-Zour Military Council, which was allied with the SDF in its yearslong battle against the Islamic State group in Syria. SDF officials did not immediately respond to questions by The Associated Press about the arrest.

Rami Abdurrahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said that the SDF was concerned that Kheibel was opening links with the Syrian government as well as Turkey, whose troops have carried out several incursions targeting Kurdish fighters in north Syria since 2016.

Kheibel's arrest could increase tension between Kurds and Arabs because most of his supporters who were also detained belong to a powerful tribe in eastern Syria.



Volunteers get ready to take off in the Loch Ness Project Research Vessel, Deep Scan, as they take part in the largest Loch Ness Monster hunt for 50 years in Scotland, Britain.

Heavy rains, floods inundate China; Hunan province sees record rain, thousands evacuated

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese weather forecasters on Monday warned several provinces to expect torrential rain and flash floods over the next two days as unrelenting downpours wreak havoc on the country. More than three thousand people were evacuated in northwestern Hunan province over the weekend as heavy rain was unleashed on Sangzhi, Shimen and Yongshun counties, and Zhangjiajie City, according to state media.

Sangzhi recorded the heaviest rainfall this year, with maximum precipitation reaching 256 mm (10.07

inches) overnight from Saturday to Sunday, according to state broadcaster China Central Television. It was the most extensive and widespread rain in Sangzhi since 1998, CCTV said.

China has been gripped by weeks of rains and floods amid an unusually wet summer. In late July, storms from Typhoon Doksuri caused record rains to hit China in over a decade, with Beijing experiencing its heaviest rainfall in 140 years. China's government has called for more precautions against flooding as Typhoon Saola now makes its way across the South China Sea.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Begum Samina Arif

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The prime minister appreciated the services of

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

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

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

Pakistanis residing in Britain bridges between two countries: Sanjrani

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

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

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

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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Aneeq took the opportunity to discuss this matter during a recent visit from his Saudi counterpart, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah. Dr. Al-Rabiah, acknowledging the concern, assured him of an increase in the Hajj quota, subject to the completion of necessary procedural formalities.

Highlighting the success of the "Road to Makkah" project, which significantly streamlined the pilgrimage process during Hajj 2023, the minister proposed extending the initiative to encompass multiple airports across Pakistan, including Lahore and Karachi. This expansion would undoubtedly facilitate pilgrims embarking on the sacred Hajj journey, he added. Furthermore, he advocated for exempting in-

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, according to another notification, the District and Sessions Judge, District Ahmed Baloch has been appointed as District and Sessions Judge Quetta.

Similarly, District and Sessions Judge Chaghai at Dalbandin has also been given additional charge of the District and Sessions Judge Noshki.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): The court has approved two days physical remand of former Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cipher case and handed over him to FIA.

Judge Abdul Hasnaat Zulqarnain of special court constituted under official secret act held in-camera hearing of cipher case Monday.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi was presented in the court on completion of three days physical remand.

Babar Awan and Shoab Shaheen counsels for Shah Mehmood Qureshi also appeared in the court. Special prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi appeared on behalf of FIA.

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

Water supply will start in Gwadar Free Zone on August 30

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

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



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Minerals Umair Muhammadhassani visiting Directorate of Minerals, Secretary Saidal Khan is also present.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Jan Achakzai visits Kalat Publishers

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

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

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

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



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

Delay in holding general election unacceptable: Nayyar

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

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

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

Last week, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Executive Committee (CEC) decided to advocate the organisation of the general elections in 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari chaired the session of the PPP CEC to make key decisions including general elections and consultations with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

DC inspects works of Levies Line BRC, Bypass Road

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

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

Poverty, inflated power bill claim life of prayer leader

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



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

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

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

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

He said that 2.5 million people became homeless due to floods and efforts being made to provide them with houses. Harnes said that they were on a visit to 12 Pakistani cities and after Karachi their next destination would be Hyderabad, and Sukkur and the visit would continue until the last destination. He said that the UN was on a mission of Sustainable Development Goals to eliminate poverty and make the earth a prosperous planet by 2030.

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

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

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

known terrorists threw a patrol bomb on a trawler of an Afghan trader load of the figs and other dry fruit, on way to Wahga border from Chaman on Sunday night. As a result, it was burnt completely causing financial loss of millions of rupees to the trader, they noted with concern. They said that the very incident shows that some unknown elements want to sabotage the trade relations of Pakistan with Afghanistan. They appealed to the caretaker Prime Minister and other provincial and federal high ups to take notice of the incident.