

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Gwadar

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVI No. 107, Safar 17, 1445 AH Monday September 04, 2023, Pages 08, Price Rs.15



KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Central Muslim League hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club, in Provincial Capital.

COAS underscores \$100bn investment potential in talks with business leaders

Assures that money exchanges would be brought under the purview of taxation, fostering transparency in dollar exchange and interbank rates

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar alongside prominent business figures met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, here on Sunday. Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also attended the meeting in which country's economic trajectory was discussed in detail. LCCI spokesman confirmed this to the media. During the meeting, General Asim Munir highlighted the pivotal role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC),

emphasizing its potential to attract substantial investments of up to 100 billion dollars from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and others. To bolster economic decision-making, he revealed the formation of task forces focused on economic matters and different sectors. Kashif Anwar, in alignment with the broader business community, recommended active engagement with all chambers to incorporate diverse perspectives into the task force's agenda. Addressing critical issues faced by the public,

Kashif Anwar proposed a reduction in income and sales tax rates on electricity bills. He noted that the populace grapples with the burden of high taxation on electricity, impacting daily lives, businesses and common people. Additionally, Kashif Anwar introduced a pragmatic approach to fuel adjustment charges, advocating for their collection during the winter months when electricity consumption is lower, alleviating financial stress on consumers. Recognizing the pivotal role of exchange rates in Pakistan's economic

landscape, the LCCI President called for greater control over the rates of the US dollar in both interbank and open markets. The COAS General Asim Munir responded positively, assuring that money exchanges would be brought under the purview of taxation, fostering transparency in dollar exchange and interbank rates. President LCCI also pointed out that the disparity between the State Bank's rate and the Hundi rate often leads to the preference for Hundi channels when it comes to remittances.

May 9 was an attempt to stage a coup: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has said that what happened in the country on May 9 this year was an attempt to stage a coup and civil war. In a programme of a private news channel, he said that the target of the May 9 incidents was the current Army Chief and his team. The caretaker prime minister said that he did not want to give the impression that any revenge was being taken on the May 9 accused. "But, if action is not taken according to the law against the political party willing to resort to violence and violate the laws of the country, [then] we will be seen as a party to this matter," he stated. "Electricity is not an issue on which there should

be a wheel-jam strike. We have a lot of sympathy for the segment of the society that is burdened with electricity bills," he remarked. He said that the decision regarding closing the shops at night would be taken by the president or ECP. The issue arose after President Dr Arif Alvi invited Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja last month for a meeting to "fix an appropriate date" for general elections. This was after the ECP expressed its inability to hold elections within the constitutionally mandated period following the notification of the latest 2023 digital census, citing the need for fresh delimitation of constituencies under Section 17(2) of the Elections Act.

gave this statement during his first interview after assuming the top office on media — aired on Sunday — when asked about the ambiguity on whether the authority to decide and announce the poll date rested with the president or ECP. The issue arose after President Dr Arif Alvi invited Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja last month for a meeting to "fix an appropriate date" for general elections. This was after the ECP expressed its inability to hold elections within the constitutionally mandated period following the notification of the latest 2023 digital census, citing the need for fresh delimitation of constituencies under Section 17(2) of the Elections Act.

IMF conditions, govt considers Rs.5 price hike electricity tariff

ISLAMABAD (Online): The federal government is considering increasing the basic electricity tariff by Rs 4.96 paise per unit during this month to meet the terms of the agreement with the IMF, which will be borne by the consumers. According to media reports, the federal government will decide to impose basic tariff and additional electricity burden on consumers after receiving subsidy concession from IMF. The decision taken by NEPRA (National Electricity Power Regulatory Authority) on the request of electricity distribution com-

panies, if the decision is implemented, the domestic consumers will have a slab-wise burden. The tariff of 100 units per month will be increased from 13 point four to 18 point 36 rupees per unit without taxes and surcharges. The bill of a user using 100 units will be Rs 1836. The tariff for 200 units per month will be Rs 23.91 per unit and the bill will increase from Rs 3700 to Rs 4700 per month. The electricity bill of those using 300 units per month will increase from 6,000 to 8,000.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi talking to media persons at Karachi Press Club.

Domki emphasizes upon taking steps to improve state of cleanliness on war footing grounds in Quetta

Independent Report QUETTA: Welcoming the initiation of measures for improvement of Quetta city by the district administration, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed all concerned departments to prepare coordinated course of action for restoration of traditional beauty of Quetta city. In a statement issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that Quetta is face and identity, therefore, it is welcoming to start anti-encroachment and cleanliness in the metropolis.

The caretaker Chief minister said that Quetta city has suffered numerous problems due to lack of interest and planning by the concerned departments. He stressed the need to take steps for bringing improvement in the overall cleanliness situation of Quetta city on war footing grounds. He regretfully pointed out that shortage of water is serious issue in Quetta, the solution of which is priority of the provincial government. In addition to this, the caretaker Chief Minister also directed to the Com-

missioner to bring stability in the prices of daily used commodities. Referring the Quetta development Package, Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that early completion of Quetta Development Package would be ensured. He said that there would be marked improvement in the situation of Quetta after completion of the projects included in the Quetta package. The Chief Minister assured that the Commissioner and his administration team would be fully patronized for resolving the issues of Quetta city.

CM Domki thankful to PM for 100 Green buses for Quetta

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has thanked the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on announcement about giving 100 green buses for Quetta. In an official statement issued here on Sunday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that we are thankful to Prime Minister who announced to give 100 green buses to Quetta. He said that the modern travelling facility would be provided to the citizens

by starting Green bus service on other routes of Quetta city. It may be mentioned here that the Green bus services were launched by the previous government in Quetta. Initially, eight Green buses were started on route starting from Baleli to Sariab road. The caretaker Chief Minister had also traveled on the Green bus after assuming the office. He had appreciated the initiative of former government in this regard.

Four persons burnt alive as vehicle catches fire in Nushki

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least four persons including women were burnt alive after the vehicle they were traveling in caught fire near Nushki town in Balochistan on early Sunday morning. According to police sources, the incident occurred in Nushki where two vehicles collided with each other. As result, both vehicles caught fire wherein four people were burnt alive, a private news channel reported on Sunday. Police and rescue workers put out the fire, besides retrieving the bodies from the wreckage of the vehicles.

Maryam praises US role in providing critical supplies amid floods, corona era

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League chief organizer and vice president Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with the US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Bloom Sunday. During the meeting, both sides discussed importance of historical and bilateral relations between both countries. Earlier, Pakistan, USAID Deputy Adminis-

tration, including trade, economy, security, peace and regional stability was also emphasized. Maryam Nawaz Sharif also appreciated the efforts made by the American government during the most difficult conditions of COVID-19 pandemic and floods. During the meeting, both sides stressed for promoting mutual cooperation

Jaranwala tragedy Investigation reveals incident pre-plan

FAISALABAD (Online): In the Faisalabad tragedy of Jaranwala, the investigation of the accused who desecrated the Holy Quran and blasphemy has been completed. The personal grudge of two Christians became the cause of the incident, one of them was planned to be murdered.

Sources told Online that according to the report of the investigation team, the arrested accused Pervez Kudu prepared a horrible plan to trap the rival. The accused Pervez suspected that Raja Umair was having a relationship with his wife. Allah Dutta, who took money from Pervez Kudu to trap and blaspheme the Quran to kill Raja Umair, is in custody. On the identification of Parvez, the rope used to hang the pages of the Holy Quran in the street has also been recovered. Further investigation is going on in this regard and the report of the investigation team will be submitted to the higher orders soon.

rendered remarkable services in education, health, sports, arts, culture, social services, business and law and order in the province. He said that these awards are actually a way to acclaim achievements of our heroes and celebrate them. Jan Achakzai said that these stars of the province are working hard and with devotion to change the outlook of Balochistan. He also said that these awards speak high about capabilities of our people. He said that he encourage every one and urged the people of Balochistan to appreciate these awards and ceremony to be held in this regard. Meanwhile, the caretaker Minister Youth Affairs and Sports, Jamal Raisani has also welcomed the CM Balochistan Awards and termed it an improvement development towards encouragement of our talented youth.



QUETTA: Senior Columnist Tariq Khan Tareen meeting with Caretaker Provincial Home Minister Mir Zubair Jamali.

Murtaza Solangi says: Situation in GB completely peaceful

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that situation in Gilgit-Baltistan was completely peaceful and speculative news about deployment of Pakistan Army were completely baseless. In a post on his X account, quoted a statement released by the Home Department of Gilgit-Baltistan which said "it has been clarified that the situation in Gilgit-Baltistan is completely peaceful. All roads, trade centers, business activities and educational institutions in Gilgit-Baltistan are open as usual. Solangi said in the statement. The services of Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces have been requisitioned only to maintain law and order on the eve of Chehlam of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S). The minister said that

services of the Pakistan Army and the civil armed forces had been requisitioned "only to maintain law and order" on the eve of the chehlum. "Moreover, special measures have been taken for the security of the procession routes and imambarahs as per past practice," he said. The minister said that the GB home department had also stated that Section 144 had been imposed across the region to maintain law and order, protect lives and property of the people and avoid any untoward incident. Moreover, special measures have been taken for the security of the procession routes and imambarahs as per the past practice, he maintained. It has been further stated by the GB Home Department that Section 144 of CrPc 1898 has been imposed across the region to maintain law and order, protect the lives and property of the people.

Protest demo held for recovery of missing persons

Independent Report QUETTA: The protest demonstration was held under the auspices of Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP) outside the Quetta press club on Sunday afternoon. The families including women and children of the missing persons as well as well office bearers of VBMP and political leaders of different parties participated in the demonstration. They were carrying portraits of their dear ones allegedly disappeared from different parts of the province.

Islamia University's obscene videos scandal declared 'baseless'

MULTAN (INP): The inquiry commission has declared the Islamia University's obscene videos scandal baseless. According to sources, the inquiry commission stated that no videos have been found in the security officer's phone and the videos have no connection with Islamia University. The forensic report of the video has also been issued.

Record surge in rates of sugar in Quetta

Independent Report QUETTA: Record increase has been witnessed in the price of sugar in retail market of Quetta city on Sunday. According to the market sources, the sugar price crossed double century of rupees and was sold at Rs. 210 per kilogram in the open retail market and shops. The sharp increase of Rs. 20 rupees was recorded in price of sugar during last two days. The sugar, which was available at Rs. 190 on Friday last, was sold at Rs. 210 on Sunday. The data of price of sugar available shows that it is the highest ever price of per kilogram sugar recorded in Quetta in the history. While per kilogram sugar was available at Rs. 210 per kilogram in the main and other parts of the city, the same was being sold at Rs. 220 per kilogram in the outskirts of Quetta, the sources informed.



QUETTA: Relatives of Missing persons hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club, in Provincial Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Monday September 04, 2023

More action, please

The caretaker prime minister has faced a major challenge managing public expectations over the past week or so. When protests over the significant increase in electricity tariffs had first broken out, Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar moved quickly to assuage the public's concerns, promising the people he would secure some manner of relief. It appears he hadn't done his homework on the state of the country's finances. Having received a reality check from his cabinet and the IMF, he is now telling the people that they "have to pay the bills". But many of those bills had already been burnt. Many are also likely to have become overdue, incurring additional penalties as citizens waited for the PM to deliver. It is a bad look for Mr Kakar, who has inadvertently ended up causing more trouble rather than solving anything. Perhaps the episode should serve as a lesson on how even the best of intentions can end up exacerbating public harm.

It may not be within Mr Kakar's means to deliver any instant 'relief', but he is still responsible for steering the country during these fraught times. Instead, as the man tasked with 'taking care' of Pakistan till elected representatives are sworn in, he seems a little detached from ground realities. On Friday, Mr Kakar told a delegation of journalists and TV anchors that he sees the breakout of public protests against rampant inflation as a manoeuvre orchestrated by political parties. "I realise their position. If I were to contest the [upcoming] election, I would have done the same," he is reported to have said. If nothing else, the statement speaks volumes about the perspective with which the PM is assessing the situation. But the desperate citizenry is no opportunity for politicians to squeeze for electoral gain; it is a grave threat to the country's stability.

Mr Kakar need only read the Ministry of Finance's Fiscal Risk Statement 2023-24 to understand how big a risk inflation poses to the country's external stability. The report highlights that uncertainty surrounding energy prices is "the main upside risk" to Pakistan's inflation outlook. In simpler terms, unless the dollar somehow stops appreciating and global fuel prices suddenly decline, the people in charge in Islamabad need to work very hard to keep the Pakistani economy from imploding. With the cost of living having already risen to an unbearable level for most citizens, the government can no longer consider their daily challenges 'non-issues' in its larger game plan. Sustained adversity in economic conditions may trigger wider social unrest, which in turn will make economic management an even more difficult task than it already is. Before the country enters that vicious cycle, the decision-makers should act. This is no longer a political problem but an existential one.



Muhammad Amir Rana

Initially eager to see the Afghan Taliban take control in Afghanistan, Pakistan now grapples with unmet expectations. Two years on, issues like cross-border terrorism remain unresolved and pose significant security risks. Afghanistan's other neighbours are also unhappy with the growing aggressive posture of the Taliban leadership over security, border management, and the diversion of water resources.

Pakistan has to understand the Taliban mindset, which is at play in dealings with Afghanistan's immediate neighbours, and see how it shapes its relationship with them and their approach to resolving bilateral disputes. The situation

may not appear entirely gloomy, but it does require nuanced strategies to address the emerging challenges. The first step is to engage with the Taliban through formal channels, whether the issues are related to terrorism threats, border security, trade and economy, or transnational mega projects. Verbal commitments and vague statements from the Taliban leadership will not be binding and will not change the dynamics. Taliban apologists in Pakistan were jubilant over a religious decree concerning jihad in foreign lands issued by the Taliban's supreme leader. However, this has not changed anything; terrorist attacks are still rising in Pakistan. The martyrdom of nine soldiers in a suicide attack recently in Bannu District should serve as a reminder that security challenges cannot be dealt with through ambiguous religious decrees.

To anticipate future challenges, Pakistan should consider the Taliban's relations with their other neighbours. Experts suggest that the Taliban could potentially spark a regional water conflict. The group's approach to water re-

sources has already escalated tensions with Iran and Uzbekistan. Afghanistan and Iran have a long-standing water dispute, exemplified by the Afghan-Iranian Helmand River Water Treaty of 1973, which was never fully ratified or implemented. Despite this, both countries maintained a somewhat balanced relationship through diplomacy. The Taliban's accelerated dam projects have exacerbated border tensions with Iran. If water security issues are not managed carefully, they could expose deeper conflicts between Iran and the Taliban, such as ideological differences and anti-Shia sentiment.

Uzbekistan has maintained a pragmatic relationship with the Taliban, focusing on economic and trade cooperation. After Pakistan, it was the most optimistic country about the potential of the Taliban regime to facilitate connections with landlocked regions. However, this optimism was tempered when the Taliban initiated the Qosh Tepa Canal project to divert water from the Amu Darya, affecting multiple Central Asian states. This led to strained relations and

even a temporary cut in electricity supplies from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan, which were later restored. Despite these complexities, Uzbekistan has agreed with Afghanistan and Pakistan on a tri-nation railway. The \$5 billion project aims to connect Mazar-i-Sharif in Afghanistan to Pakistan's Kharlachi border crossing, passing through Termez in Uzbekistan and Logar province in Afghanistan. This railway is viewed as a significant step towards enhancing regional connectivity and trade.

The original plan was to build the railway line from Mazar-i-Sharif to Kabul, and then to Torkham on the border with Pakistan. However, the route has been modified to go through Kurram instead. The reason for this was that the Taliban regime wants to develop the eastern and central provinces of Afghanistan, which are currently underdeveloped, and have a strong support base for their movement. China wants to formally bring Afghanistan into its Belt and Road Initiative and tri-nation railway to make it a part of the BRI. However, the project is still in the

early stages of planning. Pakistan's economic situation may cause further delays in the implementation, but this also depends on the Taliban's attitude on how it will deal with other disputes with Uzbekistan, mainly the Amu Darya diversion and the Taliban's lack of water experts and experienced diplomats. The Central Asian states, Pakistan and Afghanistan have bitter memories of many transnational energy and infrastructure projects that have not yet materialised — such as the CASA-100 electricity project connecting Central Asia to Pakistan, and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. These initiatives were delayed mainly because of security concerns and complicated regional strategic scenarios. The Taliban can ensure the security of transnational projects, but it may not be enough to create a conducive strategic and political environment for such initiatives. Pakistan also shares the Kabul river with Afghanistan, but they don't have a water-sharing agreement. In the past, water security had created tensions between both coun-

tries, and now local Taliban officials have started threatening river diversion initiatives and dam construction. The Indus is Pakistan's lifeline, and any diversion to its flow would be a nightmare for the country. Though this is a costly affair, and the Taliban regime cannot implement it all alone, or get any international assistance, they have revealed their intentions.

China has been the most adept in its diplomatic engagement with Afghanistan. It has not only maintained a functional bilateral relationship with the Taliban, but also established trilateral and quadrilateral channels that include Pakistan and Uzbekistan. While the SCO serves China's multilateral interests, the country remains cautious in expanding its economic ties with Afghanistan. Pakistan needs to re-evaluate its approach towards the Taliban, who have shown unpredictability in their diplomatic dealings. There is a noticeable assertiveness in the Taliban's diplomatic expression, which raises concerns among its neighbours. Pakistan must plan its responses accordingly. — Courtesy Dawn

Mughal-e-Azam vs Modi



Ghazi Salahuddin

Have you watched 'Mughal-e-Azam'? This question, posed to any cinema enthusiast, would readily invoke a reference to that epic movie made by K. Asif, himself a 'mogul' in the annals of Bollywood. There is a treasure of trivia about how this blockbuster was made, remaining in production for a number of years. Yes, the film was released more than sixty years ago, though a colour version made in 2004 became kind of its revival. Anyhow, what has not diminished in any sense is that song that may be defined as a lover's anthem: 'Jab pyaar kiya to darma kya'. Its picturization was considered magical in those times when the technology now available was non-existent.

But why am I talking about an old movie and

what is the need for dwelling on its merits now? Well, one of the most exciting experiences I have had during my present sojourn in southern California was that I had an opportunity to see 'Mughal-e-Azam'. And I did that not in a cinema but at a theatre — not the movie but the musical.

True, the musical is totally based on the movie — a tribute that matches the stature of K. Asif's cinematic achievement. Quite appropriately, it is billed as 'a cinema on stage'. I must confess that I was not aware of the remarkable success of this visual spectacle, conceived and staged on the lines of a Broadway musical. That is why I was a bit intrigued by the thrill and anticipation it had created in the South Asian community here about the arrival of the musical in Long Beach. It happened last weekend, with two shows.

The buzz had been building up because the musical was on its North American tour for more than three months, visiting major cities. The tour ended in Long Beach, in Los Angeles county, and I attended its finale on Sunday that was marked by much emotion and ceremony. An excellent theatre with the capacity of more than 1700 was overflowing with applause and excitement.

Now, I intend to use this memorable encounter as a peg for my thoughts that were prompted by the fact that a major Indian show was celebrating the glory of the Mughal Empire in the times of Narendra Modi. As would be expected, the audience in Long Beach, as it would be in other cities, was overwhelmingly Indian — and the Indian diaspora is happily wedded to Modi's Hindutva crusade.

I concede that a fictional love story that is situated in the court of Akbar the Great has no obvious political undertones and catered mostly to the nostalgia that the older generation of the expatriates feeds on. But, in any case, 'Mughal-e-Azam' is about the golden period of Muslim rule in India and it romanticizes that age, with hints about the religious harmony that Akbar promoted. Still, the glory of the Mughals is not likely to retain its glimmer in the history that the Hindutva fanatics are now re-writing.

An interesting point here is that Emperor Akbar

is considered by some Indian scholars and liberal intellectuals as the personification of India's secular heritage, an antithesis of the country's present drift. I would particularly want to refer to the views expressed by Amartya Sen, India's leading public intellectual who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences for his contribution to social science theory in 1998.

Before doing that, I should again admit that the stunning musical that I saw is not about the rule and the life of Akbar, though it deserves a comment in the context of popular entertainment. While director Feroz Abbas Khan's musical is a tribute to the movie, K. Asif himself was inspired by the 1922 play 'Anarkali' by Intiaz Ali Taj. It may also be noted that like the movie, the musical is projected in a grand style, being the most expensive production in the history of Indian theatre. As many as 150 members of the cast and crew travelled with the troupe. The songs were performed live with a pre-recorded orchestra.

It is hard to imagine that Bollywood would at-

tempt a serious biopic of Akbar like, for instance, Hollywood's 'Oppenheimer' or soon to be released 'Napoleon'. But the Mughal king is certainly worthy of such treatment. From our perspective, a study of how the Muslim, particularly Mughal, rule affected the freedom movement during the Raj. One also thinks about the comparative assessment of the rule of Akbar and Aurangzeb.

Coming back to Amartya Sen, I am tempted to quote an entire paragraph from his book 'The Argumentative Indian': "To widen the path of economic development, one has to expand the democratic system, which provides for greater liberalisation of political rights. This has been our heritage for a long time. Mughal emperor Akbar tried this exchange of opinion in the 16th century when in Europe, the likes of Giordano Bruno were being burnt to death". Sen is extremely critical of the 'exclusionary' thinking of the Hindutva movement. Besides Akbar, his heroes are Asoka and Buddha. These are figures that Sen re-

turns to again and again. He argues that tolerance of heterodoxy was also present in Islamic India, particularly among Sufis. He writes at length about the "tolerant multiculturalism" of Akbar's court.

There are, no doubt, many critics of Sen's views in India and some of them are rather harsh and xenophobic in their rejection of any thought that Islam believes in religious tolerance. This is how Hindutva has spread its anti-Muslim narrative in a country that professes, constitutionally, to be a secular democracy — the largest in the world, at that.

'Mughal-e-Azam', the musical, was first staged in 2016 and has by now been on tour in many countries of the world. The finale I attended was preceded by a recorded message of the late Lata Mangeshkar in which she mentioned comments made about her singing of that Naat for the movie, being herself a Hindu: "Bekas pe karam kijiye Sarkar-e-Madina". In Modi's India, something like this would very likely create a rumpus. — Courtesy TheNews

A sorry incident



Muna Khan

What purpose do rape scenes serve on screen? Are they necessary to plot points, when most of the studies show their harmful impact and how, as Laura Hudson wrote in Wired in 2015, they feed "into real-life misconceptions about sexual assault that are often used to deprive rape survivors of legitimacy or justice"?

I thought of this while reading the reactions on social media on Monday about a new drama, Hadsa (incident), which is 'not based on the gang rape of a woman in September 2020'.

I asked my editor if I could write about why dramas need to show sexual violence against women and what impact fictionalised stories of real incidents have on societal attitudes, but then this controversy took a new turn and Hadsa was banned.

Before writing this piece, I watched a few episodes before weighing in. Hadiqa Kiani plays a progressive, strong-willed, fierce female role I rarely see on TV. She's an unapologetic feminist. She is sexually assaulted on a motorway, and I understand how upsetting that must be to the survivor of rape, who reached out to a journalist to share her anguish. There is no responsible way to show rape.

The producers and Kiani have denied their drama is about the motorway case, but many folks are not buying it.

This provided an opportunity for debate on a host of issues regarding the portrayal of sexual violence

and its survivors, and how much agency a survivor has to their stories being made public. Should audiences be warned about content? Should such content be aired at a particular time?

Many Western crime shows on TV are often based on real life, and come with warnings about the nature of content, and issue an "all persons fictional" disclaimer.

The American show Law and Order SVU has fictionalised famous cases, from Dominique Strauss-Kahn to Bill Cosby, Michael Jackson to the 2015 case of a Stanford student assaulting a girl when she was unconscious. I appreciated the decision by the producers of Delhi Crime not to show the sexual violence committed on 'Nirbhaya', the name given to the woman gang-raped in 2012. The true crime genre in audio and documentary is hugely popular.

None of this prepares anyone for seeing a sliver of a resemblance of themselves on screen. Rape should never feel like entertainment on screen. We must condemn shows where the use of sexual violence is exploitative and gratuitous. The entertainment industry has profited from the pain of survivors — all for the sake of ratings or public awareness, when it's just regurgitating terrible tropes and stereotypes, like whether a woman's choice of clothing provoked her rape.

However, as problematic as such story-lines are, a ban is not a response. This enforces a regulator's control on people's choices. To shield folks from pain and complaints, many progressive voices have landed in the same camp as the right wing, which routinely call for bans on content that does not adhere to their moral code. To those who lauded this decision, know it is a temporary win. The

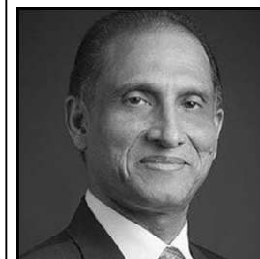
same tools will soon be applied to other storylines that supposedly harm Pakistan's image in the world.

Also, rapists (and their protectors) as well as censors do the most harm to the country's image. If and when rape survivors speak up, they are punished for doing so. The legal system is stacked against them, they are portrayed as victims and powerless. "If you survive, you have to prove it was that bad; or else, they think you are," Roxane Gay wrote in her book Not That Bad.

I know from my time in the newsroom how hard it is to get staff to report on the sexual violence man-ner, minus words attached to honour and minus judgement. It is frustrating to get them to just use the word 'rape', especially when we have adapted so many English words into our reporting. There is much work to be done. Perhaps the drama industry needs to own up to its failings. They can read the massive amount of literature on how fictionalised rape scenes impact survivors and audiences. One in three college men in an American 2015 study, for example, said they would rape women if they knew they would not face consequences. Here, not everyone is willing to agree on the definition of rape.

I think rape can be used to make a big point about Pakistani society, but I think we should close the lid on rape as a cinematic subject. This should not be confused with me calling for a ban. Bans serve no purpose. Just like rape scenes serve no purpose. What does serve purpose is complaints, critiques, pressure groups, calls for, and conversations with, filmmakers, artists, educators, journalists to do better. Even the feminist mother in Hadsa could have done better — but I'll never know whether she did. — Courtesy Dawn

Expanding BRICS



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

BRICS, which seeks to promote cooperation amongst Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, is expanding its ambit. The recently held summit in Johannesburg (Aug 22-24) invited Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE to join BRICS. Three questions are dominating the discourse on this development: will an expanded BRICS enable the Global South to counter-balance the Western-dominated world of politics, trade and finance? How will India reconcile its presence in BRICS with its strategic partnership with the US? And, what does BRICS Plus mean for Pakistan?

Geopolitics: There is no denying that the rise of China, India and other Asian economies has brightened prospects for the Global South to challenge Western dominance in the prevailing world order. Since the 1960s, the developing world has aspired to a new international economic order. G77 and the Non-Aligned Movement were large, unwieldy groups, unable to accomplish much for the Global South. An expanded BRICS, which represents a sizable percentage of the world's population and economic growth, seems better poised to represent the interests of the Global South.

However, it would be naive to expect a diverse group like BRICS Plus to be anti-West or even a serious challenge to the latter's dominance. For instance, dollarisation may be an aspiration of some BRICS

countries, but the actual shift towards other currencies would require more time and effort. Nearly \$5 trillion is held in overseas central banks, including almost \$1tr in the Bank of China. Likewise, global supply chains remain critical for the economic health of all countries. The leading lights of the expanded BRICS are also members of G20, which will be meeting in a summit shortly under India's presidency. For their part, Western countries are also inclined towards de-risking their economies rather than decoupling from China.

India: Despite its differences with China, India has chosen to play along with BRICS because it coincides with its long-cherished desire to assume the leadership of the Global South. When Chandrayan 3 landed on the moon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attributed this success to the Global South. India is, however, in a bind. Over the past two decades, it has deepened its partnership with the US and built high stakes in the US-led Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Quad. On the other hand, it often takes positions unfavourable to the West, such as in the Russia-Ukraine war. So far, India has played a balancing act, citing strategic autonomy, but tough choices may lie ahead.

Pakistan: The people of Pakistan are disappointed their country did not receive an invitation to the Johannesburg Summit and was not included in BRICS Plus. The Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson responded to their queries on Aug 25, stating that "Pakistan will examine the latest developments and make a determination about its future engagement with the group". She added: "Pakistan is an ardent supporter of multilateralism..." If that be the case, it would make sense for Pakistan to be a member of the expanded BRICS, which is a rising multilateral organisation

within the Global South.

Last year too, Pakistan's absence was noted at the high-level development dialogue on the eve of the BRICS summit hosted by China. Two dozen countries attended. Pakistan's participation was blocked by BRICS member India. The FO at that time had expressed the hope that future engagement of the organisation would be based on the principle of "inclusivity". However, this year, while over 30 other countries were invited to attend the summit, mostly from the Global South, Pakistan was not. Never-theless, Pakistan was invited to a seminar ahead of the summit, where Senator Mushahid Hussain represented its desire to be a part of BRICS Plus.

India's hostility to Pakistan is painful but understandable. India's leadership has often used Pakistan to fetch votes in Hindu-majority areas by whipping up a threat perception around cross-border terrorism. It would be safe to conclude that even if Pakistan had applied for BRICS membership, India would have opposed it.

Another factor that undermines the prospects of Pakistan joining BRICS is its own dire economic situation, coupled with political instability, violent extremism and weak law and order. The countries in the BRICS family will stand up to Indian objections when they determine that Pakistan has something tangible to bring to the table. There is no doubt that Pakistan is situated at the centre of the expanded BRICS' economic geography. Pakistan can, for instance, become a genuine hub connecting South Asia with Western and Central Asia. However, for that to happen, Pakistan must first pull up its own economy and consider opening its doors to east-west connectivity, which would complement north-south connectivity well. — Courtesy Dawn

Sindh Governor says: We facing several crises because we have not adopted and spread the message of Sufi and saints

3-day celebration of 280th Urs of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai concluded

BHITSHAH (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori has said that Sindh was the land of saints and sufis and Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai was also among them who always taught lesson of love, peace, sincerity and devotion. He expressed these views while talking to media after laying chaadar on the shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai in the concluding ceremony of 280th Urs of Gear Saint.

Governor said that although we belong to the land of saints but are facing several crises because we have not adopted and spread the message of Sufi and saints.

He said that it was

moment of immense pleasure for him that around 500000 devotees were visiting Urs celebration daily basis.

Governor said that this Urs was being celebrated after 4 years which was hampered due to Covid restrictions and people also earn their livelihood as usual.

In reply to a question about meeting with PML(N) leader Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the Governor said that it was a part of political wisdom as we want to maintain our political relationship with key political parties.

He said that various problems related to the economy, particularly the energy crisis facing Sindh were discussed in the meeting. Tessori said that such a crisis could not be resolved by a single political party but could be tackled collectively.

Governor further said that Sindh was badly affected in last year's flood catastrophe and people of Sindh were still facing its aftermath. He urged all political parties to shun their differences to resolve the problems of the masses and for this purpose he could also consult with political leaders including Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.



BHITSHAH: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori laying wreath on the grave of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai on the occasion of 280th urs celebrations.

Naqvi says: Need of time to establish latest graveyards with increase in population

CM visits 'Shehr-e-Khamoshan', reviews facilities

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Shehr-e-Khamoshan [graveyard], being built at Sundar Road Raiwind, here on Sunday. He reviewed facilities being provided for burial at Shehr-e-Khamoshan and inspected various sections of the project including waiting area, ablation place, funeral place and ambulance.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that burial facilities in

Shehr-e-Khamoshan had been provided in an organised manner, adding that it would be built in other cities as well on the pattern of Sundar Road Raiwind. He underscored that it was need of the time to establish the latest graveyards with increase in population, adding that all requirements with regard to the latest graveyard had been fulfilled at Shehr-e-Khamoshan.

It was informed during the briefing that a

model graveyard comprising 127 kanals of land had been built at the Sundar Road Raiwind. A four wall, funeral place ablation place along with an ambulance had been provided in the model graveyard.

A capacity of more than 12 thousand graves had been kept in the model graveyard. The burial fee in the model graveyards had been reduced from rupees 10 thousand to rupees 3500.

Tribute paid to martyrs, ghazis at SCCI Defence Day ceremony

SIALKOT (APP): A ceremony in connection with Pakistan Defence Day was held at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) Auditorium.

The ceremony was organized by the Child and Social Development Organization (CSDO), a social wing of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik participated in the ceremony as the chief guest. It was attended by President CSDO Shahid Raza, former President SCCI Major (Retd) Mansur Ahmed, Senior Vice President Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) Gulzab Waqas Awan, Vice President WCCIS Madiha Faisal, Dean Faculty of Sciences, University of Sialkot (USKT) Dr. Aslam Dar, SCCI Executive Committee Members, WCCIS Executive Committee Members, students and teachers of CSDO schools.

The students of CSDO schools delivered speeches and presented national songs. They highlighted various aspects of the sacrifices rendered by hundreds of thousands of people of Pakistan and the bravery of the people and armed forces of Pakistan during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. The students also presented tableaux to mark Defence Day. The participants saluted the Shuhada and Ghazis of the 1965 war.

Addressing the participants in the ceremony, President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik said that Defence Day reminds us of the indomitable courage and unmatched sacrifices of our gallant men who proved to the world that the defence of Pakistan is unassailable.



KARACHI: September 03 - Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhvi during a meeting with the Senior Journalists at Karachi Press Club (KPC).

Haris Nawaz says: Preparations underway to launch major operation

THATTA (INP): Caretaker Home Minister Haris Nawaz on Sunday said preparations being made for major operations in Karachi and interior of Sindh, ARY News reported.

Talking to media at Makli Bypass here, Haris Nawaz said that the operation will be launched as new officers will come today or the next day.

Home minister said that Sindh the peace will return to Sindh after posting of good officers. Sindh will turn into a cradle of peace, he said.

"Preparations have been completed for an

operation in Ghotki, Kashmore, Jacobabad and Kandhkot," Haris Nawaz said.

"Operation will be conducted at all places in Katcha and Pacca areas," caretaker home minister of Sindh said.

"We are not going to initiate political victimization against anyone," he said.

"Action being taken against those having NAB or other cases against them," he said. "We will hold free, fair and transparent election and will issue instructions as and when the election date given," he added.

Officers of art councils removed over negligence

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Minister for Information and Culture Amir Mir has taken decisive action against proliferation of obscene dances in Gujranwala and Faisalabad and orders have been issued to remove directors of the arts council in these cities over their failure to curb performance of indecent performances in local theaters. Furthermore, theaters in Faisalabad and Gujranwala that were showcasing such lewd performances have been promptly shuttered.

Amir Mir emphasised that the two arts council directors were protecting individuals perpetuating obscenity under the guise of art. After dismissal of officers, new officers have been appointed.

Minister underscores government's commitment to promote tourism in region

NATHIAGALI (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa minister for Information, Tourism, and Culture, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Sunday emphasized that the establishment of peace and security in the province remains the top priority of the government.

To combat the menace of terrorism effectively, the Counter-Terrorism Force (CTF) has been equipped and strengthened.

He expressed these views while addressing a five-day educational tour organized for visually impaired students at the scenic tourist spot of Nathiagali.

The minister expressed unwavering

determination to bring terrorism under control promptly. He acknowledged the unparalleled natural beauty of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and underscored the government's commitment to promoting tourism in the region.

He said that efforts are underway to curb illegal constructions and ensure the preservation of forests in the province.

Notable tourist destinations such as Nathiagali, Thandiani, Naran Kaghan, among others, are being closely monitored for the unauthorized allocation of government guest houses, hotels, plots, and lands to favoured persons, he said.

Haleem Adil, brothers booked in fraud case

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Haleem Adil Sheikh and his three brothers have been booked in a fraud case.

A fraud case was lodged against the PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh and his three brothers at the Memon Goth police station over a citizen's complaint.

The complainant claimed that Haleem's brother Aleem had promised to give the ownership of a plot in a housing society after receiving Rs60 million on November 26, 2019.

Govt providing all facilities to investors in Sindh: Tessori

KARACHI (INP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has said that the government was providing possible facilities to investors in the province.

This was stated by him while talking to President of Fincantieri Group of Italy General Claudia Graziano who called on him at the Governor House in Karachi on Sunday.

During the meeting, the investment opportunities in Sindh, Pak-Italy relationships and other matters of mutual interest came under discussion. Kamran Tessori invited the Fincantieri group to invest in the vast business opportunities present in the province especially Karachi, which is an economic hub of the country.

Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferraarese and Consul General Danilo Glurdanella were also present on this occasion.

Indonesian diplomatic reception held

KARACHI (APP): The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Karachi, under the leadership of Dr June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, hosted a Diplomatic Reception in commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Indonesia.

The event was held at a local hotel and attended by the diplomatic corps in Karachi, representatives of the Sindh Government, business, education and media communities and Pakistani colleagues.

The caretaker Minister of Home and Prison, Bring (retd) Haris Nawaz as chief guest joined the event along with officials from the Sindh Government and Diplomatic Community in Karachi.

The event shows a celebration of cultural diversity, strengthening diplomatic ties and fostering goodwill between Indonesia and Pakistan.

The Indonesian Consul General, Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat delivered a heartfelt speech.

Constable embraced martyrdom during police encounter

MULTAN (APP): A police constable embraced martyrdom during an exchange of fire with criminals on the premises of Makhdoom Rasheed police station, here Sunday. According to a police spokesman, taking action on the directives of the court.

Sanitary workers deployed in 795 villages

FAISALABAD (APP): Sanitary workers have been deployed in 795 villages of 189 union councils in district Faisalabad under 'Ab Gaon Chamkain Gae' programme.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh, in a statement issued on Sunday, said that implementation of the Ab Gaon Chamkain Gae programme was in full swing. Under the programme, loader rickshaws had also been purchased to ensure complete cleanliness at village level.

Giving some details, he said that sanitary workers were appointed to 174 villages of 59 union councils in tehsil Sadar, to 257 villages of 59 union councils of tehsil Jaranwala, 116 villages of 26 union councils of tehsil Samsundri, 181 villages of 31 union councils of tehsil Tandlianwala and 67 villages of 14 union councils of tehsil Chak Jhumra.

He said that data of sanitary workers and their loader rickshaws was uploaded on the portal and now these workers would ensure cleanliness in these villages on daily basis.

GCWUF to start tree plantation drive today

FAISALABAD (APP): The Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) would kick off tree plantation drive here on Monday, Sept 4, 2023. A spokesperson for the university said here on Sunday that the Department of Public Administration GCWUF would organise a 'Plantation Activity' to contribute towards greener and more sustainable future for the nation. Vice Chancellor GCWUF Prof Dr Zill-i-Huma Nazki would preside over the event while Kashif Raza Awan.

Minister directs to complete ongoing development schemes

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Irrigation Ishwar Lal has directed all chief engineers and project directors and other relevant officers.

He directed the relevant officials to expedite the process of sending emergency schemes to deal with the possible emergency situation caused by expected floods and heavy rains. The minister assured the officers that no transfers/postings



KARACHI: Relatives of Missing persons hold a protest in favor of their demands outside Sindh Assembly, in Provincial Capital.

Droughts, flooding make women, children more vulnerable to insecure livelihoods, poverty

LAHORE (APP): Experts have highlighted a pressing concern regarding the vulnerability of women and children in Pakistan to the adverse health effects of climate change.

This heightened susceptibility primarily arises from the precarious nature of their livelihoods and their enduring struggle with income poverty. When confronted with episodes of food scarcity, drought, or flooding, women and children are disproportionately burdened by hunger and an array of vulnerabilities, as pointed out by the Climate

Change Division in 2013. The urgency of taking action in this context cannot be overstated.

The experts emphasize that addressing this critical issue necessitates extensive collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, national societies, the private sector, civil societies, NGOs, and our entire community. The enormity of the challenges posed by climate change and the exacerbated risks faced by vulnerable populations make it clear that no single

organization can effectively combat these threats in isolation. It is only through collective efforts that these entities can mitigate the direst consequences of the climate crisis.

Environmental advocate Khalid Mahmood Qamar underscores the alarming global temperature rise, which has been accelerating for decades. The annual mean global temperature has surged by 0.57°C in the last century, with both maximum and minimum temperatures showing an upward trend. Qamar notes

that hot days have become even hotter, while cold days have become warmer. In Pakistan, regions such as the hyper-arid plains, and coastal areas, and mountainous terrain have experienced a temperature increase ranging from 0.6-1.0°C between 1960 and 2007.

Drawing from a recent Asian Development Bank report, Qamar warns that Pakistan's current temperatures are projected to continue rising. By 2100, the mean temperature is anticipated to soar within the range of 3-6°C, with a particularly

steep rise expected after 2050. This projection surpasses the global average, and certain regions within Pakistan will witness even more substantial temperature increases.

Muhammad Irfan, the dedicated manager for a resilient and greener future at WWF, emphasizes the likely impact of climate change on agricultural yields in Pakistan. Factors such as droughts, land availability, and shifting crop seasons are poised to render farmers, particularly women and children, increasingly

vulnerable to the health and livelihood repercussions of climate change. Over 80 percent of farmers in the country are smallholders, with approximately one-third of the land relying on rainfed agriculture. Irregular rain patterns and unpredictable weather changes have disrupted agricultural livelihoods, making them uncertain and challenging to sustain.

Irfan further notes that the agriculture sector's low adaptive capacity stems from the limited transferability of livelihood skills. Livestock also plays a pivotal role in

the livelihoods of the impoverished farmers, rendering them highly susceptible to water scarcity, heat stress, and reduced fodder availability. These challenges not only deprive them of immediate income and nutrition but also have ripple effects on the non-farming sector. As the expansion of the non-farming sector is closely tied to agricultural development, the potential loss of livelihoods among farmers could undermine purchasing power and indirectly impact this sector. Therefore, climate change casts a profound

shadow over the lives of the impoverished masses, farmers, and the broader economy, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive and collaborative action. In urban areas, the adverse effects of climate change, such as heat stress and urban flooding, are particularly impacting the lives of residents. These challenges are forcing many people into substandard living conditions with inadequate sanitation facilities. According to a report from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) focused on Pakistan

US official Pak needs energy sector reforms to get rid of debt

WASHINGTON (Online): Senior US official Elizabeth Horst has said that Pakistan needs to reform the energy sector and choose renewable energy sources. The reforms proposed by the IMF will help Pakistan get out of the debt and external financing trap, she added.

According to media reports, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst, who heads the Bureau of South and Central Affairs at the US State Department, stressed the need to implement reforms to meet future challenges. Elizabeth Horst said that this is a difficult economic situation, this is the situation in Pakistan, in America and in the whole world. How can America help Pakistan to avoid economic disaster? We are working every day to help Pakistan advance economic reforms that will make it more competitive and better prepared to meet future challenges.

The U.S. official highlighted recent U.S. efforts to help ease the pressure of the economic downturn and aid to victims of last year's devastating floods, includ-

ing emergency shelter, flood relief and food aid which is more than \$21 million.

She said that at the same time we are building the future to help Pakistan move towards building resilience against natural disasters after recovery from disasters.

Through the Pak-US Green Alliance, we are making strategic investments in the energy, water and agriculture sectors, which will strengthen climate resilience, bring innovation in the energy sector and promote inclusive economic growth, she added.

Stressing the need to encourage foreign investment in Pakistan, Elizabeth Horst said that we want to see Pakistan succeed in the competitive US trade and investment market, it is no secret that when US companies investing in Pakistan is very beneficial for both countries.

She maintained that US investment in Pakistan creates high-paying 21st century jobs, provides training and upskilling for workers and helps ensure compliance with international labor standards.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed addresses to teachers, students at Jamia Banoria Almia.

Calls for accountability in Jaranwala incident Interfaith Harmony Conference promotes unity and tolerance among religions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Religious leaders and scholars from diverse religious backgrounds converged at the Interfaith Harmony Conference recently held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts in the federal capital.

The conference, organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, served as a platform for prominent figures to advocate for unity, peace, and tolerance among different religious communities.

Minister of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, opened the conference with a powerful message of unity. He strongly condemned any distortion of faith and emphasized the need for all religions to come together. He shed light on the recent tragic incident in Jaranwala, expressing his belief that such incidents should never have occurred.

Minister Aneeq also pointed out that neighbouring India had witnessed even worse atrocities against various communities, highlighting that the lives lost among Christian brethren in India were not just Christians but "our brothers."

He extended his message of inclusivity by highlighting the divine nature of all scriptures, including the Torah, Psalms, Bible, and the Holy Quran, affirming that these are all divine revelations, with the Quran being the final one.

Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir

Mahmood Ashrafi, who also serves as the President of the International Interfaith Harmony Council, shared valuable insights on the importance of religious cohesion. He emphasized that the teachings of Islam inherently advocate for peaceful coexistence among all communities.

Ashrafi made it clear that the individuals allegedly involved in the Jaranwala incident were not representatives of any religion but rather of extremism and terrorism.



QUETTA: Activists of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Quetta Press Club.

Jl announces protests against IMF agreements and electricity price hike

LAHORE (INP): The chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, Siraj-ul-Haq announced filing a petition in the Supreme Court of Pakistan under the Right to Information Act to seek the details of the agreements with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) of IMF, which he alleged have benefited the corrupt elite at the expense of the people.

He held a press conference at the party's headquarters Mansoor in Lahore on Sunday, where he thanked the business community, transporters and people for participating in a peaceful strike against the government's economic policies.

He also announced that Jamaat-e-Islami will hold sit-ins at the four governor houses in the country and launch a campaign

against the electricity bills from today.

"We will stage sit-ins in front of governor houses in all four provinces and observe wheel-jam strike along with traders and transporters, if the government refused to reduce electricity bills," the JI Emir said.

He warned that if the government does not withdraw the increase in petrol, diesel and electricity prices, then the business community and transporters may resort to a wheel jam strike.

He said that the strike was a clear message to the government that the people of Pakistan do not accept the agreements that the previous government signed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which have caused

inflation and hardship for the masses.

He criticized the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) for issuing an order to cut off the meters of defaulters and said that JI will not allow any company to remove people's meters.

"When government purchases expensive electricity itself, why it shifts its burden on general public.

Theft committed by you and the public bear the brunt, it won't happen now. We reject these agreements with the IPPs," JI leader said.

He said that electricity is cheaper in Bangladesh, India and Afghanistan than in Pakistan, and accused the caretaker Prime Minister of being a spokesperson of IMF.



QUETTA: Members of Tanzeem Hidayat Noor League are holding protest demonstration against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark, at Quetta Press Club.

Parvez Elahi corruption case, NAB also arrests Muhammad Bhatti

LAHORE (Online): In the alleged corruption scandal of Chaudhry Parvaizalhi, NAB (National Accountability Bureau) has also arrested the Principal Secretary of the former Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Khan Bhatti.

According to media reports, Muhammad Khan Bhatti was arrested by NAB Lahore on the charge of corruption of 1 billion in construction contracts.

The accused is accused of being involved in illegal recruitments in Gujarat and other cities by misusing powers.

Meher Azmat Hayat along with other accused persons were recruited in the Punjab Highway Department as an agent and used them.

Accused Muhammad Khan Bhatti got 116 development schemes approved

in Gujarat with the connivance of co-accused, more than 1 billion was allegedly distributed in development contracts, favored contractor Azmat Hayat was used for bribes in contracts.

The accused received commission from the full payments to the contractors even before the construction work started.

According to NAB Lahore, the alleged corruption in the contracts continued to be transferred to the personal accounts of Chaudhry Parvaizalhi, Monis Elahi and Muhammad Khan Bhatti.

NAB Lahore has obtained the custody of the accused Muhammad Khan Bhatti from Central Jail Gujranwala to further the investigation, the accused will be presented to the Accountability Court Lahore tomorrow for physical remand.

Madad Ali Sindhi pledges to assess ability of teachers to improve educational system

KARACHI (APP): Interim Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi has vowed to evaluate the ability of teachers to correct the educational system in the country. He said that the educational system would be put on the right track.

While talking to media persons during his visit to the Karachi Press Club (KPC) here Sunday, the minister said that the education and ability of the teachers would be checked in the educational institutions including the universities of the country.

He said that a grand provincial meeting had also been convened to discuss

the matters of education and vowed to improve the quality of education.

Replying to a question, he said that education was the provincial subject after the 18th Amendment. He said that Sindh, Punjab and other provinces had reservations over history subjects and they wanted to put the personalities, they considered to include them in the curriculum.

Speaking on the private schools, he said that the fees of the private schools must be reasonable.

Replying to another question, he said that the Federal Urdu University was facing crisis and many employees of the University were not receiving pen-

sions. Earlier, speaking about the issues of the journalists, he advised his interim government to announce a permanent fund for the journalists, who give their twenty years to a media outlet, to meet their expenses as a 'Guzara Allowance.'

He said that he would ensure the provision of scholarships to the children of the journalist community. Madad Ali Sindhi said that he considered the Karachi Press Club as his home and would make all-out efforts to get the issues of journalists resolved.

KPC President Saeed Sarbazi and Secretary Shoab Ahmed were also present on the occasion.



QUETTA: President All Pakistan Labour Federation Sultan Muhammad Khan and others addressing regarding awareness-raising workshop on Trade Union Platforms for promoting Occupational Safety and Health.

Party's joining ceremony: PkMAP would continue to raise voice for rights of oppresses people: Leaders

Independent Report
QUETTA: The politics of Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) is based on human bonds and believes in humanity remaining above all kinds of prejudices. We have always raised voice for the rights of oppresses masses following the principles of humanity, and would continue to do so in future.

This and similar views were expressed by the provincial president of PkMAP, Nasrullah Zairay, secretary, Faqir Khushhal Kasi, Ali Tareen, Professor Asad Tareen and other leaders while addressing a party's joining ceremony at Sheikh regional unit on Sunday.

Some 150 people led by Javed Nazir Gill and 40 led by Tahir Jonson announced to join the party.

Also participated in the joining ceremony was by Qayaz Afghan, zonal organizer of PSO Latif Kakar and others.

Nasrullah Zairay on the occasion said that it is a matter of pleasure that the people from every religion,

colour, faith and nationality are joining the party in large number.

He expressed the hope that the party would be included in the most favourite parties by serving the people without any discrimination.

Mr. Zairay said that the ruling elite has always created differences among the people by spreading prejudices and that on the basis of religion and faith.

He said that the country's establishment also played the role of "rented sepoy" for their own interests and imposed war in the neighbouring country in the name of Jihad. Afterwards, the war in Afghanistan was spread in the whole region and then world and affected our country even, he charged.

He also criticized the record inflation and law and order issues prevailing in the country. Nasrullah Zairay and other PkMAP leaders vowed to expedite political and democratic struggle for the rights of oppressed people of the province and country.



SIBI: Deputy Commissioner Mansoor Ahmed Qazi in a group photo with Staff Levies Officers and Revenue Department employees.

PPP asks ECP to unfreeze development schemes' funds

KARACHI (NNI): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to unfreeze the funds for development schemes.

PPP senior leader Senator Taj Haider wrote a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and demanded to take back its decision to ban the disbursement of funds for the development schemes ahead of elections.

The political party criticised the freezing of funds for the development schemes aiming to provide relief and welfare to the masses.

"Orders of the Election Commission of Pakistan to freeze Development Funds in the Province of Sindh, including those allo-

cated in the provincial budget for providing flood resistant houses to families devastated in last year's floods and for solar panels to provide relief to the poorest of the families from hours of load-shedding and exorbitant electricity bills are shocking to say the least," the letter states.

It stated that the ECP took the surprise decision to freeze the funds for a solar panel scheme amid worst loadshedding and inflated electricity bills issues.

"Inmates of 200, 000 houses that have remained in darkness for generations have been provided solar panels so that they too can benefit from one of the so many bounties of Allah which none of us can deny.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan Dr. Shafiq ur Rehman administering the oath of newly elected President Kaleemullah Bareach and office bearers of Academia Staff Association UoB.

Quran, Sunnah only solution to sufferings of countrymen: Aneeq

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed has said that teachings of Holy Quran and Sunnah are only solution to the socio-economic and moral problems faced by the countrymen.

This was stated by him while addressing a ceremony organized in Karachi on Sunday.

Aneeq Ahmed urged Ulema to spread the message of Islam as they have the strength to take this message in every nook and corner of the society.

He said those obtaining religious education in Madrassas and other educational institutions can put the society on right direction by equipping themselves with teachings of Islam.

Bringers of Imran now struggling to save him: Sanaullah

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab and former interior minister, Rana Sanaullah has alleged that backers of PTI Chief Imran Khan are struggling to save him.

In a statement on Sunday, he declaring Imran "laadla" of judicial system said why he felt need to reach out the people abroad.

Rana Sanaullah said moving International Court of Justice means making Pakistan stand in the international dock as a convict and only the enemies of the country and their operatives did such heinous acts.

Those who wanted to bring terrorists back to Pakistan, release them and re-settle them are now showing a new path to the terrorists, he added.

The PML-N Punjab President further claimed that the ones who brought Imran Khan to power were now trying to save him.

"First, he was made a hero, received foreign funding, brought to power and after bringing him to power destroyed Pakistan's economy and foreign relations. Inflation caused a civil war-like situation."

He alleged said that the minds of the youths were corrupted so they could turn into violent mobs.

The former minister further said that by taking Pakistan to the international court, the usurpers of the rights of Kashmiris and Palestinians have become happy.

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QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan National Party (BNP-Awami) Women Wing are holding protest demonstration against hand grenade attack on the residence of Former Provincial Minister Asad Baloch, at Quetta Press Club.

Amanullah says: GoB would provide more facilities to the sportsmen for representing country

Balochistan has equal potential and talented youngsters as other provinces

Independent Report
QUETTA: Deputy Director Sports Balochistan Amanullah on Sunday said that the province had equal potential and talented youngsters as other provinces.

He called for provision of more extended facilities to make the younger generation healthy and provide an opportunity to exhibit their abilities.

He said the province had the honour to produce international players who brought laurels to the country and the government would create more opportunities and provide facilities to the sportsmen for representing the country.

The deputy director of sports said that organizing of cricket tournament was aimed to provide a healthy environment to the youth by promoting sports in the province to save them from social evils.

Amanullah added that they were providing full support to the youth of Balochistan to exhibit their abilities to the world and bring forward the local talent.

He said that both the teams that reached the finals played well, but losing and winning are part of the game. The players of the losing team should not lose confidence but should work hard in future.