

Independent

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

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVI No. 108, Safar 18, 1445 AH Tuesday September 05, 2023, Pages 08, Price Rs.15

President, PM, others express grief Three Pakistan Navy personnel martyred in Gwadar helicopter crash

ISLAMABAD (INP): Two Pakistan Navy officers and one soldier were martyred on Monday in a helicopter crash in Balochistan's Gwadar, a spokesperson for the navy said.

According to media reports, the spokesperson said that the helicopter crashed during a training flight in Gwadar. "The helicopter crashed during the flight due to a possible technical fault," the spokesperson said. "As a result of the accident, two officers and one jawan of the Pakistan Navy lost their lives," the spokesperson added.

The spokesperson added that an investigation had been launched into the incident. President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives in a helicopter crash in Gwadar. He condoled the martyrdom of Pak Navy officers and jawans in the helicopter crash, and prayed for elevation of ranks of their souls in paradise.

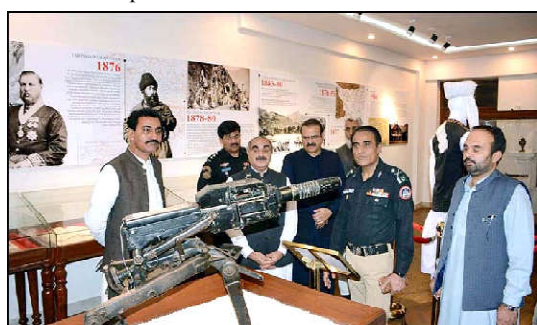


QUETTA: General Secretary Balochistan National Party Jahanzeb Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

No issue in world, which has no solution: Governor

We have to make serious decisions for finding sustainable solution to the complex issues being confronted by the province

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has categorically stated that there's no issue in the world, which has no solution. However, we have to make serious decisions for finding sustainable solution to the complex issues being confronted by the province. He said that he has true realization of the deprivations of basic facilities in Panjgur. He said that the present government is determined to provide basic facilities to the masses at their doorstep in remote areas of the province. The Governor was speaking to the district President of Balochistan National Party, Abdul Ghaffar Shahezaai and General Secretary Qadeer Baloch, who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday. During the course of meeting, the matters about border trade, poor state of roads and highways, law and order situation and issues of health and education were discussed.



QUETTA: Caretaker Minister Balochistan Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali visiting museum during his visit to Central Police Office

Protection of life and property must be ensured: Caretaker Minister Home chairs meeting on law and order; reviews security plan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Captain (Retd) Mir Zubair Jamali has presented salute to the sacrifices of police jawans for establishing law and order in the province. The caretaker Minister was speaking on occasion of his visit to the Central Police Office here on Monday.

Zubair Jamali chaired meeting on law and order situation in Quetta and other parts of the province, at CPO. The Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Additional Inspector General of Police, Deputy Inspector General of Police and other senior police officials were in at-

the services rendered by the martyrs for their motherland.

The president expressed sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for grant of courage to them to bear this loss with equanimity.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic incident of navy helicopter crash in Gwadar.

Condoled the martyrdom of three personnel of Pakistan Navy, the prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty to grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the loss with equanimity.

Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti expressed grief and sorrow on the sad incident of Naval Helicopter Crash in Gwadar on Monday in which two officers and one soldier embraced martyrdom.

In his condolence message, the minister prayed for the departed souls and the bereaved families.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding power sector in Islamabad

President calls for upholding supremacy of constitution

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday appreciated the statement made by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar that his government would abide by the Supreme Court's judgement on the matter of general elections. The president said this in a meeting with Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmed Irfan Aslam, who called on him here.

The meeting discussed many issues related to the holding of general elections in the country.

President Alvi emphasized the need for upholding the supremacy of the Constitution, adding that decisions should be taken in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution.

Independent Report
QUETTA: A control room is scheduled to be established on occasion of the chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) from September 6, 2023 at the office of Deputy Commissioner Quetta.

According to an official notification issued here on Monday, the control room would keep liaison with the provincial control room already established in the Home department. In addition to this, it would also coordinate with all law enforcement agencies and federal and provincial government departments.

According to the notification, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Anwar Kakar has been nominated as the Incharge of control room where the responsible representatives of all concerned departments are required to be present.

Imran Khan, Qureshi's bail pleas unheard as cipher judge goes on leave

ISLAMABAD (INP): The PTI lawyers have reached the court of Judge Raja Jawad Abbas for the bail of PTI Chairman Imran Khan and Vice-Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi in the cipher case as the special court judge who conducts hearing of cases registered under the Official Secrets Act has gone on leave.

PTI lawyers Salman Safdar and Babar Awan appeared in Judge Abbas's court on Monday requesting him to conduct a hearing on the bail applications of Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi as the special court judge went on week-long leave.

However, Judge Abbas told them that he could hear the anti-terrorism court cases as a duty judge, but he was not authorized to hear cases registered under the Official Secrets Act. He advised the PTI lawyers that they should submit an application to the high court, and if the high court ordered him then he could hear their bail pleas.

IMF rejects Pakistan's power relief plan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has turned down Pakistan government's proposal designed to provide relief to the impoverished for exorbitant electricity bills, sources in the Finance Department said Monday. They said a consensus could not be achieved with the IMF over the relief plan.

In the proposal, the IMF was informed by the Pakistan government that relief provision would have an impact of less than Rs6.5 billion. The IMF, however, put the impact at about Rs15 billion, and dismissed the plan as a result.

The IMF has now reportedly sought a proposal on how Pakistan intends to cover this fiscal gap of Rs.15 billion.

Once the new plan is shared with the global lender, the Finance Ministry and IMF authorities will head into talks again. Pakistan has assured the IMF that providing relief for inflated power bills will not result in a budget

deficit, sources added.

The IMF was requested to approve a plan seeking payment of electricity bills by consumers in installments over the course of four months.

The interim government devised a strategy to provide relief to power consumers on exorbitant electricity bills, with a reduction of Rs3000 for users consuming 300 units.

Reports suggest that bills for power consumers using 300 units in September will be decreased by the aforementioned amount.

The government, a few days ago, shared a plan with the IMF seeking relief for the impoverished people in connection with electricity bills.

The government held out an assurance that none of the targets agreed upon by the previous government would be compromised.

Caretaker Minister for Finance Dr Shamsah Akhtar said a team comprising Pakistani authorities met with IMF officials.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries Prince Ahmed Ali Baloch meeting with Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai

Pak Navy's helicopter crash in Gwadar: Governor, CM pay rich tributes to martyrs sacrificing their lives in line of duty

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed deep grief and sorrow over martyrdom of two officers and a jawan in the helicopter crash took place in Gwadar. In a condolence statement issued here on Monday, the Governor prayed for the departed souls of the Navy officers and jawan in the helicopter mishap.

He also prayed that may Allah Almighty give enough strength and patience to the bereaved families to bear the tragic loss.

Meanwhile the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed sorrow over the mishap of Pak Navy's helicopter in Gwadar on Monday.

Four sentenced to death in blasphemy case

RAWALPINDI (APP): The District and Sessions Court Rawalpindi on Monday sentenced four accused to death in a blasphemy case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Ahsan Mehmood Malik pronounced the verdict after recording evidence from the witnesses and final arguments from both sides.

The convicts Faizan Razaq, Amin Rais, Muhammad Rizwan and Wazir Gul were found guilty of blasphemy under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). The court also gave seven years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 100,000 to another accused Usman Liaqat under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over meeting of Secretaries Committee

Government to come up with out-of-box solution on power sector for public relief: PM

Expresses hope that foreign investment projects worth \$25 billion each from Saudi Arabia and the Middle East would realize in a time span of two to five years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday assured that his government was exploring realistic options to come up with out-of-box solutions to provide relief to electricity consumers.

The prime minister, in an interaction with foreign media representatives, said the government would make informed decisions to satisfy the masses on the issue of electricity bills without deviating from the country's commitments with the international financial institutions. Mentioning the issues

of circular debt, power theft and taxes, the prime minister said the government would introduce short-term solutions to the issue without undermining the agitating people.

He assured that the caretaker government was mandated to facilitate holding the general elections as early as possible while observing the constitutional obligations.

He said the Constitution called for carrying out the delimitation of constituencies following the population census.

Prime Minister Kakar said without redesigning the

government structure, the interim setup was mainly focused on rearranging the fiscal and monetary policies to build an edifice for economic revival.

Calling the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) a strategy for economic revival, he said it focused on agriculture, mines and minerals, defence production and information technology. However, he also spelled out the economic reform agenda of his government, saying that the imminent steps included the privatization of two or more power distribution companies.

Pakistan-KSA joint exercise on counter terrorism concludes



RAWALPINDI (APP): The closing ceremony of Pakistan-KSA Joint Exercise in Counter Terrorism domain, AL BATTAR-I, was held at Cherat on Monday.

The two-week long exercise commenced on August 22 with the participation of Special Forces contingents from two brotherly countries, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Nawaf Saeed Al Malki along with senior military leadership, witnessed the final day activities of the exercise. Combat Aviation along with the Special Forces of both countries, displayed their professional excellence. The Exercise concluded with the Fly Past.

The exercise was aimed at further harnessing the historic military-to-military relations between both brotherly countries, including nurturing of joint employment concept against counter-terrorism and identifying areas of mutual interest for future military collaborations.

US dollar reaches Rs. 330 in open market

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a relentless surge, the value of the US dollar against the Pakistani rupee continued to rise, reaching an unprecedented high of Rs330 in the open market on Monday.

On the first day of the business week, the interbank market saw the dollar's value increase by 53 paise, while in the open market, it surged by 2 rupees. The staggering climb to Rs330 in the open market is a new record that has left traders and the public grappling with the implications.

Last week had witnessed a slight dip in the dollar's value in the interbank market, as it had depreciated by 7 paise, closing at Rs305.47 according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

However, the respite was short-lived as the dollar bounced back, reaching an all-time high of Rs305.54 in the interbank market, surpassing the previous week's high of Rs301.

Economists are attributing this rise in the dollar's value to various factors. Firstly, the conclusion of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) standby program has led to increased pressure on the dollar, with imports and exports being impacted.

Issue of missing persons more important than inflation: Article 6 should be applied on those responsible for delay in elections: Mengal

Independent Report

QUETTA: The President Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sardar Akhtar Mengal has stated that no one is safe in the circumstances being created in the Balochistan province. He said that the issue of missing persons is more critical than the issue of price hike and law and order.

A lawyer Ibrahim Lehri Advocate announced to join the BNP along with his companions.



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) President Sardar Akhtar Mengal addressing a press conference.

Shaan-e-Pakistan CM Balochistan Awards to be conferred on unsung heroes today

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Shaan-e-Pakistan Chief Minister Balochistan Awards ceremony is scheduled to be held today (Tuesday) at the Noori Naseer Khan Complex here.

The awards ceremony is being held to honour the "extraordinary heroes" in recognition of their meritorious services in different sectors in the province.

Announcing this, the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai said that the Shaan-e-Pakistan Chief Minister Balochistan would be conferred to the otherwise unsung heroes in a special ceremony to be held today. These heroes would be paid rich tributes at the ceremony to be hosted by the Culture department, Government of Balochistan in collaboration with the Balochistan Youth Empowerment Society and Balochistan TV.

These awards, as mentioned above, would be given to those individuals and organizations who have 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 meant 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.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Tuesday September 05, 2023

Stymied growth

A new report, published by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, shines a light on the multiple obstacles hampering the growth of the country's fledgling engineering industry — and, by default, its small and medium enterprises.

The study, based on a survey of 328 engineering firms, apparently operating in the SME sector, points out unreliable electricity supply, lack of access to formal bank credit, exclusion from global supply chains, branding, pricing, product quality, informality, etc., as major factors affecting the growth and productivity of such enterprises. These issues are faced by SMEs in every sector. The report underlines that a majority of industrial units — 83pc — in the country do not have plans for future expansion, owing primarily to the non-availability of electricity. A few entrepreneurs, however, intend to invest in technology, machinery, land, and skilled labour to boost their business prospects. Likewise, the lack of access to credit for most of these firms, owing to inadequate collateral, is highlighted as another major snag in the realisation of their potential. The report underscores the significance of addressing these challenges, recommending that the engineering firms adopt international and national quality standards. The study also emphasises the importance of strong ties between businesses and the government, adding that political instability and unfavourable economic policies have led to mistrust and dissatisfaction among business owners. SMEs, especially in the engineering sector, are globally regarded as the backbone of economies. Their crucial role in fostering growth, creating large-scale employment opportunities and reducing poverty is universally recognised. Hence, successive governments here have repeatedly pledged to boost the 'ease of doing business' for them since the 1990s so that they can help boost overall economic growth.

However, practically speaking, little has been done to solve their problems. For example, the SME policy of 2021-25, which was widely welcomed because of its generous incentives, such as tax reductions and a Rs60bn bank credit line for collateral-free loans offered to small and medium entrepreneurs, is yet to be implemented. Already faced with formidable challenges, SMEs are believed to have been affected the most by the ongoing economic slowdown and surging inflation. Numerous units have already closed down because of financial troubles caused by increased costs, and thousands of workers have been fired by others to minimise losses as industries struggle to survive the present crisis. For long-term economic stability, more exports and greater job creation for millions of individuals entering the labour market each year, Pakistan's policymakers need to immediately focus on addressing the long-standing issues holding SMEs back from realising their full potential.



Malecha Lodhi

Pressure is mounting on the caretaker government and the establishment on multiple fronts — political, economic and legal. Several developments have fuelled more uncertainty at a time when the country is already in a tense and unsettled state. This has created the prospect of greater instability ahead. The conflation of crises could even push the country towards a tipping point.

Nationwide street protests by traders and members of the public over the sudden and excessive rise in electricity bills have confronted the government with a challenge. It is now struggling for a response that can quell the protests but also not upend the stand-by agreement with the IMF, which provided the financial bailout the

country needed to avert a debt default.

While talks with Fund representatives are underway to find a way to provide 'relief' to consumers, protests continue across the country.

These protests come on the back of a cost-of-living crisis fuelled by record inflation — mostly the result of economic mismanagement by governments in the recent past. This has worsened people's plight in a deteriorating economic environment and bred widespread public discontent.

It was always a question of not if but when this discontent would spill over into the streets. The spark was provided by the exorbitant hike in utility charges. These protests can snowball into wider social unrest if other issues of public grievance — there are many — kick in. Such a potentially explosive situation would be beyond the interim government's capacity to control.

When people see no hope of improvement in their economic condition, it is hard to douse the flames of their anger. What has contributed to public rage is the fact that they are being

asked to bear the burden of governance failures — mismanagement of the power sector by successive governments, failure to deal with its inefficiencies, and lack of reform.

Added to this is a glaring inequity. Certain sectors are exempt from additional electricity taxes, while several categories of state officials receive preferential treatment by way of free electricity. There cannot be a more telling example of a policy that only privileges the elite while the public pays the price. With the rise in petroleum prices and more painful measures ahead, public discontent is likely to intensify, not dissipate.

Already, cities across the country have seen a complete shutter-down strike by retail establishments in response to a call by the traders' association. Such strikes have obvious economic consequences.

Meanwhile, political pressure is growing for elections to be held in 90 days, as stipulated by the Constitution. Last month, the Election Commission of Pakistan ruled this out when it issued a schedule indicating it needed four

months for fresh delimitation of constituencies, which it said it would complete in mid-December. This followed approval of the new population census, secured by the PDM government from the Council of Common Interests in its final days in power. The ECP's decision to delay general elections and not specify a date prompted speculation that the polls could be pushed to February and even beyond. Uncertainty was also fuelled by installation of a gratuitously large caretaker government that began to act as if it were anything but a short-duration arrangement.

The election delay predictably provoked an outcry from several political parties, as well as a spate of legal challenges. Imran Khan's PTI and the PPP demanded elections within the 90-day time frame. The PPP was party to the unanimous CCI decision on the digital census. Its latest stance suggested it has doubts on whether elections will even be held after completion of the delimitation process. Its U-turn is also an effort to distance itself from its former

coalition partner, PML-N.

A cynical explanation is that PPP is mounting pressure in response to administrative actions taken against some of its sympathisers, hoping the establishment will remedy this. In any case, this has left PML-N isolated as the only major party that wants a delay in elections. This signals a lack of confidence in its electoral prospects, especially after Shehbaz Sharif's lacklustre tenure.

The Supreme Court Bar Association has filed a constitutional petition in the apex court that seeks suspension of the ECP decision to hold elections on the new census. It points to the ECP's responsibility to convene elections within 90 days of the Assembly's dissolution. The Bar Council of Pakistan has made a similar demand. PTI and Jamaat-i Islami also filed petitions in the top court seeking general elections within 90 days as mandated by Article 224(2) of the Constitution.

While a legal battle looms, it also puts pressure on the interim government to weigh in on this even though that decision is for its patrons to

take. The government's response through the law ministry to President Arif Alvi's letter to ECP asking for an election date questioned his authority to do this. But it skirted around the issue of when the polls should be called. During a meeting with journalists, Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar simply said it was for ECP to decide the timing.

Not announcing an election date has become a source of growing political controversy and legal contention. Doubts persist that elections may not even be held by February/March. This is deepening polarisation in the country and having a damaging fallout on the economy. More uncertainty will raise the cost to an economy that is already on life support.

It will continue to produce instability in the capital market, vitiate the investment climate, encourage capital flight and delay any significant economic policy decisions. Whether or not the authorities realise this, it puts Pakistan's economic future at grave risk. -- Courtesy Dawn

Bridging the gaps in the region



Dr Khalid Jarral

The recent Iran-Saudi Arabian rapprochement has taken place against the backdrop of America's evolving role in the Middle East and deepening strategic partnerships between China and the Gulf states. Pakistan is centrally located between, and closely linked to, China and the Middle Eastern states. It is endowed with unique advantages to function not only as a figurative bridge between these states but also as a land link connecting them.

Pakistan's geographic and historical linkages are split between a variety of countries and regions, including Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, and the Middle East. Its location and geostrategic relevance is therefore somewhat problematic for strategic planners and scholars alike.

Because Pakistan is located within the orbit of the Middle East and has strong ties with Arab states and Iran, it defines a region that is sometimes referred to as the Greater Middle East. As the Sino-Middle Eastern engagement deepens, Pakistan, China's backyard neighbour, will be increasingly clubbed together with these regional partners.

In the last decade or so, the US has become a leading net exporter of oil and gas, hence a competitor to OPEC countries in the global energy market. With an exponential rise of this sector in the US, the historical American interest in the security of international access to the energy sources in the Middle East has ostensibly waned.

This perception was strengthened by a palpable absence of tangible American protection, for the first time since the petrodollar agreement of 1973, when oil facilities and transport vessels were under Houthi attacks in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. It has also been suggested that it is about time for international stakeholders to proportionately share the responsibility for the security of international

oil trade routes.

This implies that China, since it has replaced the US as the largest importer of oil from the Gulf countries, should contribute to the security of the energy trade routes. Meanwhile, the American threats of withdrawal of military support to Saudi Arabia and expression of opprobrium concerning their longstanding ally exacerbated the already strained relations between the two countries. Saudi Arabia vehemently rebuffed these coercive tactics of its ally and stepped out to assert its strategic and political centrality in the region and beyond.

These factors have ultimately diminished the effectiveness of the US-Saudi Arabia strategic alliance of the cold war era and set in motion a historical geopolitical and geostrategic repositioning in Riyadh.

Under the leadership of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the country has charted an independent path for its socio-economic transformation and has since departed from its exclusive reliance on the US, actively pursuing a diversification of its strategic partnerships.

With a recalibrated foreign policy and a flurry of diplomatic initiatives, the Saudi crown prince has taken centre stage in international diplomacy, proving that the 'international pariah' denunciation was a sheer misjudgement on the part of the American leadership. It only served to unleash the potential of Saudi diplomacy.

These policy shifts have opened the door to China's deeper strategic engagement with Saudi Arabia. But China's competitive relationship with the US, the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea, and its quest for safer alternatives to the Malacca Strait trade route — through CPEC and other alternatives — make it a tricky proposition.

These Saudi policies of diversification and strategic repositioning have set the stage for the enhancement of Pakistan's defence and economic cooperation with Saudi Arabia. China's strategic partnerships with Iran and Saudi Arabia and the Iran-Saudi rapprochement have already removed the bottlenecks of strategic economic and defence cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Negotiations are currently underway between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia for an all-encompassing strategic cooperation agreement as an instrument for a comprehensive defence relationship. In this regard, another important consideration would be the position of India, which is a major consumer of Saudi oil. Defence and security cooperation is also on the agenda of the Saudi crown prince's upcoming visits to Pakistan and the UK.

Against this background, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) of Pakistan has emerged as a vehicle for defence diplomacy initiatives. The council capitalizes on the prestige of Pakistan's defence institutions to pull in foreign investment from the Gulf states. In August, the council launched its investment drive with a conference to attract investment in Pakistan's underexplored mineral wealth.

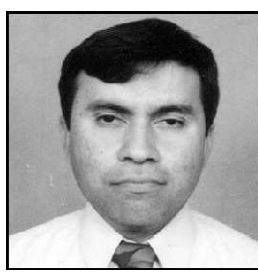
For Iran, these regional adjustments are conducive to contriving alternative solutions to its economic development agenda, gridlocked by the US sanctions. In addition to enhancing bilateral trade with

Pakistan, Iran could work with Pakistan and China to explore ways to subsume the dormant Iranian projects, such as the Pakistani section of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, into CPEC or other BRI framework.

Iran is currently grappling with India's diverging interests in its strategic economic cooperation with Iran and a patchy commitment to the development of the Chabahar Port and the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Whereas India seeks to exploit Iran's connectivity advantages to bypass Pakistan for access to Central Asia, its Quad membership and its ambitious vision of technology transfer from the West drive its divergence with Iran and Russia.

Meanwhile, Iran's strategic partnership with China and recent detente with Saudi Arabia have prepared the ground for Iran to overcome the divergence with India on the INSTC and the Chabahar Port by seeking convergence with the Gulf states, Pakistan, and China. The views expressed in this article are personal. -- Courtesy TheNews

Infrastructure risk



Dr Noman Ahmed

In the recent past, Karachi has experienced several unfortunate, infrastructure-related accidents that impacted human lives and assets. The list is long: nine people were injured in a sewer gas explosion in Lasbela. Its intensity caused panic among residents and passersby, who thought a bomb had gone off. A man died when a signboard fell on him in Nazimabad. Uncovered sewers have taken scores of lives, including those of two siblings, who fell to their death through a manhole in Malir.

Other common infrastructure hazards include electrocution, especially during the monsoons. Fires at various premises are regular occurrences, often ignited by faulty electric fixtures, wiring and devices. Not too long ago, malfunctioning oil pipes caused an oil spill in Korangi.

Traffic accidents pose a constant and common danger to ordinary folk and broken infrastructure, such as dilapidated pedestrian bridges without handrails and balustrades, is a hazard for pedestrians, especially women and children. At the other end, there has been an unceasing rise in Karachi's street crime, and the media is rife with clips of mugging and theft. A most unexpected passerby in the city was a big cat on Sharea Faisal; it evaded capture for many hours in the haphazard infrastructure of the metropolis.

Whenever one has brought the grave realities of a fractured infrastruc-

ture and poor urban governance to the notice of the city and provincial leadership, investment figures set aside for mega projects have been rattled off. Take the much-trumpeted 'safe city' project; five years on, there is negligible progress. Media reports say it overshoot the original spending target and has exceeded Rs40 billion, perhaps higher than the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation's annual budget. Also, how the mere installation of CCTV cameras will ensure safety for pedestrians and passengers is unclear, as merging this network with law-enforcement agencies and their response teams requires detailed, foolproof planning.

Another multibillion-rupee project, S-III, is also ongoing. It aims to take the bulk of wastewater to treatment plants, for purified water to be released into the environment. But wastewater management in Karachi has many dimensions — storm water drains and nullahs have become secondary, with tertiary sewers with wastewater being randomly disposed in these conduits, and unregulated development with scarce application of planning and engineering wisdom resulting in sewage flowing into lanes and streets across the city.

Moreover, when unplanned construction covers wastewater conduits, it traps harmful gases, and their accumulation leads to explosions. Therefore, mapping the existing wastewater disposal situation, identifying bottlenecks and other snags, population projections and redevelopment of sewers are some of the more common remedies for the entire city.

Many central corridors of movement are dug up for the BRT corridor. On University Road, mighty cranes are at work

with dubious safety measures, and often workers are seen waving red flags at motorists, but an alternative plan for travel is absent. Billions of rupees have been spent on subsidy-driven transportation initiatives. The Karachi BRT is a classic example of wasteful expenditure of public funds. It is estimated that if and when all seven BRT corridors operate, they will not carry more than nine per cent of the total passenger load.

The adjustments for these are already creating congestion, as many lanes of movement will be lost to make way for BRT buses. There is a plethora of new institutions to manage the BRT at the federal and provincial levels, with huge administrative costs. In these times of grave economic crises, exacerbated by World Bank and ADB loans, one is forced to question the technical and financial merits of exorbitant projects, with minimal benefits to the commuters.

Karachi's populace deserves better. Our civic institutions, land management agencies and utility organisations require enormous reforms so that they are able to resolve contemporary challenges. It will be prudent to include independent and experienced experts in governing bodies and management boards.

For instance, while there is a provision for an oversight committee in the building control authority, since its creation in 1979, this committee has rarely been notified. When active, it provided objective appraisals of building control activities that led to many useful procedural reforms. It requires firm will on the part of governments to create such oversight entities in order to avert a collapse of governance, glimpses of which are commonly observed in our civic affairs. -- Courtesy Dawn

Mentoring in school



Neda Mulji

Walking past a noisy classroom where a teacher was screaming to get her students' attention, the principal turned around and said: "This teacher needs help." She was spot on. In the absence of policies and mentoring programmes, teachers use a variety of methods to control their classes, mostly guiding only those students who are easy to communicate with.

Professional development of teachers is not just about upgrading teaching skills. There are many fantastic teachers, with expert subject knowledge, who struggle in other aspects of their work lives. There are avenues of growth that require focused attention, such as teacher motivation, relationship management with colleagues, and collaboration with the school management. While informal approaches to mentoring are prevalent in schools, structured programmes are lacking in most schools.

Ad hoc ways of colleagues gathering together to resolve issues over a cup of tea may be an excellent way of improving camaraderie among staff members, but carry the dangers of momentary firefighting. Often, these informal routes result in setting up cliques of school staff that stick together due to common struggles. It perpetuates a 'culture of complaining' that can become an obstacle to their enjoyment and appreciation of work life. Many narratives abound, ranging from discontent with the management to a lack of agency in decision-

making, perceived absence of autonomy and general inertia. Sustainable mentoring programmes can be a positive intervention.

While mentoring programmes cannot resolve every issue that arises — and certainly not eradicate conflict from the school environment — there are many benefits to initiating systematic intervention by trained school leaders. Sustained conversations over a period of time, with members of the school's senior management, can do wonders to bridge the gap between hierarchies and give teachers an opportunity to be heard and feel valued. These conversations must follow a framework with clearly identifiable goals, a two-way exchange of ideas and a solution-focused goal.

When teachers complain about a 'thankless' job, the feeling is usually born out of a need to be recognised individually for their efforts and a desire to be included as contributors to school policies, ethos and day-to-day operations. Very few teachers change jobs due to low remuneration; most switch in search of an institution where their efforts are regarded as more than just a drop in the ocean.

A school-wide programme that offers guidance, advice, feedback and support can help early-career teachers develop confidence in their ability to have a positive impact on students and colleagues. It also helps their relationship management with parents, who are a vital cog in the school support system. Besides developing trust and confidence amongst colleagues, a mentoring programme can provide the tools for resilience, adaptability to changes within the school context and self-reflection. Many teachers face common problems, such as students' unruly behaviour, and usually apply tools that come intuitively to them. In many

cases, the differences between teachers' behaviour and attitudes is enough to confuse children. This is why we see students behaving well with one or two teachers and not others.

Consistent policies for addressing student attitudes and parental concerns can help schools establish a culture of positivity where students and teachers alike are encouraged to seek help. Many schools send a student handbook at the start of a new academic year, but very few have such a handbook for teachers.

In a classroom, every teacher is a leader, a shepherd and a mentor. However, they cannot do justice to this leadership role in isolation. When they collaborate through a teacher-mentoring programme, they often find that many others are in the same boat, and consistent communication and ways to address challenges create a positive climate for teachers and students alike. Change often starts at the top, and the impact of great leadership trickles through the echelons of a school system, right down to students, school support staff and externally to the parents and society at large.

The teacher who screams in a noisy classroom to get her students' attention also uses a few choice words that sound like dire warnings. She believes that 'tough love' is what the children of today need and haven't been accustomed to. In her mind, she is 'helping' — not hindering — their ability to regulate their own behaviour. She clearly needs pastoral care from her own leadership and mentors that may steer her in the direction of using a positive approach to make a positive impact. After all, students often mirror their teachers. Eventually, society reflects what's happening in the classrooms, and vice versa. -- Courtesy Dawn

Punjab Governor says: Vast opportunities for Pakistani businessmen to export in ASEAN countries

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the Trade and Tourism Conference on ASEAN at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry today as a special guest. Ambassadors of ASEAN countries, President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kashif Anwar, and officials and executive committee members of the Chamber were present in the conference.

Addressing the conference, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that there are vast opportunities for Pakistani businessmen to export in ASEAN countries. Similarly, businessmen from ASEAN countries can invest in Pakistan in various sectors. He said

that the government has taken various measures to provide facilities to foreign investors. ASEAN member countries can benefit from these facilities, he added. He said that he warmly welcomes the honourable ambassadors of ASEAN countries present in the conference and expressed hope that this conference will play a significant role in the promotion of trade and tourism relations between Pakistan and ASEAN countries. He said that Pakistan has vast business opportunities for ASEAN countries in various sectors including tourism, agriculture, and export of halal products. He said that Pakistan has a unique position in the world in terms of its natural scenery, cultural heritage, and hospitality. He said that the landscapes of our

country have all the features, adding that investment and proper promotion can make Pakistan the centre of tourism. Punjab Governor emphasized that the expertise of ASEAN countries should be utilized for the development of Pakistan's tourism sector and with their support and guidance, better policies should be formulated to improve basic infrastructure and attract foreign tourists. He further said that new avenues of trade and economic cooperation can be explored within the ASEAN region. He said our presence here today reflects the importance we attach to fostering robust relationship and creating synergies that can pave the way for mutual growth and prosperity.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan Addressing a press conference.

Principal's indecent viral video Minister directs to seal unregistered school

KARACHI (APP): Private Institutions on the directives of the provincial minister, has written a letter to Deputy Commissioner Malir to seal the building of an unregistered private school's principal, has directed to seal and take legal action against the incident in the school.

The private school is located in Gulshan e Hadeed area of the city. The Directorate of

administration has been directed to take legal action on the incident in the unregistered school.

Ghazanfar says: IRD launched at regional office of Federal Ombudsman

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman was making strenuous efforts to facilitate the masses and in this connection, the regional office had focused on Informal Resolution of Disputes (IRD) to pass on benefits to the grieved sectors of the economy, said Incharge Regional Secretariat of Federal Ombudsman Faisalabad Syed Ghazanfar Mehdi.

Talking to APP during an exclusive meeting here, he said that Federal Ombudsman had launched IRD program during April 2022 which had provided tangible results. Therefore, this mechanism was also introduced in regional

secretariat Faisalabad so that the people could be provided speedy and free justice.

He said that regional office had so far received four complaints under IRD. The IRD had no need of fee payment to any pleader or bear the brunt of litigation or face long judicial procedure rather this program helped in resolving the dispute through an arbiter at preliminary stage, he added. He said that Federal Ombudsman had so far resolved more than 2275 disputes under IRD whereas 127 cases were under progress across the country.



SIALKOT: Deputy Commissioner Adnan Mehmood Awan is addressing the convention of District Numberdars titled "Ab Gaon Chamkein Gay".

Special measures being taken to improve cleanliness: Sec LG South

MULTAN (APP): Local Government South Punjab, Amin Owaisi, said that special measures were being taken to improve cleanliness of city of Saints. He expressed these views during visit to Multan Waste Management Company (MWM) office here on Monday.

Chief Executive Officer MWM Shahid Yaqub gave briefing on sanitation situation.

New board of directors has been formed for the improvement of the

company's affairs and capacity of the company will also increase.

Amin Owaisi directed officials to place containers and dust bins at central places of the city in order to provide pleasant environment to citizens. Company was performing well despite limited resources.

He also ordered to fix place for new landfill sites and transfer stations.

Earlier, CEO Shahid Yaqub said that merit policy was implemented to improve the performance of the company.

CM extends sympathies to heirs of martyrs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed a deep sense of sorrow over the Pak Navy helicopter crash in Gwadar.

In a message, he extended heartfelt sympathies to the heirs of two officers and a jawan who embraced martyrdom.

LHC orders to produce Parvez Elahi on Sept 5

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday ordered district and sessions judge Attock to recover former chief minister Punjab Parvez Elahi from Attock jail and produce him tomorrow (Tuesday).

The court also issued a notice to the inspector general of police Islamabad for September 8 and sought explanation over the arrest of Parvez Elahi.

Justice Muhammad Amjad Rafiq passed the orders while hearing two separate petitions filed by Qaisara Elahi, wife of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, for the production of her husband and contempt proceedings against Punjab police officials.

The court heard the petitions at different intervals during the day.

Under-training police officers delegation visits PSCA

LAHORE (APP): A delegation comprising police officers, undergoing training at the Chung Training Centre, visited the Punjab Safe Cities Authority here on Monday.

The delegation was briefed by the Safe Cities officers about working of the authority. The visitors were informed about the operations and monitoring centre, 15 emergency help centres, call dispatch control centre and also briefed about the e-challenging system.

The delegation was told that the PSCA electronic data analysis centre has provided digital evidence in more than 20,000 cases.

The police officers said the Safe City cameras were providing full support in police operations and investigations. The plan is very important for guiding law-enforcement agencies. For that, the scope of the Safe Cities project would be extended to the whole of Punjab.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the Trade and Tourism Conference on ASEAN at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Inspects development projects in city Naqvi directs acceleration of work on Nawaz Sharif interchange underpass project

CM Punjab overflies Ring Road Southern Loop-III project for inspection

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Shadara flyovers and the Nawaz Sharif Interchange Bedian Road underpass projects to assess the progress.

The Shadara flyovers project is approximately 84 percent complete, while the Nawaz Sharif interchange Bedian Road underpass project has seen about 40 percent of its work finished.

During his visit to the Shadara flyovers, Mohsin Naqvi closely examined the

construction of protective walls and met with the project workers, urging them to continue their hard work diligently. He expressed satisfaction with the progress and instructed the creation of an alternative service road to facilitate traffic flow from Gujranwala. He emphasized the need to elevate the service road to improve traffic management and provided necessary directives to the Director General Lahore Development Authority (LDA) and the contractor to ensure timely

completion of both projects within the specified time frame. This project would permanently resolve traffic issues at entry and exit points of the provincial metropolis, he noted.

Commissioner/ DG LDA Mohammad Ali Randhawa, chief engineer LDA and contractor briefed that work on the Shadara flyovers projects continues round the clock to achieve timely completion, which will significantly improve daily traffic flow for 300,000 vehicles.

Situation in GB is completely peaceful

GILGIT (APP): The situation in Gilgit-Baltistan is completely peaceful. Business life is going on as normal in commercial centres and bazaars. According to a statement issued by the Information Department of Gilgit-Baltistan, thousands of tourists from home and abroad are coming to enjoy the natural environment of Gilgit-Baltistan.

According to the statement, anti-national and evil elements are trying to give a negative colour to the peaceful protest by some religious parties in Gilgit-Baltistan on social media and are busy

misleading public opinion through fake news and propaganda.

In any places in Gilgit-Baltistan, no shots were fired and no damage was done to private or government property during the peaceful protest against religious and communal response.

According to the statement, the Gilgit-Baltistan government is implementing coordinated measures with the cooperation of all stakeholders for the development and development of the region, religious tolerance and co-existence.

Heavy quantity of 'Gutka' seized

FAISALABAD (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized a heavy quantity of 'Gutka' (betel quid) and imposed fine on shopkeepers over violation of the laws. A PFA spokesman said here on Monday that a team conducted checking of a grocery store and cold drinks corner near Novelty Bridge Dijkot Road and found 1,100 packets of prohibited 'Gutka' (Rattan and One2One). Both shopkeepers had stored the prohibited item at secret places of their shops. The PFA team imposed fine on the shopkeepers and warned that they would be sent behind bars.



KARACHI: Women supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami participate in a rally to mark International Hijab Day in Provincial Capital.

CM's aide says: Govt to utilize all resources for supplying clean drinking water

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to KP Caretaker Chief Minister on Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Communications & Works, Dr. Syed Sarfaraz Ali Shah Monday said all resources will be utilized for uninterrupted supply of clean drinking water to the people across the province. He expressed these views during a briefing regarding the Public Health Engineering Department here. Besides, Additional Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Chief Engineers and Executive Engineers of the department were present on the occasion.

The advisor directed the up-gradation and activation of all completed schemes on an emergency basis besides modern training of staff including the timely release of funds and approval of new projects under public-private partnership and practical steps and initiating of practical steps for the achievement of the recovery of the water charges. He also directed for bringing further improvement in the monitoring system of the ongoing development projects and their completion within the stipulated time period.

Director Technical Waseem Marwat while giving a briefing said that there are 7991 water supply schemes in the settled districts of Khyber.

Director Technical Waseem Marwat while giving a briefing said that there are 7991 water supply schemes in the settled districts of Khyber.

Latest screening system installed at Lahore airport

LAHORE (APP): In an important development in connection with the start of flights from Pakistan to the UK and the European Union (EU) countries, a state-of-the-art screening system has been installed at Allama Iqbal International Airport.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) sources told APP on Monday that the system has been installed with the cooperation of the UK government.

Last month, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) had passed an initial audit by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), bringing the national flag carrier one step closer to resuming flights to the UK. The UK's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy officials handing over the sized Narcotics to ANF officials.

KP CM, US CG discuss collaboration for regional development

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan, held a meeting on Monday with the newly appointed US Consul General, Shante Moore, in Peshawar.

During the meeting, they discussed mutual interests and matters related to cooperation and collaboration between the provincial government and United States' development agencies in various sectors.

Muhammad Azam Khan stated that the KP provincial government viewed cooperation with the US government and agencies in different sectors as of great importance.

He emphasized that the US government would continue to strengthen cooperation with the province.

The chief minister stressed the need for increased cooperation with friendly nations and donor agencies in the tribal areas, which had lagged

behind in development for decades.

He also highlighted the special need to focus on building basic infrastructure in these war-torn regions and placed particular emphasis on road infrastructure development.

He further noted that improving the police infrastructure in the merged districts was essential to ensure peace and security.

The promotion of girls' education was among the provincial government's top priorities, the chief minister said.

He expressed the willingness of the KP provincial government to welcome American cooperation in these sectors and provide any necessary assistance.

Shante Moore, assured that the US government would continue to work closely with the provincial government and the public to carry on the work of public welfare.



PESHAWAR: US Consul General Mr. Shante Moore meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali at Governor House.

Minister performs ground breaking of 'Isolation Hospital' at Lahore airport

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Nadeem Jan said on Monday that integrated strategy had been formulated to protect people from diseases and epidemics.

He was addressing the ground-breaking ceremony of the 'Isolation Hospital' at Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore.

The minister said that the government was determined to strengthen the border health services to deal with any sudden outbreaks as epidemics had no borders limits, adding that surveillance mechanism at international airports of the country were being improved to tackle the situation.

Dr Nadeem Jan said that the government was ensuring implementation of international health recommendations.

He announced that a conference on Global Health Security Agenda was going to be held in

Pakistan and this was for the first time that this kind of international conference was being arranged in Pakistan in which public health experts from all over the world would participate. He recalled that it was a matter of prestige that Pakistan would host such international conference.

He was of the view that by organising such international conference in Pakistan, it would pave the way for improvement, modernisation and development in the health sector of the country.

Meanwhile, a delegation of pharma exporters called on Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan in Lahore and discussed various issues related to pharma sector. The meeting decided to create a comprehensive strategy to increase exports of pharma drugs as Pakistan's pharma sector had lot of potential.

The health minister emphasised the need for quality of medicines as per international standards in order to increase exports.



HYDERABAD: Civil society, different political and nationalist parties activists, advocates and people from different walks of life block bypass against kidnapping of Hindu businessmen and children in Kashmir.

KP CS orders IBO against smuggling of essential commodities

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary on Monday directed intelligence-based operations against smuggling and hoarding of essential commodities.

He gave the instruction while presiding over a meeting of the provincial task force on anti-smuggling and hoarding of essential commodities and other items. The Chief Secretary said that, constituted on the direction of the Prime Minister, the task force would ensure that smuggling and hoarding of essential commodities are halted and strict action is taken against violators as per law. The forum was

apprised that sufficient stock of sugar was available in the province, which would last until the start of the sugar crushing season in mid-November, provided that smuggling and hoarding of the commodity was controlled. To stop currency smuggling, scanning and full body searches at airports and border points are standard procedures. It was further informed that 21 provincial joint check posts had been established in border districts, manned by officials of the agriculture and food department, the police, and the district administration. The Chief Secretary stressed upon the authorities to work in close coordination to tackle the sugar crisis.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Education Minister Qadir Bakhsh meeting with Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai

Sindhi for enhancing Pak-Turkiye cooperation in education, culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi Monday emphasized enhancing cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye in the fields of culture and education. He was speaking during the event titled 'One Hundred Years of Magnitude: Pak-Turk Affinity,' organized by the National Institute for Historical and Cultural Research (NIHCR), Quaid-i-Azam University, and the Yunus Emre Institute, Turkish Cultural Center.

The minister stated that the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Turkiye were an unprecedented manifestation of brotherhood and love, which cannot be compared. He said that the Muslims of the subcontinent actively participated in the Khilafat Movement and added that the new generation should be aware of their cultural identity. "We are proud that our region is home to the great civilizations of the world. Thousands of years ago, when the world was plunged into darkness, the civilization of Mohenjo Daro and Harappa were the cradles of knowledge and wisdom," he said.

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah while addressing the event said that a talented and creative mind was the hallmark of any nation. It is through the promotion of literature and art that nations come closer to each other and the intimacy between them increases.

Advisor for Irrigation vows to play role to resolve problems of masses

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Irrigation, Mir Danish Langove has assured that he would play wholehearted role for resolving the basic issues of general public taking deep interest. He said that he and other members of the interim cabinet are well aware of the issues being faced by the people, and as such he is committed to play their part in resolving them.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Advisor to Chief Minister while speaking to different delegations who called on him here at his office on Monday. The members of delegations greeted Mir Danish Langove on becoming Advisor to the interim Chief Minister. He said that although the duration of interim government is brief, however, he is firm to resolve the issues of common men remaining in the mandate given. The Advisor further said that development of irrigation has priority in production sector. He said that he doesn't claim to bring revolution in the Irrigation department, but assure that he would play his role in maintaining quality of work in all development projects, he maintained.

Raids dairy farms; Quetta administration recovers adulterated milk and 50 bottles of oxytocin

Independent Report QUETTA: The Quetta district administration launched crackdown against the adulterated milk at the dairy farms located in various parts of the city. A person using the same was arrested and Rs. 50 fine was also charged. Meanwhile, the administration and BFA team also visited different areas to check the plantation of different vegetables and crops through use of contaminated sewer water.



QUETTA: Senator Danesh Kumar meeting with Caretaker Finance Minister Amjad Rasheed and Advisor to Chief Minister Danish Langove

Finance Minister chairs ECNEC meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatisation Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), today. Mr. Sami Saeed, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Minister for Communications, Maritime Affairs & Railways, Mr. Muhammad Ali, Minister for Power & Petroleum, Mr. Ahmad Rasool Bangash Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Excise & Taxation KPK, Mr. Muhammad Younas Dhaga Minister for Finance, Revenue Sindh Government, Mr. Amjad Rasheed, Minister for Finance & Revenue Balochistan, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers from Federal Ministries and Provincial departments participated in the meeting. The ECNEC considered and approved project of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination titled "Emergency Plan for Polio Eradication (3rd revised)" at a cost of USD 1784.93 million including grant from GPEI partners of USD 1197.93 million, Islamic Development Bank loan of USD 552 million and AFD loan of USD 35 million. The project will supply polio eradication vaccines all over Pakistan and will be executed by WHO and UNICEF. The ECNEC after discussion extended the duration of umbrella PC-1 of the project to three years.

Speakers says Chaghi, Panjgur potential to produce thousands of MW renewable electricity

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan's Chaghi and Panjgur districts have the potential to produce thousands of megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity (RE) from wind and solar energy but financial, administrative and political problems are hampering this potential from becoming a reality. These views were expressed by speakers while addressing a consultative conference held in Quetta on Monday. They highlighted various electricity problems faced by the people of Balochistan, such as low levels of access to electricity, high electricity costs and long hours of load-shedding, and said that the most effective option to address these problems is to produce electricity from renewable sources close to where people need it.

They also underscored the fact that Balochistan-based electricity projects in general and renewable energy projects being planned in the province, in particular, get neglected because of the fragile law and order situation, lack of policy preparation and policy planning at the provincial level and the absence of coordination between the provincial and federal authorities. The conference, titled Balochistan's Renewable Energy Journey: Making accessible, affordable and sustainable power in the Province, was organized by the Institute for Development Studies and Practices (IDSP), a non-governmental organization working in Balochistan since 1998. It was helped in this endeavour by two Islamabad-based think tanks, Renewables First and Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development (PRIED). Rabia Mirani and Zubair Khan, two young researchers working with IDSP on a draft renewable energy policy for Balochistan, told the participants of the conference that the governments as well as the private sector are highly reluctant to invest in the province's electricity sector.

"This reluctance owes to many factors including extremely low recovery of electricity bills, especially from the owners of agricultural tube-wells, and the requirement to lay very long transmission and distribution networks to take electricity to the highly dispersed and sparse provincial population," they said. Ammar Qaseem, a researcher associated with Renewables First, briefed the conference on how the federal government's planning document for the energy sector, Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP), is made and how its low focus on renewable energy is hurting Balochistan's interests.

"Not a single renewable energy project from Balochistan has been included in the latest edition of IGCEP. This means that no renewable energy project will be installed in Balochistan in the next ten years unless the makers of IGCEP change their policy focus and prioritize renewable energy over other sources of energy," he said. He stressed the need to further promote public private partnership with respect to the construction of motorways and high ways across the country. Chairing a high level meeting of Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA), the prime minister said with infrastructure development, the connectivity of different areas of the



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Public Private Partnership Authority.

Jan Jamali saddened over loss of precious lives in heli crash

Independent Report QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali has expressed sorrow over the loss of precious lives in helicopter crash in Gwadar. In a statement issued here on Monday, the Speaker expressed heartfelt condolence and sympathy with the bereaved families of the martyrs. He prayed for the departed souls and the heirs that may Allah Almighty give them patience to bear the tragic loss of lives of their dear ones.

Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali said that the country is surviving just because of the sacrifices of the brave soldiers of the nation. Also present on the occasion were the Additional Chief Secretary Home, Saleh Muhammad

Introductory meeting with high ups: Jamali directs to make short & long term plans for effective policing

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Zubair Jamali has stressed the need to make short and long term planning for successful and effective policing. He said that it is requirement of the present era to ensure information technology based policing in the province so as to achieve the desired goals of law and order. He stressed adding moreover, we would also have to take steps for welfare of the masses and make the police their friendly. The caretaker Minister Home was in an introductory meeting with the Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Deputy Inspector General of Police and Superintendents of Police here on Monday.

Also present on the occasion were the Additional Chief Secretary Home, Saleh Muhammad Nasar, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, Special Secretary Home, Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Additional Secretary Home and other concerned high ups. The meeting was briefed about the law and order situation in different areas of the province. In addition to this, the meeting was also briefed about the special steps taken and being taken on chehnum of Hazra Imran Hussain (RA). Addressing the meeting, the Minister said that we have to deliver the services to the masses. He exhorted the law enforcement agencies to perform their duties as service.

In order to bring improvement in the policing, we have to use modern techniques of modern era, he stressed adding moreover, we would also have to take steps for welfare of the masses and make the police their friendly.



QUETTA: Quetta Administrator, Jabbar Baloch addresses to members of Metropolitan Corporation Tazmeeni Ittehad after successful negotiations with them during their protest, in Quetta.

Sardar Ejaz Jaffar exhorts PHE officers to ensure supply of clean water to people

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar has emphasized that it is responsibility of the concerned officers of department to ensure supply of clean water to the masses with good intention and honesty. He said that the officers would perform their duties with honesty would be respectable to him and honourable. No relaxation would be given to the officers to be indulged in illegal and negative acts at all. The caretaker Minister was speaking during the briefing about performance of the PHE and other related matters. The Secretary PHE, Saleh Muhammad Baloch briefed the Minister in detail.

Also present on the occasion were the Additional Secretary PHE, Abdul Qadeer, Chief Engineer and other senior officials of the department. Sardar Ejaz Jaffar said that he has served as Secretary of the department, so he knew well all affairs of the department. He announced to visit to the water supply

schemes of the department on and off. He asserted that if he found element of personal interest of the officers in the projects of water supply, action would be taken against them. He on the occasion directed to ensure supply of water to the Lehri Khairwah and other adjoining areas besides providing water to Bakhtiarabad and Bhag from Pat Feeder canal under the Phase-I of Kachhi canal. He also directed to enforce billing and collection system immediately so as to ensure maximum recovery.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Ahmed Jaffar being briefed by Secretary PHE Saleh Muhammad Baloch about departmental affairs



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmed Irfan Aslam called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PM for promoting PPP to reduce govt expenditures, improve performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said promoting public private partnership in the country could curtail government expenditures and improve performance of the projects. He stressed the need to further promote public private partnership with respect to the construction of motorways and high ways across the country. Chairing a high level meeting of Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA), the prime minister said with infrastructure development, the connectivity of different areas of the

country would be improved, thus strengthening the national integration. He directed the relevant authorities to present a comprehensive plan with respect to the East-West connectivity to provide better access between Western and Eastern areas of the country. He said additional opportunities were required with respect to the promotion of public private partnership. During the meeting, it was informed that projects worth Rs 646 billion were launched in the last two years under public private partnership. Direct savings of Rs

150 billion were ensured in terms of government subsidies through the approved projects of public private partnership, the meeting was told. The meeting was further informed that Sialkot-Kharian Motorway, Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway, Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway, Karachi Circular Railways and outsourcing of Islamabad International Airport were among the top Public Private Partnership Authority projects. "Education, information technology and export sectors are also among the priorities," it was added.

Pakistan Navy siezed 9.5 tons of narcotics at sea

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Navy and Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in an intelligence-based joint counter-narcotics operation on Monday seized 9.5 tons of narcotics and over 10 thousand bottles of Liquor at sea. The apprehended drugs were stowed in hidden compartments of a fishing boat that was successfully intercepted by a Pakistan Navy Ship, a Pakistan Navy news release said. The estimated value of seized narcotics is US \$ 112 million in the international market. The seized drugs were subsequently handed over to the Anti-Narcotics Force for further legal proceedings. He stressed the im-

Quran to guide human mind until end of time: Aneeq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Monday said the Quran would continue to serve as the guiding light for the human mind throughout eternity. In a briefing held at the Ministry's Research and Reference Department, he made a significant announcement and also issued directives regarding the upcoming Seerat Conference. During the briefing, the minister expressed the belief that Islam was a comprehensive and all-encompassing religion. He stressed the im-

portance of addressing contemporary issues and modern challenges while remaining firmly rooted in the teachings of Islam. He stated that their love for religion was unwavering, but to provide guidance to the world, they must harness the knowledge found within the Quranic sciences. Furthermore, Minister Aneeq highlighted the need for greater Muslim involvement in the fields of modern science and ongoing research. He expressed concern that the Quranic perspective on cosmic control seems distant from the Muslim community in today's world.



QUETTA: President Civil Secretariat Officer Association Balochistan Abdul Malik Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Admiral (retd) Asif Sandila calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Admiral (Retd.) Muhammad Asif Sandila called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday and discussed matters relating to mutual interests. Asif Sandila congratulated the prime minister on assuming the charge of his office and expressed best wishes for him. PM Kakar appreciated the services of 'Moawin Foundation', which was working for the welfare of marginalized segments of rural areas under the leadership of Asif Sandila.

Perform duties of Anti-Rape Crisis Cells 18 districts get police surgeons & medical legal officers

Independent Report QUETTA: In all 34 police surgeons and medical legal officers have been posted in the government hospitals of 18 districts of Balochistan province. This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Provincial Health Department, Government of Balochistan. According to the notification, the police sur-

geons and MLOs would perform their duties of Anti-Rape Crisis Cells under Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021, with immediate effect and until further orders. The doctors would also be responsible to prepare reports on medical legal investigations in the crimes, accidents and post-mortem, adding the notification mentioned.

Iran, Pakistan have huge potential for cooperation in energy sector: Ali Reza

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali on Monday in Islamabad. Both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and promotion of brotherly relations between two countries. The Energy minister welcomed the Iranian ambassador and expressed his resolve for further strengthening the ties. Ambassador extended his good wishes for the minister upon assuming new portfolio.

Muhammad Ali remarked that Iran and Pakistan have huge potential for cooperation in energy sector. "We are keen to explore all options and work together," reiterated the Energy minister. The increasing energy needs of Pakistan present an opportunity of cooperation with neighboring country Iran which is rich in energy reserves. The ambassador appreciated minister's interest in the regional cooperation and affirmed his full support. He presented his good office for any assistance needed by the Pakistani side.

Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial is retiring on September 16. The valedictory dinner will be attended by the Supreme Court judges, retired judges, and senior lawyers.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Ahmed Jaffar being briefed by Secretary PHE Saleh Muhammad Baloch about departmental affairs