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PM for action against elements spreading chaos in name of religion in Gilgit

Says concentration on self-dependence vital for country's economic revival

GILGIT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to identify the elements spreading chaos in the name of religion in Gilgit, and take strict action against them.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss development projects and law and order situation in Gilgit Baltistan, said the security of every citizen was the state's responsibility. In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed about the progress on projects in information technology, health, education, and other sectors, as well as the issues.

He was told that steps had been taken to identify and address the problems confronting the education sector in all GB districts, particularly Diamer and Astor.

The measures taken for the promotion of education sector included the provision of food to the students, reconstruction of buildings and rehabilitation of dilapidated structures, professional training of teachers, and establishment of smart schools.

The prime minister was also apprised of projects in the GB health sector including the establishment of a 24-hour helpline to address the issue of mental health. Besides the performance of the environment and tourism sectors, the prime minister was also briefed about the sowing of wheat and subsidy on the crop, production and potential of hydel power in GB as well as the budget.

Prime Minister Kakar directed the GB administration and leadership to assess the scope of the ongoing development projects and give a special focus on those of a crucial nature. Interim Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, Interim Information and Broadcasting Minister Murtaza Solangi, Gilgit Baltistan Governor Syed Mehdi Shah, Chief Minister Gulbar Khan, GB chief secretary and IG Police, and senior officers attended the meeting.



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a progress review meeting in Gilgit about development in various sectors and situation of law & order in Gilgit-Baltistan



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over introductory meeting of Provincial Cabinet

Launching of Governor's IT Initiative Programme: Governor announces to conduct free courses of modern IT for unemployed youth of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar announced to conduct free courses of the modern information technology for the unemployed youth of the province. The youth of Balochistan would be learnt skills by the IT professional team coming from Karachi.

The Governor was speaking at the ceremony



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar and Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurating IT Initiative Program

Level-playing field not available to all political parties: Bilawal

SUKKUR (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has demanded that there should be a level-playing field for all political leaders, maintaining that the political leaders are deprived of equal opportunities to contest the upcoming general elections.

He stated this while responding to a question regarding the level-playing field available to his party as the two political bigwigs — PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and PTI chief Imran Khan — are currently ineligible to contest upcoming general elections

owing to convictions in separate corruption cases.

"There is not a level-playing field for everyone and that is my objection," said the former foreign minister during his visit to slain journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar's house in Sukkur on Tuesday.

Nawaz — who has been in self-imposed exile in London since November 2019 owing to health reasons — was disqualified for life in 2017 by the Supreme Court for not declaring a receivable salary.

He is expected to return to Pakistan in October this year to lead the election campaign of his party.



SUKKUR: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons after condolence with Shaheed journalist Jaan Muhammad Mahar brothers at his residence

Govt decides to dissolve BODs of power distribution companies

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker government has decided to dissolve Boards of Directors (BODs) of Power Distribution Companies.

Ministry of energy sources said that new members will be appointed in power companies. These members will be technical, capable and non political. In this respect new boards will be constituted for power distribution companies and NTDC.

According to sources the incumbent board members get Rs 60000 compensation against one day meeting.

Decision has been taken to abolish the existing procedure for participation in the meeting. Now companies board members will be honorary.

On the other hand crackdown on power pilferers is underway across the country. Power stealing more than 80000 units was caught during 4 days crackdown. Fine to the tune of Rs 352 million was slapped on power pilferers.

Caretaker CM urges ministers to improve performance

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QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has urged the members of his cabinet to improve performance and governance of their respective departments and submit him the reports on regular basis. He was chairing the introductory meeting of the caretaker provincial ministers here at the CM secretariat on Tuesday.

The caretaker Chief Minister welcomed the ministers and said that it's matter of immense pleasure and satisfaction that the people like them are part of his cabinet.

He said that it's our joint responsibility to perform as per the mandate given. He said on one hand, it's our responsibility to conduct free and fair elections in peaceful manner, but at the same time it is also our mandate to improve governance in the departments.

He stressed that we would perform our responsibilities in befitting manner together. He said that it is constitutional obligation to perform according to the mandate given to us by the constitution.

He said it's responsibility of the Services and General administration department to provide offices, vehicles and accommodation to the ministers, however they should not make any undue demand to the department which may have negative impact.

In addition to this, the interim ministers should also ensure return of vehicles and other things from the former ministers, adding he stressed. He also urged the cabinet members to reduce the expenditures of the departments working in their offices on regular basis. He also directed the ministers to ensure punctuality of their staff and officers in their respective departments.

Info Minister vows to resolve all genuine issues of Gilgit-Baltistan

GILGIT (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has expressed all-out support to Gilgit Baltistan government in addressing all genuine issues being faced by the region.

Talking to newsmen in Gilgit on Tuesday, he said Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has directed to resolve the issue of wheat subsidy, and the now matter has almost been addressed.

The Information Minister said during his tenure as Director General Radio Pakistan, he raised voice for the people of Gilgit Baltistan and worked hard for the promotion of local languages of the area.

Replying to a question about Prime Minister's visit to Gilgit, Murtaza Solangi said the Prime Minister today spent a very busy day in Gilgit, attended various meetings, interacted with the students, reviewed law and order situation, and pace of work on various ongoing development projects.



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister, Jan Achakzai addresses to media persons during press conference

Caretaker cabinet decides to retrieve official vehicles from former provincial Ministers

Minister Information Jan Achakzai says interim Govt. considering to register cases against those ministers who failed to return official vehicles yet; cabinet decides to limit expenses of provincial Govt.; says law and order budget to be reconsidered in next meeting

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QUETTA: The caretaker Balochistan cabinet has decided to retrieve the official vehicles from the former provincial ministers with immediate effect. This was announced by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while addressing press conference soon after the meeting of provincial cabinet held at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Tuesday.

Jan Achakzai said that the cabinet has made a decision to retrieve the official vehicles from the former ministers immediately.

He told that although 45 official vehicles have been returned from the former ministers, still 25 vehicles are with the former ministers. The caretaker Minister Information said that the caretaker government is considering to register cases against those ministers who didn't return the vehicles yet.

The interim cabinet has also decided to limit the expenditures of provincial government, Mr. Achakzai mentioned.

Similarly, the cabinet has also decided to limit the vehicles under use of the provincial secretaries, he announced. Moreover, the cabinet approved to open a women police station in Naseerabad besides approving increase the development expenditures of the Kharan dam, he added.

In addition to this, the cabinet also decided to review the budget of Rs. 70 billion allocated for the law and order in province. However, the budget of law and order would be re-discussed in the next meeting of cabinet, Jan Achakzai told.

Visits Gwadar: Donald Blome assures US assistance for development of Balochistan

Says we are especially focused on supporting Balochistan and all of Pakistan as it strengthens climate resilience, pursues energy transformation, and fosters inclusive economic growth

Independent Report

QUETTA: The United States (US) Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Donald Blome visited the port city of Gwadar on Tuesday.

During the course of visit, the US ambassador reviewed the opportunities to enrich development, trade, and commercial ties, building on the successful outcomes that underpin the robust U.S.- Pakistan bilateral relationship.

The visit was aimed at underscoring the United States' commitment to the people of Balochistan, a partnership that remains steadfast and robust.

The United States and Balochistan have a strong history of successful collaboration. In the face of last year's devastating floods, the United States helped 661,000 individuals, providing both food and much-needed cash assistance. And nearly 90,000 children were given nourishing meals to combat the threat of starvation.

Over the past year, with U.S. support, 41 health facilities were successfully renovated. In the field of education, U.S. support is strengthening programs at BUITEMS and Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, and empowering the next generation of youth by developing literacy and education materials in Balochi and various local languages.

During his visit, the Ambassador held productive discussions with political leaders, representatives from the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce, and a diverse group of government and private sector leaders. In his meeting with political leaders, the Ambassador reiterated U.S. support for Balochistan's development, touching on economic growth, disaster relief and preparedness; security; the benefits of U.S. trade and investment; and measures Pakistan can take to strengthen and improve its investment climate.



ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has directed Lahore High Court (LHC) to decide within 30 days case against fixation of price of sugar.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan took up the case for hearing Tuesday.

The court maintained the matter is fixed for September 20 in high court. High Court should hear the case on day to day basis and give decision within 30 days. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan remarked this case is against the interim order of high court. Final decision has not come as yet. Case is fixed in high court on September 20. Additional Attorney General said SC had ordered sugar mills to deposit the difference of prices in the court.

Federal government had challenged determination of prices. High court suspended the rate fixed by provincial government.

SC directs LHC to decide within 30 days case against fixation of sugar price

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has directed Lahore High Court (LHC) to decide within 30 days case against fixation of price of sugar.

President for enhanced cooperation with China, Venezuela, Colombia

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for more robust cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the areas of trade, economy, culture and defence.

He said that China was a reliable and tested friend, and Pakistan wanted to further strengthen the strategic relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The president made these remarks during his meetings with the ambassadors-designate of the People's Republic of China and Venezuela (Non-resident), as well as the Republic of Colombia (Non-resident), who presented their diplomatic credentials and separately called on him at the Aiwani-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming Ambassador-designate of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the president said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with China as it had always stood by it at difficult times.

He said that Pakistan would continue to support China on all core issues.

Highlighting the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the president said that CPEC would greatly contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of the People's Republic of China Mr. Jiang Zaidong, presenting his diplomatic credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwani-e-Sadr

Jilani highlights Pak efforts to create opportunities for youth

LONDON (APP): The tenth Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting chaired by Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani has begun in London.

Theme of the four day Ministerial meeting is 'Aim Higher, Delivering More for Young People in the Commonwealth'.

Pakistan is leading the Commonwealth event for first time in thirty years.

In his remarks on the occasion, the Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's efforts to promote, invest and create opportunities for youth.

He underscored that engagement is a catalyst for the youth.

He underlined the Commonwealth's role in charting youth engagement in global sustainable development agenda.

G20 summit

Several noteworthy developments occurred at the just concluded G20 summit in New Delhi, reflecting the rapid state of flux the international order is experiencing. The grouping of the world's 19 top economies, along with the EU, just admitted the African Union, while Xi Jinping was conspicuous by his absence, sending an unsubtle message to the host nation as well as Western members of the bloc. Vladimir Putin also stayed away. Though the official declaration denounced the use of force and violation of the territorial sovereignty of any state, there was no express criticism of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a compromise solution that was reportedly reached to bridge the wide geopolitical differences between members of the grouping.

Another major announcement was the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, a massive scheme described as a modern 'Spice Route' designed to link India with Europe, via the Arabian Peninsula.

Termed a "real big deal" by Joe Biden, the project is being seen as a rival to China's Belt and Road Initiative that involves transcontinental transportation, energy and data linkages.

From the aforesaid details, it appears that the G20, as well as the G7, are trying to transform themselves from West-led old boys' clubs to more 'inclusive' organisations ready to invite more states from the Global South. The expansion of BRICS and the SCO may have played a role in these changed priorities, which is why the AU has been courted as a partner. Geo-economics and geopolitics are also at play, with the Spice Route taking an aim at the BRI and the Russia-led International North-South Transport Corridor.

Despite being a G20 member, Beijing was not invited to join the new project linking India and Europe. The scheme will also come in handy by connecting Israel with the Arab states.

The building of multiple transcontinental energy and trade corridors is not necessarily a bad thing, as competition can be healthy, while developing states can prosper by attracting investment and serving as conduits in these expansive networks.

Where Pakistan is concerned, due to our internal issues, we are largely spectators rather than active players in these transnational geo-economic networks.

Unfortunately, we have not even fully utilised the potential that CPEC, a BRI project, was supposed to bring.

Pakistan must also realise that despite India's atrocious human rights record in held Kashmir, the West, as well as our Muslim brothers, seem least concerned and are eager to do business with Delhi. The sad reality is that in the international arena, economic heft overshadows morality.

Therefore, if we want to be part of these global trade networks, and if we want our voice heard where issues such as Kashmir are concerned, we need to first address our internal inadequacies.



Arifa Noor

Free of the burden of defending and explaining government policies and actions, Khawaja Asif spoke candidly about his own party. In a recent interview, he agreed the senior leadership of the PML-N — the Sharif brothers — needed to be in Pakistan.

Once ministries are not weighing down our politicians, they are more attuned to the mood of the street, than when they have cabinet meetings to attend.

Silently many of his party members would perhaps agree. For the party seems to be in limbo, while other parties such as the PPP and JUI-F are kicking off political activities, despite the shrinking political space. The PTI is doing little because it is struggling to survive the state's onslaught, and the PML-N seems equally paralysed but without good reason.

All the latter seems to have for the moment is a slogan which harks back to the past: Nawaz Sharif as prime minister and the glorious era that was the 2013-2018 term. For obvious reasons, the party doesn't want to own the past 16 months but convincing the people of this remains an uphill battle.

If this were the only challenge the PML-N faced, it may still have found an answer. Instead, it is struggling with much more. First, there is little clarity or belief in Nawaz Sharif's return, despite the party's promises and announcements about the date. And even if he does, his future remains far from clear. While his campaigning is a necessary condition for the party's performance in the coming election, few are confident he can become prime minister again. For the whispers (similar to the proclamations about the PTI) are that the elder Sharif may have the maqbooliyat but not necessarily the qabooliyat. If they are true then the conclusion is the

young brother is likely to find the doors to the prime minister's house open and not the elder one. And ordinary mortals have heard these rumours as has the family itself; loud pronouncements from the likes of Javed Latif and Asif Kirmani about how only Nawaz Sharif will be the party's leader and prime minister testify to this. Hence, one is forced to wonder why he would return simply to win the election and hand over government to whoever is in charge, once Shehbaz Sharif is prime minister.

Along with this comes the challenge of winning an election. By all accounts, the PML-N is not in a strong position in Punjab and even with Nawaz Sharif's presence, is counting on 'help' to win the election. But this help is also said to be aiming for a coalition government — if we get to elections. So once again, why would the senior Sharif get his hands dirty? He already considers himself as separate from his party which entered the coalition government in 2022.

Third, the party itself is divided between those

who want the pragmatic Shehbaz Sharif to be in power, allowing them to stay on the right side of the 'help' and those who believe only Nawaz Sharif can run the party and government. What these divisions will mean for the party in case the distance within the family grows is anyone's guess.

But there is more to the N's woes than just sibling rivalry. And for this fourth challenge, a slice of boring recent history must be recounted. The PML-N journey since its inception has seen many twists and turns. The right-wing party which first emerged to challenge the PPP's domination of Punjab worked hard to burnish its image post-2008. Obviously, the party wanted to put its 1997 term behind it, when its government picked fights with the judiciary and media and attempted to push through the amirul-momineen law.

The principled decision to support the judiciary in 2009 as well as woo liberal sections of society (especially in Lahore) were the beginning. By 2013, these efforts picked up pace; the party brought

forth many parha likha (educated) types, while it also kept the more traditional politicians close. As Maryam Nawaz began playing a role in the party, many women came to the fore. There were other meaningful gestures to try and cultivate this new image.

Nawaz Sharif, as prime minister, celebrated Holi and director Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy's film on honour killings was shown at the PM House. Such efforts helped it win over those who once saw the PPP as a progressive option.

But then came the twist which spares no popular prime minister; Nawaz Sharif was sent home. As in 1999, this was a difficult time for the party: allegations, investigations and prison time for its stalwarts. Opposition time is difficult for the PML-N for other reasons too.

All this led to a vote of no-confidence and the PDM government. But a compromised tenure led to regression on the very issues the Noonies had been at pains to craft a new image on.

The party's image as one which cared about human rights, freedom of expression and other liberal values took a beating as it owned up to the excesses committed during these past 16 months.

This was brought home when the information minister responded to a question about Imran Riaz's disappearance by arguing he wasn't a journalist and when the interior minister justified arrests and the use of force against protesters. Then came the bulldozing of legislation in parliament.

This, too, disillusioned a number of the supporters the PML-N had won over since 2008. Indeed, these past 16 months have ensured the PML-N's face is the Sharif family, along with people such as Rana Sana and Javed Latif, instead of, say, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi or younger, educated people. Eventually, this reversal will prove the harsh to address in a country full of young people looking for change. Especially as the Sharifs seem to think the existential challenge for the party and the family has the same answer. — Courtesy Dawn

However, that's not the priority for the Modi administration evidently. The Indian foreign minister backed out from the Cuba meeting at the last minute. According to reports, a special session of the Indian parliament starting on Sept 18 was given as the reason for India not to send the foreign minister to Havana. The undisclosed agenda has kept the foreign minister from travelling to a Global South event.

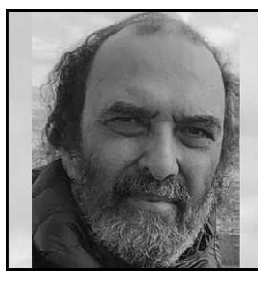
This leads to a different understanding of the Delhi summit. Remember that the Davos Economic Forum was a platform for global capitalism and spoke generally for G7 countries. Its critics set up the World Social Forum that prescribed an equitable and sustainable economic order that shared little with private profit. G20 seeks to blur the contradiction with G77.

As for the Ukraine war, the G20's acceptance of the compromise was anticipated by analysts well ahead of the summit. Among them, former Indian diplomat M.K. Bhadrakumar pointed this out in an analysis for NewsClick on Sept 8. It was titled, 'Ice-cracking sounds on frozen lake of US-Russia

rejoin big power loyalties; it also opposed the continued exploitation of their countries by the industrial West, their former colonisers. Nehru did one better. He saw Asia as the lynchpin of his embrace of the Third World, and it saw him flying ace pilot Biju Patnaik to secretly rescue Indonesian president Sukarno from the colonial plot that toppled him. He saw South Asia as an oasis of fellowship of postcolonial societies, and he spoke of a South Asian confederation ahead of the EU.

Mr Modi, on the other hand, has single-handedly subverted the fellowship by undermining Saarc, mostly, it is suspected, to pander to his narrow political constituency at home. One can be certain that G77, which was founded in 1964 as a club of developing nations and currently includes 130 adherents, continues to represent members from Africa, Latin America, and a host of Asian nations. The G77 members are having their summit in Cuba on Sept 15-16. That's where Brazilian President Lula was headed after taking the G20 gavel from Mr Modi.

G20 with a hope and a prayer



Jawed Naqvi

The inveterate Hindu in him spurred the British prime minister to take time off from the G20 summit to offer prayers at Delhi's riverside Akshardham temple. In so doing, he picked up a politically handy applause from the hosts even if the trade pact both eyed has apparently hit the doldrums.

Rishi Sunak could have more usefully nudged his Catholic friend from the US to attend the Sunday mass at Delhi's British-era Sacred Heart Cathedral Church. After all, according to a worrying new survey last week, two-thirds of the polled Democrats don't want Joe Biden as their presidential candidate next year. It could be his age, the fumbling in Vietnam, or his son's legal troubles.

More astutely, it could be the war in Ukraine he has invested

so much in. He can't not be aware that his probable would-be rival is promising the geographically blinkered American electorate an end to the brutal conflict with the snap of his fingers. Clearly, Biden was in greater need of divine help if anyone was among the leaders gathered in Delhi. Whatever his reasons for flaunting his religious preference, Rishi Sunak bucked a quaint trend in his country where more and more people are turning away from religion, that too without excessively troubling the Anglican Church.

Where seeking divine help is concerned, Narendra Modi would perhaps need to work harder on propitiating the divine hand. Merely hoping to inaugurate the Ram temple before the May 2024 general elections could become tricky, the many pats on the back for hosting a powerful summit notwithstanding.

A clutch of by-polls in key states, crucially including Uttar Pradesh, found the prime minister's party trailing behind the newly minted 'INDIA' alliance. Of the seven seats up for grabs, four were wrested by the

alliance while only three remained with the BJP.

In the multicultural jamboree the G20 was, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia played it spiritually safe. As the leaders were being escorted to a guided tour of Mahatma Gandhi's shrine, Mohammed bin Salman it seems followed the rule of his forebears and dodged the Indian protocol for visiting dignitaries. The late King Abdullah was the chief guest at Delhi's Republic Day military parade in 2006, after a diplomatic hiatus of 50 years, when he decided to forgo the mandatory visit to Gandhi Samadhi, citing religious reservations.

Fellow Muslim Pervez Musharraf had not quite seen it that way, so he visited the shrine in July 2001. It's another matter the overture did not eventually assure him success at the Agra summit. The Quaid though an ardent critic of Gandhi had grieved when he was killed by a Hindu assassin. Musharraf, by offering flowers at Gandhiji's shrine not only disapproved by the puritan view supported by the Saudis, but the act also critiqued Mr Modi's fol-

lowers who revile Gandhi and hero-worship his killers.

That said, the two more visible issues that stood out at the G20 summit require a closer look. The inclusion of the African Union into the fold is laudable but needs discussion. And the concern expressed on the Ukraine war appeared to be acceptable to everyone except Ukraine. Let's examine both decisions closely.

The quest to include the African Union as a G20 member found Mr Modi positioning himself as the voice for the Global South.

A few weeks earlier, the BRICS summit in South Africa had also extended the membership to a wider representation of Africa.

While Mr Modi moved to reinvent the wheel, his claim of inclusivity was the way Jawaharlal Nehru had always positioned India's foreign policy. Nehru saw Kenneth Kaunda, Julius Nyerere and Gamal Abdel Nasser among the revered African leaders as India's close comrades.

The Non-Aligned Movement was conceived by these leaders as a platform to not only

Balochistan's trailblazing women: Breaking barriers and leading the way



By Hamza Shahzad

When it comes to gender equality Pakistan's Gender Index is the lowest, it is 241 out of 142. We cannot avoid the fact the gender equality indicator of Pakistan is the lowest. Being part of an ultra-religious and male-dominated society, it is not favorable for women to grasp an executive level. Balochistan, a region known for its rich cultural heritage and wonderful landscapes, is also home to irrepressible and trailblazing women who have been gradually breaking barriers and making their mark in leadership roles. Despite facing several challenges, including cultural norms and socio-economic differences, women in Balochistan are resisting the odds and evolving as leaders in various sectors.

Historically, women of Balochistan have played a crucial role in wars. The most iconic name is Mirzadi Banadi Rind, who led the group supporting the Mughals against the Afghans in the battle of Chunsab in the 16th century. In the mid-17th century, Mai Chaaig ruled Lasbela, she ruled Lasbela for decades. In arts and

music, women also played their part in the best way possible. If we look in literature we find, Rabiakhuzzari, who captivates the people with her poetic approach.

It is clear that there are significant challenges facing women in Balochistan when it comes to education and empowerment. The male-dominated approach and cultural obstructions have hindered female participation in society and prevented girls from receiving education. It is lack of education leads to a lack of economic opportunities, as well as issues such as child marriages and maternal mortalities. However, there are women in Balochistan who are leading the way in promoting female education and making efforts to provide quality and skilled education to girls.

Dr. Quratulain Bakhtiyari, Razia Sultana Baloch, Zubaida Jalal, Rahima Jalal, and Dr. Shadiha Jaffery are just a few of the inspiring women working to ensure that girls in Balochistan have access to education. These women understand the importance of education in empowering women and bringing about positive change in society. They serve as role models and inspiration for others in Balochistan, and beyond. By advocating for female education, these women are working towards a future where women can lead and alter societies for the better.

In Balochistan, women have been gradually dismantling historical gender constraints, actively

participating in politics, and challenging traditional norms. Historically, they were marginalized in political affairs, excluded from decision-making roles, and absent from key positions during the region's governance under Khan's rule. Over time, they made incremental progress, securing limited political roles in state affairs. However, male dominance persisted within political parties, limiting female involvement. A turning point arrived in 1971 when Fazila Aliyani became the first woman elected to the Balochistan assembly and later served as the first female minister for health. This milestone inspired other women to enter politics, despite obstacles posed by tribal and cultural norms. Today, women are increasingly visible in various political parties, integrating into the heart of regional politics. Today, the landscape is rapidly changing, with women becoming members of various political parties. Their active participation is integrating them into the core of regional politics. Dr. Durrushum Ayesha's election as Naserabad's first-ever chairperson in the 2023 local body elections marked a significant achievement in a region known for its challenges for women. Other remarkable female politicians from the Naserabad division, including Rubaba Buledi and Rahat Jalali, are also challenging stereotypes. Baloch women, once deprived of economic, social, and political rights, now share equal status with men. National-

ist political parties have established women's wings to address their concerns and empower them politically, leading to progress in addressing women's issues in Balochistan. The Makran region stands out with higher female representation, likely due to its higher literacy rate. Influential figures like Zubaida Jalal, Mahjabeen Sheran, and Meena Majeed have paved the way for other women, demonstrating their capacity to be potent agents of change in a predominantly patriarchal society. These women have pursued political office, championed women's rights, and worked toward greater representation in decision-making bodies.

Women in Balochistan are making significant strides across various fields. Ayesha Zehri broke barriers as the first female deputy commissioner in Balochistan's bureaucracy. Sana Mahjabeen Umrani assumed the role of the first female additional deputy commissioner revenue in Gwadar. Batool Asadi, hailing from the Hazara Community, became the first Assistant Commissioner in Quetta and is now serving as DC Naserabad. Minorities are also represented, with Maria Shamoon being the first female Assistant Commissioner from the Christian community. Balochistan's women are driving entrepreneurship and economic development, with leaders like Deedar Mengal, Roshan Khursheed Barocha, Hamida Ali Hazara, and Lubana Farooq creating jobs and boosting the

region's economy.

Women in Balochistan are breaking gender barriers across diverse fields, including law enforcement. Pari Gul Tareen, Balochistan's first female Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Quetta, exemplifies this trend. Lt. Zakia Jamali, hailing from Usta Muhammad, achieved the distinction of becoming the first commissioned female Naval officer from the region, overcoming challenges of her underdeveloped hometown. Inum Kakar, a commando in the female anti-riot force of Balochistan, followed in the footsteps of her Shaheed elder brother, who served in Quetta's Anti-Terrorist Force and martyred in 2013. These 48 lady commandos in the ARF's first batch defy societal norms, redefining perceptions of Balochistan women and showcasing their determination and courage.

These remarkable women deserve recognition for their inspiring achievements, serving as ideals of empowerment and motivation. Hanna Malik, a devoted media practitioner, leads an NGO that empowers Balochistan's youth. Nimra Pirkani, a fervent youth activist, energizes positive change.

Anita Jaiil Baloch, Balochistan's first female vlogger, triumphed over challenges to become a top vlogger in Pakistan. Nahida Khan represents the Pakistan Women's Cricket Team, breaking barriers in sports. Kalsoom Hazara, Shahida Abbasi, and Nargis Hazara are gold medalists in Karate, setting an

example for aspiring athletes. Advocate Jalila Haider, an outspoken women's rights advocate, was honored as an International Woman of Courage by the US Secretary of State. Mansoor Akbar and Roz Bakht, female football players, champion women's sports in their Pashtun community, serving as role models for aspiring athletes. Despite facing intense cyber trolling and societal pressure, these shining stars defy stereotypes and soar to new heights.

Women in leadership roles in Balochistan face obstinate challenges, including resource limitations, cultural restrictions, and political obstacles. However, their determination remains unwavering. In October 2020, the provincial cabinet approved the Balochistan Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy (2020-2024). This initiative, coupled with the Governance and Policy Project Balochistan, seeks to enhance gender integration in the public sector. With increasing access to education and opportunities, Balochistan's women are poised for significant contributions to various fields. They are not just leaders; they are trailblazers reshaping their communities and region, evident in their achievements across politics, education, and entrepreneurship. Celebrating and supporting these accomplishments can foster Balochistan's progress and empowerment.

Induction of quality faculty in AJK-run medical colleges ordered

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwaar ul Haq on Tuesday directed for the immediate formation of a joint recruitment committee for the recruitment of quality academic staff in AJK-based public-sector medical colleges in the light of the recommendations of the UHSL (University of Health Sciences Lahore) team.

He was chairing an extraordinary meeting of the Governing Body of state-run Medical Colleges in AJK held here in the State metropolis.

In order to improve the quality and standard of education in the medical colleges of AJK, it was decided that a team of the University of Health Sciences Lahore (UHSL) after a detailed visit to all the three medical colleges of Azad Jammu Kashmir shall submit its recommendations to the Chairman Governing Body.

During the meeting, an Executive Committee headed by the Chief Secretary was constituted to fix the salaries and other allowances of the faculty and staff members of the medical colleges.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said that the college authorities should focus on increasing the revenue of medical colleges and reducing expenses. "Every institution or state entity has to justify its existence", the PM said, adding that no one would be allowed to play with the future of students.

He said that violation of merit won't be tolerated under any circumstances. The PM said that the UHSL team must prepare a detailed report vis-a-vis improving the quality of education and resolving other issues of key concern.

The prime minister directed that transport, theaters, and other

facilities should be provided to the medical students studying in Azad Kashmir.

He said that stern action would be taken against the head of the institution in case merit was violated anywhere. The VC UHSL assured the PM that a team of experts and academia would very soon conduct a visit to all the medical colleges of Azad Kashmir in this regard. The meeting was attended among others by AJK Chief Secretary Dawood Muhammad Barich, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Fayyaz Ali Abbasi, Secretary Finance Ismatullah Shah, Vice Chancellor University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Professor Dr. Kaleem Abbasi, Additional Secretary Public Health Abdul Sattar Khan and others. Vice Chancellor of the University of Health Sciences Lahore Professor Dr. Ahsan Waheed Rathore participated in the meeting from Lahore via video link.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori briefs detail about the aims and objectives of the bell to Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur-Rehman during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

Interim CM Sindh meets Jamaat Islami delegation

KARACHI (APP): A delegation of Jamaat Islami (JI) led by its Emir of Karachi Hafiz Naeemur Rehman called on Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar and discussed the issues of local bodies, water board, and illegal construction in the city.

The delegation comprised Monem Zafar, Saifuddin, Saleem Azhar, Sadruddin, and Zahid Askari.

Hafiz Naeem said that the transition period of newly elected local bodies has come to an end officially but even then, the elected bodies have not been given power to function in the public

interest.

At this, the chief minister said that he was taking necessary measures to strengthen local bodies all over the province. "We are strengthening them so that they can work in the interest of the people," he said.

Hafiz Naeem complained against KE and said that neither they have controlled power theft nor made investments to improve the generation and distribution system.

At this, the CM said that he held a meeting with the KE authorities on Monday and urged them to improve their system.

The Jamaat delegation took up the issue of illegal construction in the city.

CJ PHC visits Central Jail, issues release orders for 115 prisoners

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Justice (CJ) Peshawar High Court (PHC) Muhammad Ibrahim Khan on Tuesday visited Central Jail Peshawar and issued immediate release orders for 115 different categories of prisoners.

He was accompanied by Caretaker Provincial Law Minister Justice retired Irshad Qaiser, District and Sessions Judge Peshawar, Ashfaq Taj, and IGP Prison Usman Mehsud, Jail Superintendent along with other judicial officials.

Chief Justice visited the Women's Barracks, where he applauded the provision of video-link facilities for female inmates.

He attentively listened to the issues faced

by female prisoners and issued immediate instructions for their resolution.

The Chief Justice toured the newly constructed ward within the jail premises, which functions as a hospital.

He paid visits to ailing inmates and ensured their medical care.

Additionally, he visited a factory within the jail where prisoners were involved in leatherwork, shoemaking, and stitching, imparting valuable vocational skills.

Furthermore, the Chief Justice attended a handicraft and painting class within the jail premises.

Addressing the officers of the jail, the judiciary



LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerics Association holds protest outside press club against the unbearable inflation in Country.



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Gulbar Khan, Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan during meeting held in Gilgit.

CM distributes 32 plots allotments letters among police martyred families

MULTAN: Punjab Interim Chief Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, disbursed 32 allotment letters of plots among the families of police martyred at South Punjab Secretariat here on Tuesday. He announced not to charge possession and transfer fees from the families in this connection.

He met the heirs of the police martyr and consoled them.

Speaking on the occasion the CM termed armed forces and police martyred heroes saying that alive nations never forget their heroes. He commended the services of the police for maintaining law and order in the province adding that the force had acted with gallantry for eradicating dacoits from the Kacha area.

Provincial Minister, Azfar Ali Nasir, IGP, Dr Usman Anwar, ACS South

Punjab, Saqib Zaffar, Addl IG South Punjab, Maqsood ul Hassan, Division, Khattak, RPO, Sohail Chaudhary and other officials were present.

Naqvi for completion of Civil Secretariat by Dec

MULTAN (APP): Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman, has given a deadline to complete the Civil Secretariat building by December this year.

He expressed these views during a visit to the under-construction building of the Civil Secretariat here on Tuesday. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Capt. Saqib Zafar, was also accompanied by him.

Secretary Finance Punjab Mujahid Sher Dil, Secretary Services South Punjab Amjad Shoib Tareen, Commissioner Aamir Khattak, DC Umar Jahangir, and CEO IDAP Sohail Ashraf were also present.

Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman inspected the construction quality in the Secretariat and inquired about the road network and landscaping plan. He said that the government wants to inaugurate the Civil Secretariat by December. CS Punjab further said that the establishment of a separate secretariat was a long-standing dream of the people of South Punjab.

Shifting the offices of the departments to the Civil Secretariat will accelerate the pace of development in the region. Chief Secretary Punjab directed to plant mango trees in the Civil Secretariat as mangoes were the identity of South Punjab.

Home minister terms Safe City project pivotal for safety of citizens

KARACHI (APP): Sindh caretaker Minister for Home and Prisons Brig. Harris Nawaz, on Tuesday, observed that the Safe City Project would enhance law enforcement capabilities, improve emergency response times and deter criminal activities.

The minister, while presiding over a high-level meeting regarding Karachi Safe City Project, termed safety and well-being of citizens as the top priority and said that the authorities concerned must remain steadfast in pursuit of its successful implementation. The meeting was attended by Home Secretary Sindh, Mohammed Iqbal Memon; IGP Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar; DIGP Special Branch, Asif

Aijaz Shaikh; Director IT CPO, Tabasum Abid and a 10-member delegation of NRTC led by Commodore Raheel.

The meeting was informed that the Karachi Safe City Project envisaged the installation of a network of latest closed-circuit television cameras in the city for digital surveillance while the project involved all the law-enforcement and emergency services' agencies in the metropolis for a quick and adequate response to tackle any law and order situation.

The National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) official informed the meeting that under the project

Sindh University extends last date for online exam forms submission

HYDERABAD (APP): The Controller of Annual Examination University of Sindh Jamshoro has informed that the varsity management has extended last date for submission of online examination forms for annual examination of M.Com., M.Sc. and MA (Previous and Final) of affiliated colleges up to September 15, 2023.

According to announcement, the candidates can submit online examination forms for annual examination of M.Com., M.Sc., MA Previous (Failure) and MA Final (Fresh and Failure) up to September 15, 2023 with late fee of Rs. 10,000/-.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Ret'd) Maqbool Baqar exchanges views with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeemur-Rehman during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Walk held in Swat to raise awareness about conservation of butterfly

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Butterfly Society on Tuesday organized a walk in Swat district to raise awareness about the conservation of butterflies and their ecological importance.

The walk, attended by students of different educational institutions, was led by a representative of the Pakistan Butterfly Society and a student of the Zoology Department of Jehanzeb College, Azan Khan.

The Pakistan Butterfly Society has organized a number of events and walks to be held in different cities of the country in connection with the ongoing regionally observed Butterfly Month.

"This is the first time

that Pakistan is taking part in Butterfly Month to be observed in the South Asian region in the month of September and will help in the promotion of butterfly monitoring through the capture of pictures in the country.

Participants in the walk were holding play cards inscribed with wording in connection with the conservation of butterflies.

Talking to newsmen, Azan Khan said the objective of the walk was to educate people about the importance of butterflies.

We also demand that the government give legal status to butterflies and their habitats. He said the government has given legal protection to different species.

Security beefed up in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): The City Capital Police on Tuesday beefed up security measures across the provincial capital following the special instructions of CCPO Peshawar Syed Ashfaq Anwar.

Ashfaq Anwar urged people to cooperate with the police and security forces at pickets and during snap-checking to maintain peace in the city.

According to SP Cantt Waqas Rafiq, the divisional SPs along with other units were directed to monitor the checking process at the blockades, and police officials were directed to take indiscriminate action against the use of tinted glasses in vehicles, unregistered vehicles, and pillion riding. He said that Ababeel Squad and officials of City Patrolling.

Governor emphasizes to provide financial aid, scholarships to the deserving students

Sadiq Public School is a prestigious institution

LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman presided over the meeting of the Board of Governors of Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur was held here today at the Governor House. In the meeting, the Board of Governors approved the annual budget of Sadiq Public School 2023-24. A 5-year financial plan was also approved in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rhaman said that Sadiq Public School is a prestigious institution. Students who graduated from this institution are rendering outstanding services for the country in various fields.

He hoped that Sadiq

Public School's new Principal David Dowdles will bring more improvements in the institution. Governor Punjab, while presiding over the meeting of the Board of Governors, categorically rejected the proposed increase in fees by more than 20 percent, saying that people are suffering from financial problems due to the economic problems of the country, adding that increase in fees may affect many students and may deprive them of studying in the institution.

Governor Punjab emphasized to provide financial aid and scholarships to the deserving students. He added that five (05) per cent of the school's revenue should be allocated for such scholarships.



PESHAWAR: Iran's Consul General in Peshawar, Ali Banafshekhab meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Askari Tower case: ATC starts process of declaring 4 PTI leaders proclaimed offenders

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday started the process of declaring four Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including Mian Aslam Iqbal and Mussarat Cheema, as proclaimed offenders in a case of attacking Askari Tower, during May-9 violence.

The court directed the prosecution to publish a proclamation in the newspapers for the appearance of the suspects on October 13.

ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan initiated the process on an application filed by the police for the purpose.

The investigation officer of Gulberg Police Station had filed the application with a plea to start the process of declaring Mian Aslam Iqbal, Jamshaid Cheema, Mussarat Cheema and Ghulam Abbas as proclaimed offenders for not joining the investigation and judicial proceedings.



KARACHI: Commuters are facing inconvenience during traffic jam due to construction works of new development projects on University road.

Dengue; five KP districts declared high risk zones

PESHAWAR (APP): In the wake of a surge in dengue fever cases, the authorities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday declared five districts as high-risk zones.

According to the authorities in the Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, five districts including Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Charsadda and Battagram were among the risky zones with regard to dengue fever spread.

The number of people affected with dengue virus has reached to 165 in the province, the health authorities said adding that in Peshawar district 38 cases of dengue virus

infection were reported followed by Mardan with 32 cases, Swabi 19 cases, Charsadda 14 cases and Battagram with 12 dengue cases. Till date, the authorities said the cases of dengue fever have been reported from 20 districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A few cases of dengue in some of the districts including Bannu, Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Khyber, Tor Ghar and Haripur were also reported in the last couple of days.

The caretaker advisor for health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has directed stern preventive measures in sensitive districts of the province.

IUB delegation visits China, signs MoU with various institutions

BAHAWALPUR (APP): A delegation from the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, comprising Registrar Prof. Dr. Moazzam Jamil, Principal UCCM, Director Pak-China Cooperation Center (Focal Person) Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Asif, Assist Prof. UCCM Dr. Khalil Ahmed, Lecturers UCCM Hafiz Abdusattar, and Rabia Zahid, visited China on an official invitation from TANG International Education China and other Chinese Institutes.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by President Tang International Education, Mr. Li Jinsong, along with his other team members. The delegation members visited the top-ranked institutes in China.

The tour remained highly successful in terms of achieving win-win cooperation in education, innovation, and informatization and strengthening the cooperation of higher education, exchanges.

Senate body constitutes NCC to control issues against minorities

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights adopted the recommendation to constitute a National Coordination Committee within the Ministry of Human Rights which would include representatives of all Provinces, Police Departments and draft SOP's for effective control on issues that cause suffering to the minorities.

The Senate Human Rights Committee on Tuesday while condemning the recent incident of vandalism of churches/homes in Jarawalabala deliberated upon the steps taken for the rehabilitation of the destruction of buildings and people during the devastating incident.

The Secretary Human Rights argued that since the enactment of the 18th amendment the implementation on safeguards and protection of the minorities

have devolved to the provinces although the Human Rights Ministry has a very crucial role to play in the matter and should have efficient collaboration between relevant stake holders, including the police department religious leaders and minority representatives for formulating SOPs by IGP's. The committee adopted the recommendation on the constitution of the National Co-ordination Committee emphasizing on importance of impartiality, sensitivity and swift action to prevent escalation.

Senator Irfanul Haq Siddiqui contended that the recommendations presented by the Ministry is largely to the extend of law enforcing agencies however it is more an issue of dealing with primitive measures and mindset of the people. Public should be sensitised on tolerance and democratic norms he added.



QUETTA: Acting Afghan Counsel Mulawi Gul Hassan calls on Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

US does not support any political party or candidate in Pakistan, State Dept

WASHINGTON (Online): US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said that US insists on free elections in Pakistan but does not support any political party or candidate.

In the routine news briefing of US State Department on Monday, when asked about the meeting of US ambassador to Islamabad, Donald Blome, with the head of the Election Commission (EC) in Pakistan, he advised the journalist to contact US Embassy in Islamabad.

Matthew Miller said that I will contact embassy for specific comments about this meeting. But I will repeat what I have said

many times that US does not take a position on the outcomes of elections in Pakistan. US Ambassador Donald Blome met Chief Election Commissioner on August 24. Earlier Election Commission (EC) had organized an important meeting regarding general elections in country. In response to a question about the dollar exchange rate in Afghanistan being four times higher than the dollar exchange rate in Pakistan, the spokesperson of the US State Department said that we have talked on several occasions about supporting the reforms that will help economy in Pakistan and will allow for improvement.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Advisor Umair Muhammad Hassani meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports Nawabzada Jamal Raisani

Permanent Representative of Pakistan to OIC calls on OIC Secretary General

JEDDAH (Online): Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Ambassador Syed Mohammad Fawad Sher called on the OIC Secretary General, H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, today. A wide range of issues were discussed during the meeting.

Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation), etc. Ambassador Fawad Sher noted that Pakistan maintained a firm position and has traditionally played an active role in steering OIC's response to all important issues.

He thanked the Secretary General for OIC's unwavering support to the Jammu and Kashmir cause and urged for the complete implementation of the OIC Plan of Action on Jammu and Kashmir adopted by the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad. On Islamophobia and the repeated incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran, he reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of these despicable incidents.

Assistant Commissioner Hub Captain Reid Hamza Anjum, Tehsil Dargul Nawaz Anjuman Tajiran Hub, Flour Dealers Association, Hotels Association and wholesalers dealing in vegetables participated in the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner while addressing the meeting, said that as an administrative officer would give relief to the people during inflation.



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interacts with school students at the display stalls of various science, technology and artistic projects, at Chief Minister Secretariat in Gilgit.

Health Card being launched soon; 100 pc people to get facility, announces Dr Jogezaei

Steps taken to provide free medicines for hospitalized patients: Health minister

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Minister for Health Balochistan, Dr Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezaei has announced that the Health Cards are being launched in the province soon.

Under the programme, 100 percent people of the province would get the Health Card all over the province. Actually, the Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) would be considered as the Health Card. With this, Balochistan would be the only province where every person/family having CNICs would get the facility.

This was announced by the caretaker Minister Health while chairing a meeting of all the stakehold-

ers of Health here on Tuesday. Also present on the occasion were the Secretary Health, other senior officers, Medical superintendents and Chiefs of all the government hospitals and institutions besides other concerned were in attendance. The Secretary Health briefed the meeting about the related issues besides the steps being taken for improving the state of health affairs in the province. The caretaker Minister said that it is very necessary to continue the process of reforms in the health sector.

He directed to all concerned to ensure medicines and other necessary health facilities at the hospitals so that the people must get relief.

APP adds: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Amir Muhammad Jogezaei on Tuesday said that steps were being taken to provide free medicines for hospitalized patients.

He said this while chairing a meeting of all departments concerned to improve the provision of medical facilities in the hospitals of the province.

Secretary Health, officers of Balochistan Health Department, MSs of teaching hospitals, heads of various departments, chief executive of institutes, Young Doctor Association, Bolan Medical and Teaching Association, Pakistan Medical Association, Young Consultant Association participated in the meeting.



Closing ceremony of Joint Naval Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV held at Jubail, Saudi Arabia

DC holds meeting for implementation of price control list

HUB (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hub Mumin Ahmed Musiani on Tuesday presided over a meeting of the district Price Control Committee to ensure the provision of facilities to people in the district.

Assistent Commissioner Hub Captain Reid Hamza Anjum, Tehsil Dargul Nawaz Anjuman Tajiran Hub, Flour Dealers Association, Hotels Association and wholesalers dealing in vegetables participated in the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner while addressing the meeting, said that as an administrative officer would give relief to the people during inflation.

JI to approach SC to ensure elections within 90 days: Siraj

DIR LOWER (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has said his party would approach the Supreme Court to ensure that elections are held within the constitutionally mandated period of 90 days.

Addressing a press conference in Dir Lower on Tuesday, he also conveyed his desire to engage with other political parties in order to establish a consensus on the date for the general elections.

Sirajul Haq emphasized that the government must address the public demand to reduce the power tariff; otherwise, the JI would consider resorting to options such as organizing a long-march to Islamabad or wheel-jam strike.

He underscored that the recent successful shut-down strike sent a clear message to the government that the masses were unwilling to bear the burden of exorbitant electricity bills. The strike, he said, has also provided the government with an opportunity to initiate negotiations with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concerning costly agreements.

The JI chief urged the government to combat power theft and reduce power sector losses, while also ending the practice of providing free electricity to government employees, which burdens the less privileged. He criticized the government's inability to justify the inclusion of over



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat presiding over a meeting regarding traffic problems and its solution

Commissioner for ending of encroachment to ensure smooth traffic in Quetta

QUETTA (APP)- Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat on Tuesday said that all possible steps should be taken to eliminate encroachment on major roads and provide more parking spaces in order to ensure smooth traffic in provincial capital.

He shared these views while chairing meeting regarding the increasing traffic problems and their possible solutions in Quetta city.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt. Saad Bin Asad, Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Quetta Division Waheed Sharif Umrani, SP Traffic City Malik Javed, QDA, Metropolitan Corporation, Cantonment Board and other related departments.

In the meeting, it was decided that all the relevant organizations should take steps to improve the traffic system in the city. Local buses should be provided with temporary stops under Coala Phatak and Saryab Bridge.

All the warehouse from the city where goods are brought by trucks should be shifted to Hazarganji while the Metropolitan Corporation, District Administration and QDA should take action against those doing business and occupying space under the Saryab Bridge. All bus terminals and their booking offices should be shifted to Hazarganji Terminal as soon as possible, said in the meeting.

In the meeting said that in this regard, all relevant organizations should submit a comprehensive report in one week to solve the traffic problems in the light of which steps will be taken.

Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat said that Quetta is a rapidly growing city and the increasing population is putting pressure on the city's infrastructure including roads due to which there is a problem in the flow of traffic saying that in addition, there are encroachments on major roads which further restrict the flow of traffic.

Caretaker CM assures acting Afghan CG: GoB to fully cooperate with Afghan Consulate to resolve issues as per law & policy of federal Govt.

Acting Afghan CG Maulvi Gul Hasan conveys to caretaker CM newly formed Afghan government believes in strong and pleasant relations with Pakistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The acting Consul General of Afghanistan based in Quetta, Maulvi Gul Hasan has stated that the newly formed Afghan government believes in strong and pleasant relations with Pakistan and it is also its preferred policy to promote mutual relations with Pakistan.

The Afghan Consul General was speaking to the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki whom he called here at the CM secretariat on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, the issues related to the Pak-Afghan relations as well as problems of Afghan refugees and others were discussed.

During the meeting,

both were agreed on the point that the religion, language and culture of the people of bordering areas of both the countries are similar and they have longstanding relations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Afghan envoy said that purpose of meeting with the Chief Minister was to discuss border matters besides promotion of trade and highlight the issues of Afghan refugees.

He thanked the government and people of Pakistan on hosting the refugees for long time.

He on the occasion requested to the caretaker Chief Minister to resolve the issues of Afghan inhabitants imprisoned in different jails of the province.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that the relations between people of Afghanistan and Pakistan especially Balochistan are based on centuries.

He said that it's our duty to look after the Afghan refugees being Muslims and the neighbors.

He assured that the issues raised by the Afghan Consul General including those related to the prisoners would be taken up with the federal government.

He also assured that the caretaker provincial government would extend full cooperation to the Afghan Consul General for resolving all the issues as per the laws and policy of federal government.



DALLAS TEXAS: Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Masood Khan meeting with Congressman Keith Self

Alvi condoles over destruction by floods, am collapse Libya

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday expressed condolence over the massive destruction caused by the floods in Libya which also led a dam to collapse.

The president expressed grief over the loss of lives and properties in the Libyan city of Derna and assured that Pakistan stood with the people and the State of Libya in that hour of calamity.

"The sympathies of the people and the Government of Pakistan go to the people of Libya in this difficult situation," the president said and urged the international community to extend humanitarian assistance to the country.

CM GB briefs PM about development projects

GILGIT (APP): Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Gulbar Khan on Tuesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and apprised him of the progress on the ongoing uplift projects.

The chief minister also briefed the prime minister about the public welfare projects, particularly in education and health sectors, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister was given a briefing on the development of tourism sector in Gilgit Baltistan.

On the occasion, the chief minister presented the traditional tunic and a cap of Gilgit Baltistan to the caretaker prime minister.

Al-Qadir Trust case Rashid refuses to appear before NAB team

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Tuesday refused to appear before the NAB (National Accountability Bureau) investigation team in the £190 million scandal.

Rashid sent a letter to the NAB investigation team showing his inability to oblige it. The former federal minister wrote in his letter that he had no knowledge or any information about the Al-Qadir Trust and the £190 million case. Moreover, he was not a witness in the Al-Qadir Trust case. He wrote that the "NAB summons asking him to appear before the investigation team is illegal."

Conspiracy to topple Benazir govt: SC rejects appeal pleas of retired army officers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has upheld sentences of two retired army officers involved in the conspiracy to topple government of former Prime Minister (PM) Benazir Bhutto.

Proceedings was initiated against both of the army officers under the charges of their involvement in conspiracy to topple Benazir government in 1995.

The appeal plea against the sentences of Colonel @ Azad Minhas and Colonel @ Inayatullah against their sentences.

It is pertinent to mention here the petitioners had resorted to SC in 2016 after their petitions were rejected by Lahore High Court.

The Field Court Martial had sentenced Azad Minhas to two-year and Inayatullah to four-year imprisonment, with hard labor. They were also dismissed from duty.

IHC reserves judgment on chairman PTI plea against hearing of cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has reserved judgment on chairman PTI plea against hearing of cipher case in Attock Jail.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Ameer Farooq took up the case for hearing Tuesday. Sher Afzal Marwat counsel for chairman PTI appeared in the court.

Sher Afzal Marwat read out ministry of law notification in the court.

He argued ministry of law shifted the court in Attock jail under what law and powers. How can the trial be transferred from Islamabad to Punjab. Only Supreme Court (SC) can transfer the trial to other province legally. It is not in the powers of chief commissioner or interior secretary to shift the trial to other province.

He argued if trial was to be changed then they were to ask from trial judge and it was not asked.

Zardari to camp in Lahore for elections strategy

LAHORE (INP): Former president and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari will reach Lahore tomorrow (Wednesday) to focus on the party's affairs in Punjab. The former president will participate in party's Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting in Lahore scheduled for September. PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will also reach Lahore from Multan tomorrow.

The former foreign minister will stay in Lahore for 4 days where the latter will meet with party workers.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has convened a meeting of its Central Executive Committee (CEC) to mull over the upcoming general election date. The meeting will discuss the country's current political situation and plan for future political developments. The CEC will also review its stance on general elections. The invitations have been sent to all the CEC members which will take place at 3 p.m. on September 14 in Bilawal House Lahore and PPP chairman Bilawal will preside over the meeting.



QUETTA: A delegation of Drug Inspector meeting with caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Jogezaei