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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa presides over the hearing of petitions challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023, held at Supreme Court of Pakistan Building in Islamabad.

Caretaker CM emphasizes on check & balance in running Govt. affairs & implementation on existing laws

Mir Ali Mardan asks CMIT to ensure effective implementation on strategy for timely disposing of all pending matters

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has emphasized that check and balance is quite necessary in the government affairs and implementation on the existing laws to ensure good governance.

The Chief Minister also stressed that Chief Minister's Inspection Team (CMIT) should demonstrate wholehearted effectiveness while disposing of all the pending cases on merit. He was speaking to the Chairman CMIT, Abdul Rehman Buzdar who called on him on Monday.

During the meeting, Chairman CMIT informed the caretaker Chief Minister about the performance of CMIT.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that correct use of resources and powers is the hallmark of a better and organized form of government for it is necessary to review



the government measures and affairs on that legal lines that are framed for the purpose, he maintained.

He was of the strong view that the fruits of government measures can benefit the people only when the correct use of available resources are ensured.

The caretaker Chief Minister directed to ensure effective implementation on the strategy for timely disposing of all the pending cases.

Meanwhile, a delegation of tribal elders led by Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai called on the

Reports of selling arms to Ukraine for IMF bailout package baseless: FO

Baloch says Islamabad maintains a policy of strict neutrality in the dispute between Ukraine and Russia

ISLAMABAD (INP): The foreign office on Monday vehemently rejected claims that Pakistan agreed to supply weapons to Ukraine in return for securing an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout in July, saying the country maintained a "policy of strict neutrality."

The rebuttal from the foreign office came after the Intercept, a US publication, claimed in its latest report that Pakistan supplied weapons to Ukraine via the United States in order to secure the IMF deal. The publication backed its claims by two sources with knowledge of the arrangement, saying that internal documents from both the Pakistani and American governments confirm the development. "These arms sales were intended to supply the Ukrainian military, hence, forcing Pakistan to take a side in the Russia-Ukraine conflict," it claimed.

The standby agreement signed in July allowed Pakistan to avoid a potential default as its foreign reserves were depleting fast. Responding to media queries on the latest Intercept story alleging sale of Pakistani weapons to Ukraine to get IMF bailout package for Pakistan, the Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, rejected the story as "baseless and fabricated". "The IMF Standby Arrangement for Pakistan was successfully negotiated between Pakistan and the IMF to implement difficult but essential economic reforms. Giving any other colour to these negotiations is disingenuous. "Pakistan maintains a policy of strict neutrality in the dispute between Ukraine and Russia and in that context, does not provide any arms and ammunition to them. Pakistan's defence exports are always accompanied with strict end user requirements," she added.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa says Transferring suo motu powers to three-member committee not an attack on CJP rights

In historic first, the case proceedings were broadcast live; Do not want absolute powers, says CJP; Hearing on law clipping CJP powers adjourned till Oct 3; Seeks replies from all parties by September 25

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Monday observed that parliament's SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 was not an attempt to clip the top judge's rights by devolving the suo motu powers to a three-member committee.

The new CJP passed the remarks during a full court hearing on the petitions challenging the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023.

The historic hearing, which was held almost throughout the day, has been adjourned till October 3.

The hearing was seen as historic because, for the first time in the country's

judicial history, the Supreme Court allowed live telecast of proceedings on the petitions challenging the contentious law seeking to regulate suo motu powers of the country's top judge.

During the hearing, CJP Isa said arguments in the case will begin afresh because the new bench has been formed.

There were three applications to make a full court, which had been approved, CJP Isa observed.

Ahead of the hearing today, the Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan submitted the federal government's response in the matter, requesting the

court to reject the petitions against the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act. "Petitions against acts of parliament are inadmissible. [Therefore,] the petitions against the Practice and Procedure Act should be dismissed," the response submitted by the government contended.

Sources confirmed to Geo News that the decision was made in the full court meeting ahead of the proceedings.

To this end, five cameras were installed in the courtroom number one. Four cameras were installed in the visitors' gallery and one was installed for the lawyers' rostrum in front of the judges' docks.

Pakistan can play an important role on UN platform, Munir Akram

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan permanent representative to United Nations Munir Akram said that Pakistan can play an important role on United Nations (UN) platform.

The peace of South Asia is linked Kashmir issue. We want solution for Kashmir issue according to resolutions of United Nations (UN).

In a statement Munir Akram said that world is currently facing many serious challenges such as food insecurity due to wars, increase in global warming, global pandemics and recessions.

He said that United Nations platform can provide best solution to tackle all the challenges. Investment is very important for social development and improvement of economy.

He said that caretaker Prime Minister (PM) will address United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He has scheduled meetings with world leaders and various investment companies. Pakistan's Permanent representative to United Nations said that Pakistan is the country most affected by climate change. Share of Pakistan in carbon emissions is negligible.

CJP refuses to receive guard of honor

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa reached Supreme Court and refused to receive guard of honor.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa has directed the police to fulfill their duties wholeheartedly and refused to receive guard of honor.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa was welcomed by staff on his arrival at Supreme Court.

Speaking to staff on this occasion Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) said that today I have many meetings and there is full court. I need your cooperation.

A guard of honor was to be presented to the Chief Justice by the Islamabad Police.

Police also gave guard of honor to former Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa reached Supreme Court without protocol.

According to media reports CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa has refused to take protocol and car as Chief Justice. Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa reached Supreme Court in 18cc normal vehicle. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) has been given same security as of fellow judges.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai and Minister for Finance Amjad Rasheed addressing a press conference.

Bilawal says PPP to consider political alliances once election schedule announced

OKARA (INP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday said the PPP would deliberate on forming political alliances once the election date is announced.

With elections potentially just a few months away, Bilawal has been engaging in public gatherings and organising party meetings as part of the party's electoral preparations of late.

Responding to a question while addressing a press conference in Okara, Bilawal said: "Ask me what alliance I'm going for or not [with any other party] when the election schedule is announced."

The PPP chairman reiterated his request to the ECP to announce the date

for the upcoming polls and their schedule. He added that such a move would address any concern of the PPP or any other party.

Bilawal also talked about the party's recent request to co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari to raise their complaints regarding an "uneven playing field" with all quarters concerned, and requested him to pull through with the responsibility he was given.

"Otherwise, I request Zardari sahib to not tie my hands," he added.

The PPP chairman also expressed his well wishes for new Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and said he hoped that the judge would improve the Supreme Court's affairs.

PM says: Excited to represent Pakistan in UN meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that he is excited to represent Pakistan in 78th session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

In a statement released on social media website X, Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar said that I am on 5-day important visit to America. I will discuss global environmental challenges and engage with world leaders during visit. I will discuss with international media and top think tanks.

Balochistan CM takes notice of girl died falling into open sewer

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki took notice of the girl incident who died after falling into the open sewer of a private shopping Mall in Quetta on Monday.

He also sought a report of the incident from the concerned administrative authorities saying that the persons guilty of negligence should be determined after investigation.

He said no exemption would be granted to those found guilty of negligence.

Governor Balochistan emphasizes upon: We have to bring people closer to knowledge, wisdom & creativity for promotion of healthy environment

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that we have to bring people closer to the knowledge, wisdom and creative activities in order to promote healthy environment. He said that at the moment, the poverty and illiteracy are two major socio-economic stigma.

The Governor was speaking to the Pashto classical singer, Ejaz Ufaq who called on him here on Monday. The Governor said that the lively people of our society are no more lively because of the poor economic state and undue circumstances of the whole region for last several years.

He said that those creating creative and critic mind are lacking in the society.

While on the other hand, the intolerance and wave of extremism have affected the good sense as well, he regretfully pointed out.

The Governor also said that there are several prominent names in the Pashto music and singing, whose services are invaluable.

Undoubtedly, he mentioned that the signers and artists happen to be the ambassadors of social activities as such there is a dire need to encourage and financially support those associated with them. He also stressed the need to honour the democratic behaviours and difference of opinion and maintain the environment of peace and harmony so as to create more stability, equality and mutual trust in the society.



KARACHI: Amir Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman enquiring about health of Hafiz Hamdullah who was injured in Mastung blast.

Pace of work on Quetta Dev. Package reviewed: Quetta would turn into modern beautiful city with completion of dev. projects, believes CS

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has directed the concerned high ups to expedite the pace of work on development projects of the roads being executed under Quetta Development Package removing all hurdles in way of their timely completion.

The Chief Secretary said that Quetta would turn into a modern beautiful city once the development projects of Quetta Package are completed well in time. He was chairing a meeting held to review progress of the development projects including roads expansion and repair under the Quetta Development Package here on Monday.

Those who were in at-

tendance at meeting were included: senior Member Board of Revenue, Abdul Saboor Khan Kakar, Secretary Communications, Ali Akbar Baloch, Secretary Planning and Development, Asghar Harifal, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and Project Director Quetta Package, Muhammad Rafiq Baloch.

The meeting reviewed progress on the projects being executed under Quetta Development Package.

The Project Director briefed the participants about ongoing development projects under Quetta development Package.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary directed to complete projects of roads construction at the

earliest.

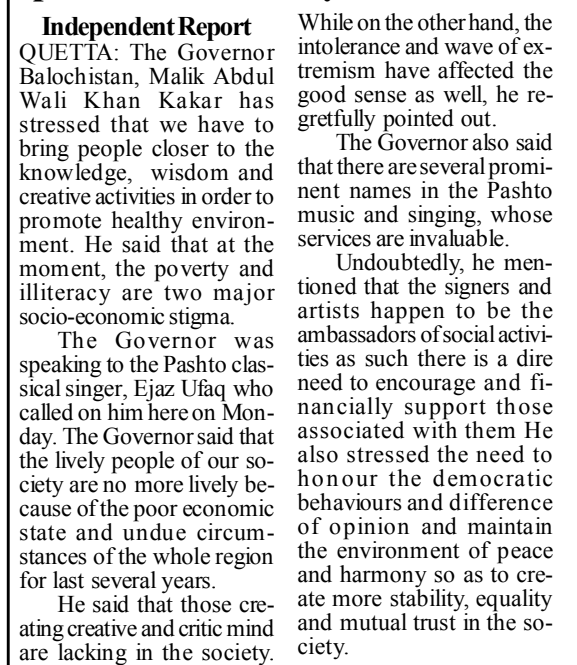
He particularly referred to the projects of Spiny road, Sabzal Road, Ansoomb road, Sariab road, Radio Pakistan link road, Link Badini road and directed to complete these roads project without any further delay. He also directed to remove the hurdles in their timely completion expediting the pace of work on them. The Chief Secretary said that Quetta development package would prove to be an important milestone for development of Quetta city. He said that the pressure of traffic would reduce and situation would improve with construction of the roads in Quetta city.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding development projects under Quetta Development Package



Federal Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Bugti received by Mayor Lianyungang on his arrival to attend 2023 Conference of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum.



QUETTA: Additional IG Jawad Dogar meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Caption (ret'd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali

Over 2,330 KG charas seized; four arrested: ANF foils major attempt of smuggling of huge quantity of drugs in interior Sindh

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) foiled major bid of smuggling of huge quantity of narcotics from Chaman to interior Sindh via Quetta on Monday. According to ANF spokesman, over 2,330 kilogram of charas was being smuggled by a truck load of mixture of cement when it was intercepted by a team of ANF intelligence. During the thorough checking, the ANF team recovered the huge quantity of narcotics concealed in the hidden area of the cement mixture.

Two accused were also arrested from the truck. In addition to this, a car was

also impounded which was clearing the passage for the truck load of narcotics. Two more accused riding in the car were also apprehended. All four accused belonged to Quetta, Chaman and Killa Abdullah.

During the interrogation, the narcotics was being smuggled from Chaman to the interior Sindh. A case has been registered against the alleged smuggled and further investigations is in progress.

The ANF spokesman also told that the arrested accused are being interrogated for arrest of more smugglers included in the gang.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

ECP's 'bias'

The pressure is mounting on the ECP, with another major party expressing serious concerns over the political environment. Over the course of last week, several senior PPP leaders issued strong statements against the "absence of a level playing field" in the run-up to the polls.

The party's chairman publicly stated that he does not think political parties are free to function or campaign independently, and, on Thursday, the party's information secretary told the press that the PPP is concerned over the appointment of several PML-N 'loyalists' in the interim set-up.

"The concern among party members is that the PML-N is getting a kind of favour in the current caretaker set-ups in the federal and Punjab governments. And it's no more secret," she said.

The PTI, too, shared similar objections over the appointment in the caretaker government of several bureaucrats seen as being close to the Sharifs. The two parties' concerns reflect rather poorly on the ECP: it is, after all, the commission's constitutional responsibility to ensure that elections are held in an environment which does not favour or jeopardise any political stakeholder's interests.

Interestingly, the commission seems to be tacitly acknowledging that the playing field is no longer level. It has written to the caretaker prime minister's secretary, advising him against inducting "persons of known political allegiance".

If the caretaker set-up has been infiltrated by politically inclined persons, which the ECP concedes, the fairness of any election conducted by it will invariably be brought into question.

It may be recalled that one of the excuses given by the ECP for not conducting the KP and Punjab elections earlier this year was that future elections held under the governments formed by political parties in these provinces would not be free or fair. The same logic ought to apply to party loyalists.

Not too long ago, it was only the PTI which seemed to have a problem with the manner in which the ECP was conducting itself.

But while the PTI and Mr Khan's criticism of the commission, its chief commissioner and their alleged 'bias' may initially have been a ploy to push them off the various legal actions they were pursuing, it has lately started seeming somewhat justified.

It may be recalled that in failing to challenge the state's attempts to thwart the PTI, which had wanted early elections in KP, the ECP has already violated the Constitution by failing to adhere to the prescribed 90-day timeline.

It is not only about to repeat that violation again, but it also does not seem committed to the positions it had taken earlier. This is morally and legally indefensible.

The commission must adhere to its constitutional responsibility and immediately address the concerns that are being raised.

No easy solution



Huma Yusuf

Magic wand. Silver bullet. Miracle cure. Pick your idiom, and then forget about it. If there's one thing Pakistanis should learn from the turmoil of recent months it is that there is no quick fix for Pakistan's myriad, complex and increasingly insurmountable problems.

The dysfunctional dance of our institutions has highlighted that while we may cling to the idea of saviours — whether populist politicians or non-nonsense generals — it is not that easy. Checks and challenge are inherent in our system, and when our institutions do not work cooperatively they thwart each other. In the absence of a long-term strategic vision, recent developments, however dramatic, amount to sound and fury, signifying little.

The president and the ECP, the courts and the establishment, the people and their political representatives — even fathers and sons, if we tune into the mixed messaging from Sindh: they would all like to deliver the antidote to Pakistan's problems. Instead, they stumble over each other, criticise and contradict each other, emphasise each other's failings.

One topic seems to generate more consensus than others, and that is the need for economic stability. All the powers that be recognise that the size of the pie must increase so that all can feed off it. But as the era of 'get a bailout, chug along' ends, views on how the economy should be resuscitated also diverge. Some are banking on the top-down foreign-investor-

saviour, others are backing the bottom-up boost exports approach.

And that, frankly, is how it should be.

There is no silver bullet, no cure-all; not internally to clean our political mess, not externally to buy us out of our economic woes. Pakistanis must accept that our preoccupation with power games and saviour seeking has endured at the expense of policymaking, and we have argued amongst ourselves while problems have mounted. Any meaningful solutions now require time, strategising and holistic handling.

Let's consider an example from our critical textiles and IT sectors. A recent report from Cornell University's Global Labour Institute argues that garment manufacturing in the key markets of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam can expect collective losses of \$65 billion in exports by 2030. This represents a 22 per cent slowdown, and the loss of one million new jobs in these economies. The forecast for 2050 is worse: a collective loss of 68.8pc of exports, and 8.64 million fewer jobs across the four countries.

The report attributes these losses to climate change-linked events, including high heat and flooding, that will disrupt production and supply chains and endanger workers' health, jeopardising productivity. The authors argue that while there is growing awareness in the garment sector around the need to cut emissions and reduce water wastage, countries and companies are not doing enough to implement climate adaptation strategies.

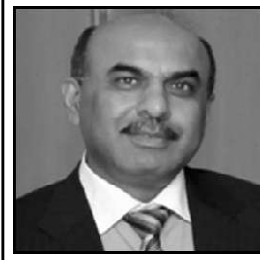
Turning to IT, while we are grounding PIA planes, India has landed a rover on the south pole of the moon. This is a reflection of India's science and technology ecosystem — the country accounts for

32pc of the world's STEM graduates (43pc of them women). It is currently adding over 2.5m software developers to its workforce each year, and will next year overtake the US in terms of its developer population. Not surprisingly, technology exports make up more than half of India's total services exports.

By contrast, a State Bank report published in May estimated that Pakistan adds 20,000 to 25,000 engineering and IT graduates to the workforce annually, but only 10pc are employable due to their lack of technical and soft skills such as critical thinking and English-language proficiency. These are hardly the indicators of a competitive IT-driven economy.

These examples are meant to illustrate the intractability of Pakistan's problems. Our desire to attract investment and revamp our export economy can only be met with a multifaceted policy push: overhaul of the education system, launch of integrated climate adaptation strategies, updating labour protection provisions, launching progressive data protection legislation, currency stabilisation, making the workforce more inclusive, etc. This is the work of government departments at both federal and provincial levels along with experts, academia, private sector and civil society. It will take time, determination, and a clear vision for the way forward. As I said, no magic wand, no silver bullet. For all their failings, democratic governments (when they are not plagued by paralyzing polarisation) are well set up to handle complexity, build consensus and mobilise holistic approaches, which are needed urgently. Let's have timely elections, and then enable elected representatives to get on with addressing our real problems. -- Courtesy Dawn

Policy perspective



Naseer Memon

After vacillating for five years, Sindh has finally nailed a water policy. The document needs some editorial brushwork but is otherwise fairly comprehensive. The policy has tried to encapsulate the issues of irrigation, drinking water, the municipal uses of water, sustainability of the natural ecosystem and water quality.

Due to the presence of multiple departments, the management of water resources has remained fragmented. The Sindh Irrigation Department (SID), the Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), water and sanitation agencies, the Local Government Department (formerly KWSB), the Public Health Engineering Department, the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency and the Sindh Agriculture Department are the prominent bodies involved in water management in different domains.

The policy envisages the amalgamation of SID and SIDA to create a unified 'Sindh Water Resources Management Department'. Interestingly, SIDA was carved out of SID under institutional reforms introduced through the National Drainage Programme in 1998. SIDA was assigned the ambitious agenda of farmers-led participatory management of the canal systems, including the recovery of water cess and the judicious distribution of water. However, the experiment had little impact in terms of overhauling the irrigation system.

One is unsure how

the new entity will improve the efficiency and management of water resources. Its most critical challenge will be to address poor water governance. Today's faltering water governance system is their own fault and new inventions aren't needed to identify the causes and cure of the malaise.

Non-transparent and unfair water distribution, water theft, tampering with outlets, direct outlets from main canals to favour privileged landlords, artificial breaches and shoddy maintenance of channels are only a few among a long list of distortions that have blighted irrigation in Sindh. These problems are not just because of operational bottlenecks; they also emerge from politics in the province which is controlled by the feudal aristocracy. The irrigation bureaucracy has been installed mostly on the whims of the landed oligarchy. Both safeguard each other's interests. Hence the entire water distribution system has been ring-fenced, with both benefiting from its malfunctioning.

Inefficiency is another factor that has plagued Sindh's water-scape. The more than 60 per cent conveyance losses not only result in wastage but also reduce the soil's productivity due to waterlogging and salinity. Resultantly, the crop-rotation ratio continues to plunge.

According to the water policy, 61pc of the cultivable area in Sindh is saline or sodic. The Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates irrigation water productivity in Pakistan at \$0.3 per cubic metre, much lower than the figure for other irrigation systems of comparable size. The acreage of water-thirsty crops rice and sugarcane is another major cause of imprudent water usage. These two crops consume about a third of the irrigation wa-

ter in Sindh.

The water requirement of these crops is three to five times higher than that of oilseeds and pulses. The policy alludes to the need to reduce water-intensive crops yet concedes, ironically, that over the last decade, the acreage of these two crops has increased by 30pc. Shifts in the cropping pattern is treacherous territory as this can lead to a collision with the troika of agriculturalists, industrialists and politicians. Most of the 32 sugar mills in Sindh are owned by political families, who also possess large parcels of cropland. Shifting the cropping pattern is desirable yet one cannot expect much from a spineless administration in the absence of political will.

Domestic water requirements are a snowballing challenge as the urban population grows rapidly. According to the latest census, 53.7pc of Sindh's population is urban. Unfortunately, the water and sanitation infrastructure and services are in a state of disarray in urban centres. The WASH [water, sanitation and hygiene] Sector Development Plan, 2016-26, estimated an annual investment of Rs100 billion till 2030 for the universal coverage of WASH services in the province. The policy prescribes making WASH management bodies autonomous entities that can efficiently generate resources and operate on the basis of competence. This prescription was tested by creating the North Sindh Urban Services Corporation in 2010 that, however, miserably failed due to persistent political intrusion. The policy stipulates several remedies to problems that have sapped the water sector for decades. A fundamental challenge will be its effective implementation through a structured approach that is not confined to perfunctory meetings and reports. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SBP says: Banking sector showed steady performance and resilience during H1CY23

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued today the Mid-Year Performance Review (The Review) of the Banking Sector for 2023.

The review covers the performance and soundness of Pakistan's banking sector for the period January to June 2023 (H1CY23). It also briefly covers the performance of financial markets as well as the results of Systemic Risk Survey (which represents views of independent experts about key potential risks to financial stability).

The Review highlights that the macroeconomic environment continued to remain challenging during the first half of CY23. Domestic financial conditions tightened while the operating environment remained under stress due to elevated inflation and prolonged uncertainty.

Nonetheless, banking sector's balance sheet expanded by 14.0 percent during H1CY23. The expansion in asset base was mainly driven by investments in government securities. Besides strong inflow of deposits, banks'

reliance on borrowings remained noticeable during the period. The Review also notes that advances of banking sector recorded a muted growth during H1CY23; private sector advances contracted while public sector availed additional financing mainly for commodity finance operations.

Encouragingly, asset quality indicators improved: net non-performing loans (NPLs) to loans ratio lowered to 0.45 percent at end June-23 (0.68 percent in Jun-22) as banks set aside higher amount of provisioning from steady earnings.



FAISALABAD: Workers spreading the rice crop for drying at a rice warehouse.

ICCI calls for ecosystem to promote entrepreneurs & startups

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the government should take policy measures to create an ecosystem for entrepreneurship and startups that would help promote businesses and revive the economy. He said that Pakistan is a country of young population with over 60 percent share of youth in our total population.

Therefore, every possible effort should be

made to develop this huge pool of human capital by providing them business education so that they could be equipped with the right knowledge for business-startups and be enabled to play a more effective role in the economic development of the country. He said this while addressing as keynote speaker at Business Summit 23 organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with The Career Class in its auditorium.

PFC to take part in Dusseldorf, Germany expo

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in the 4-day Dusseldorf-Germany Expo starting from November 13 to discover business opportunities and explore new market access for Pakistani products.

In a press statement, Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that PFC along with Chenone will be participating in this mega event.

He said Chenone will also exhibit its high-quality international standards products to capture their share in the global market.

He said it's an excellent opportunity to showcase Pak products and develop business deals with international buyers.

He said PFC and Chenone have already attended several other international fairs in the US, China, Italy, Sri Lanka etc. and introduced their products which are in great demand. He hoped to get orders from foreign buyers. IDAP is facilitating the manufacturers of export products.



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Neil Hawkins called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. The meeting served as a platform for fruitful discussion on bilateral relations, economic cooperation and regional issues of mutual interest.

China's high-tech materials company to help renovate textile industry in Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): A Chinese leading manufacturer specialize in textiles auxiliaries and organic silicone products has joint hands with local partners to bring technological innovation support to the textile printing and dyeing industry in Pakistan.

"As the pillar industry of Pakistan, textile industry is currently facing two major constraints, namely energy and cotton yarn shortage.

The fabric categories of some local printing and dyeing factories are gradually transitioning to a large proportion of polyester. Chinese chemical fiber suppliers can provide the most suitable chemical fiber raw materials for unique textile categories to match needs," said Xing Pingping, Overseas Sales Manager of Ningbo Runhe High-tech Materials Co., Ltd.

More than 60 percent

of Pakistan's textile companies are concentrated in Punjab Province, and Faisalabad as the core textile industrial city here, with nearly 300 dyeing factories of all sizes. According to Xing, recently, his company joined hands with Pakistani agent FairChem International to hold a textile seminar in Faisalabad, in which China and Pakistan partners jointly discussed the future direction of local textile printing.

Cutlery exports increase 1.55% in 2 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The country's cutlery exports witnessed an increase of 1.55 per cent during the first two months of the financial year 2023-24 as compared to the corresponding months of last year.

The country exported cutlery worth US \$9.485 million during July-August (2023-24) against the exports of US \$9.340 million during July-August (2022-23), showing growth of 1.55

per cent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the cutlery exports also rose by 11.73 per cent during the month of August 2023 as compared to the same month of last year.

The PBS data revealed that the cutlery exports in August 2023 were recorded at \$5.161 million against the exports of \$4.619 million in August 2022.

Global oil price surge raises concerns of soaring inflation worldwide

LONDON (INP): The rapid surge in oil prices in the global market triggered fear of an impending inflation crisis across the world.

The recent inflation wave has gripped nations worldwide with concerns mounting that further price increases may be on the horizon due to a surge in oil costs in the global market.

Exports increase by 22.45% to Rs.1.27trln in two months

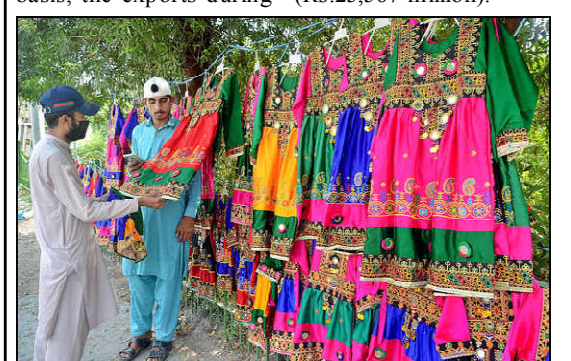
ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 22.45 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July-August (2023-24) were recorded at Rs.1,276,238 million as against Rs.1,042,226 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 22.45 percent, according to provisional data released by PBS. On a year-on-year basis, the exports during

August 2023 increased by 26.75 percent and were recorded at Rs.695,136 million compared to the exports of Rs. 548,440 million in August 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 19.62 percent when compared to the exports of Rs. 581,102 million in July 2023.

The main commodities of exports during August 2023 were Knitwear (Rs. 117,892 million), readymade garments (Rs. 83,447 million), bedwear (Rs. 74,081 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 47,002 million), cotton yarn (Rs. 30,793 million), towels (Rs.25,567 million).



MULTAN: Roadside vendor displaying colorful fancy dresses to attract customers.

3.93m cotton bales production a good omen for Pakistan economy

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's cotton industry has experienced a remarkable surge in cotton bales production till September 15, 2023, as with the fresh arrival, Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has released yield figures, indicating a robust performance in the sector. The PCGA official sources told APP with figures that till September 15, 2023, cotton arrivals soared to 3.93 million bales, which is signifying a remarkable 79.87 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase, compared to the same time period last

year when arrivals stood at 2.187 million bales.

The substantial growth in cotton arrivals is a promising sign for Pakistan's cotton industry, which plays a pivotal role in the nation's economy. Cotton and textile exports have remained pillars of Pakistan's economy, the sources said. It is worth mentioning here that cotton arrivals from Sindh have increased by a staggering 2.15 times YoY, reaching 2.389 million bales. This surge reflects a growing focus on enhancing cotton production in the province, they said.

Naqvi enhances Sino-Pak ties at 3rd Ningxia Friendship Forum

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi Monday actively participated in the 3rd Ningxia International Friendship Cities Forum, held at the Yuehai Convention Center in Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia Province, China.

Upon his arrival at the Yuehai Convention Center, he was warmly welcomed by Ningxia Communist Party Chairman/Governor, Zhang Yupu, and Secretary General/Chief Minister Liang Yanshun, along with the government delegation. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi held the distinguished position of being the chief guest at the 3rd Ningxia International Friendship Cities Forum.

In honor of his presence, a welcoming lunch was graciously hosted by the International Friendship Cities Forum.

Addressing the gathering, Mohsin Naqvi expressed his

deep sense of honor for being part of the Ningxia International Friendship Cities Forum.

He highlighted the enduring and amiable nature of China's relationship with Pakistan, underscoring President Xi Jinping's genuine fondness for Pakistan and its people.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized Punjab's vast potential, housing a population of 140 million, and described it as a province teeming with countless opportunities for development. He also envisioned new avenues of collaboration and growth blossoming in Ningxia.

The chief minister underscored that the primary objective of Punjab's official delegation visit to China was to engage with experts from diverse fields, and he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to tap into collective wisdom

through the International Friendship Cities Forum.

Zhang Yupu, the Ningxia Communist Party Chairman/Governor, extended a warm and open-hearted welcome to Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the Punjab delegation.

Likewise, Ningxia Communist Party Secretary General/Chief Minister Liang Yanshun extended a warm welcome, emphasizing their duty to cooperate for the development and prosperity of the people of Punjab.

In a gesture of hospitality, a dinner was hosted in honor of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the official delegation of Punjab. The occasion was graced by the presence of Provincial Ministers SM Tanveer, Ibrahim Hassan Murad, Chief Secretary Zahid Zaman Akhtar, and senior officials from the Ningxia Communist Party of China.



LAHORE: Participants of Foreign Diplomatic Course from ASEAN member states led by Director General of Foreign Service Academy, Muhammad Mazhar Javed in a group photo with Governor Punjab, Muhammad Baighur Rehman at Governor House.

HESCO's anti-power theft drive, 122 transformers removed for non-payment

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has continued its crackdown against electricity theft and non-payment of dues in the region on Monday.

According to the HESCO spokesperson, fines of more than Rs. 87.08 million were imposed since the commencement of these actions in the entire region, while 122 transformers were removed due to non-payment of dues. During these operations, 39 transformers were removed in Circle Hyderabad, with outstanding dues of more than Rs. 30.7 million, 47 transformers were removed in

Laar Circle with dues around Rs. 43.7 million. He informed that, 30 transformers were removed in limits of Nawabshah circle, where dues amount was touched to Rs. 4.7 million and in the Mirpurkhas circle six transformers were removed, with dues amounting to Rs 13.1 million. According to HESCO authorities, during these actions more than 28.6 million rupees were recovered from amount of fines.

In total, during these operations, recoveries exceeding Rs. 642.9 million were made from defaulters, and there have been 296 cases were registered against electricity theft in the region.

Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with ASEAN member states

Independent Report
LAHORE: The participants of Foreign Diplomatic Course from ASEAN member states led by Director General of Foreign Service Academy, Muhammad Mazhar Javed called on Governor Punjab, Muhammad Baighur Rehman today here at Governor House Lahore. The delegation comprised 22 diplomats from eight ASEAN member countries. On this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Baighur Rehman welcomed the foreign diplomats from various

ASEAN countries to the Governor House. He said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with ASEAN member states.

He said that Pakistan has pleasant and friendly relations with ASEAN countries and is committed to further strengthening and deepening its ties with ASEAN countries. He said that the Foreign Service Academy is a premier institution with global reach. It has trained over three thousand diplomats, half of which are foreign diplomats. The Punjab

Governor expressed hope that this course at Foreign Service Academy would immensely help them to hone their diplomatic skills.

He said that people to people connections play an important role in improving relations between countries. Governor Punjab said that there are vast opportunities to promote trade relations with ASEAN countries. He further stated that Pakistan exports high-quality textile products to international markets, adding that ASEAN



LAHORE: Interim State Minister of Tourism/Chairman PTDC, Poet, Syed Wasi Shah addressing a press conference at College of Tourism and Hotel Management (COTHM).

KU, Japanese Plus W Inc. signs MoU to provide IT training to computer science students

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi and Plus W, Inc., the global recruiting company based in Japan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide training to the students of the KU computer science department so that they could be prepared for the Japanese IT market. KU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and the Executive Vice President and the Chief Operating Officer of Plus W Takashi Horiuchi inked the

MoU documents at the VC Secretariat here on Monday.

Head of Global Business and Pakistan Business Hirokyu Shiono, the Deputy Head of Global Business and Pakistan Business Umair Munir, and the Associate of Global Business Division Muhammad Talha Munir participated in the meeting while the KU Registrar Professor Dr Abdul Waheed, faculty of computer science department and the Director of Office of Re-

search, Innovation and Commercialization were present on this occasion. As per the MoU, Plus W would give three months of short-course certification in Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Blockchain, Deep Learning, Machine Learning, and other technologies. Besides, offering the latest IT course the Plus W would also engage KU students in business Japanese language classes so that they could easily communicate with the Japanese business community.



KARACHI: Construction works of new development projects for extending road is underway under the supervision of local government department, as slow pace of construction work is creating problems for commuters due to traffic jam and they demand to concerned department to complete work as soon as possible, located on Shahrah-e-Faisal road in Karachi.

International News

US-Iran ties remain adversarial but door for nuclear diplomacy remains open, US says

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: A detainee swap that secured the release of five Americans held in Iran on Monday does not change Washington's adversarial relationship with Tehran, although the door remains open for diplomacy over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, a senior administration official said.

The United States and Iran, after months of Qatar-mediated talks, have struck a deal in which Tehran released five U.S. dual nationals who were imprisoned in Iran in exchange for five Ira-

nians held in the United States.

Speaking to reporters late on Sunday, senior Biden administration officials said Washington would keep up the pressure on Tehran by imposing fresh sanctions on Iran's ministry of intelligence and former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for their involvement in the detention of U.S. citizens. The U.S. had also increased its interdiction posture in the region to deter Iranian arms shipments into Yemen. Even so, they said the door for diplomacy over Iran's nuclear program was not entirely

shut. "If we see an opportunity, we will explore it but right now, I've really nothing to talk about," the senior administration official said on condition of anonymity.

Asked if there would be any indirect talks with the Iranians this week in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the official said: "You asked if there's any talks planned this week, absolutely not."

It was unclear if the official meant to deny any indirect talks, or if he was deliberately leaving the door open for them.

Poland, Hungary, Slovakia to introduce bans on Ukraine grains

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Poland, Slovakia and Hungary announced their own restrictions on Ukrainian grain imports after the European Commission decided not to extend its ban on imports into Ukraine's five EU neighbours.

Ukraine was one of the world's top grain exporters before Russia's 2022 invasion reduced its ability to ship agricultural produce to global markets. Ukrainian farmers have relied on grain exports through neighbouring countries since the con-

flict began as it has been unable to use the favoured routes through Black Sea ports.

Ukraine says it will sue Poland, Hungary and Slovakia over food import bans

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine plans to sue Poland, Hungary and Slovakia in the World Trade Organization over bans on Ukrainian agricultural products, Ukrainian officials said on Monday. The appeal could be sent "in the near future", a senior official said and followed a decision by the three countries bordering Ukraine to ban imports of the country's key export commodities. Politico had earlier on Monday quoted Ukrainian Trade Representative Taras Kachka as saying in an interview that Kyiv planned to sue the three countries.

Russia lashes Ukraine at top UN court in 'genocide' case

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia hit out at Ukraine at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Monday, as the two warring countries squared off in a legal case over Moscow's claim that "genocide" in eastern Ukraine was a pretext for last year's invasion.

Moscow's representative, Gennady Kuzmin, said Ukraine's case that Russia "abused" the United Nations Genocide Convention as a reason to launch its war against its neighbour in February 2022 "couldn't be further from the truth".

When Russian Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion on February 24 last year, part of his reasoning was that pro-Russian people in eastern Ukraine had been "subjected to bullying and genocide by the Kyiv regime".

Two days into the invasion, Ukraine filed a suit at the ICJ, "emphatically denying" this and arguing that Russia's use of "genocide" as a pretext went against the 1948 UN Genocide Convention.

Mere "statements" about genocide are not admissible under international law including the Genocide Convention.

Ukraine hits Moscow, Crimea with drones

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia said it had thwarted a coordinated Ukrainian attack on Crimea early on Sunday, while drones also targeted Moscow, disrupting air traffic in the capital, and caused a fire at an oil depot in the southwest of the country.

Attacks deep inside Russia, far from the front lines, have also increased, with Moscow's mayor saying at least two drones were shot down in the region of the capital early on Sunday.

In an opinion piece late on Saturday, Olesiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's Security Council, urged Kyiv's allies to speed up the delivery of weapons, saying this was the only way to end the war.

"For example, the complete or partial elimination of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, which is a doable task, should significantly accelerate the process of Russia's search for a way out of the ongoing war," Danilov wrote on the Ukrainska Pravda news site.

5-year-old girl killed as Italian military jet crashes during exercise

Monitoring Desk
TURIN: An Italian military jet crashed during an exercise in Turin, hitting a car in which an entire family was travelling and killing a five-year-old girl, Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said on Saturday.

Italian news agency AGI reported that the victim's nine-year-old brother was seriously injured, while the two parents and the jet's pilot were not in life-threatening danger.

US national security adviser meets Chinese FM

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Malta this weekend, Beijing and Washington said on Sunday, as the world's two largest economies seek to stabilise troubled relations.

Both sides held "candid, substantive and constructive" talks during multiple meetings held Sept 16-17, according to separate statements from the White House and the Chinese foreign ministry published on

Sunday.

Sullivan's meeting with Wang was the latest in a series of high-level discussions between US and Chinese officials that could lay the groundwork for a meeting of US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year. Sullivan last met Wang in Vienna in May. China's foreign ministry said both sides agreed to maintain high-level exchanges and hold bilateral consultations on Asia-Pacific affairs, maritime affairs and foreign policy.

Canada to give C\$33 million to help buy air defenses for Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
OTTAWA: Canada will contribute C\$33 million (\$24.5 million) to a British-led partnership that is buying air defense equipment for Ukraine to help it fend off Russian missile and drone attacks, Defence Minister Bill Blair said on Sunday. In a statement, Blair said the contribution was part of the C\$500 million worth of military aid for Kyiv that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in June.

China flies 103 military planes toward Taiwan in new high in activity island calls harassment

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: China's military sent 103 warplanes toward Taiwan in a 24-hour period in what the island's defense ministry called a recent new high.

The planes were detected between 6 a.m. on Sunday and 6 a.m. on Monday, the ministry said. As is customary, they turned back before reaching Taiwan. Chinese warplanes fly toward the self-governing island on a near-daily basis but typically in smaller numbers. The Taiwan ministry didn't explain what time period it meant by a "recent" high.

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its terri-

tory, has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around Taiwan as tensions have grown between the two and with the United States. The U.S. is Taiwan's main supplier of arms and opposes any attempt to change Taiwan's status by force.

The Chinese government would prefer that Taiwan come under its control voluntarily and last week unveiled a plan for an integrated development demonstration zone in Fujian province, trying to entice Taiwanese even as it threatens the island militarily in what experts say is China's long-running carrot.



Members of the World Court listen as Russia begins presenting its objections against the jurisdiction of the World Court in a genocide case brought by Ukraine which claims Moscow falsely applied genocide law to justify its February 24, 2022 invasion, in The Hague, Netherlands.

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PESHAWAR: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq along with other leaders joint hand with other leaders to express their solidarity during protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held near Governor House building in Peshawar.

Govt. committed to putting national economy on sustainable growth trajectory: Sami tells WB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami on Monday said the government was committed to putting the national economy on a path of sustainable growth. He expressed these views during a meeting with World Bank's Country Director to Pakistan Njay Benhassine, who called on him here, a news release said. The WB country director was accompanied by his team including Gailius J. Draugelis (Operations Manager) for Pakistan at WB and Kamran Akbar, (Senior Social Development Specialist). While, the Planning Ministry officials including Chief Executive Of-

ficer CEO, P3A Board, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Member (Infrastructure & Regional Connectivity) at Planning Commission, Dr Waqas Anwar and Member (Social Sector & Devolution) Rafiullah Kakar were also present at the meeting. The minister appreciated the role of the WB as one of the major development partners of Pakistan. Sami Saeed acknowledged the WB's decades-long assistance, which had been playing a vital role in the socioeconomic uplift of Pakistan. Also appreciated the WB's continued support and commitment to the ongoing development projects in the country particularly for the flood-affected areas.

"The Planning Ministry is committed to playing its constructive role in facilitating the WB for the implementation of development projects to make Pakistan climate resilient," Sami Saeed said, reiterating the government's resolve for the country's economic revival. It is to be noted that last year, Pakistan faced unprecedented devastation due to torrential rains and flooding in most parts of the country, which affected 33 million people and caused economic losses worth \$30 billion. The situation led the government to prepare the 4RF framework (Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF)).

The 4RF document suggested effective coordination and participation arrangements among the federal and provincial governments, development partners, donors, international and national NGOs, academia and private sectors. The majority of the projects for the flood-affected areas are being executed by the provinces which have been already approved by the Central Development Working Party and ECNEC (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council.) On the occasion, the WB Country Director WB appreciated the facilitation and proactive role of the Planning Ministry which established a green channel for the quick approval.

Capacity of water treatment plant be increased: Caretaker Minister PHE concerned about issue of provision of clean drinking water to Quetta citizens

Sardar Ejaz Jaffar stresses need to take steps on war footing ground to tackle issue of clean drinking water in Quetta city

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Population Welfare, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar visited the water treatment plant established on Sabzal road and booster pump at Brewery road Quetta on Monday. Also present on the occasion were Managing Director WASA, Hamid Latif Rana, Executive Engineer, Abdul Qadir, Executive Engineer Zaheer Sattar and SDO, Faeed Ahmed. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Ejaz Jaffar noted with concern that the issue of clean drinking water for the citizens of Quetta has turned serious situation, and as such there is a dire need to take steps on war footing grounds to tackle the serious issue. He directed to the MD WASA to prepare and submit a map of Quetta city clearly showing the areas where water is supplied

and those with no supply of water. He also directed to expedite pace of work on the newly installed tube wells further completing the projects within one and half month so as to resolve the issue of water in the city. The caretaker Minister on the occasion expressed concern over closure of the important project of water treatment plant asking why such an important nature project remained pending for last several years. However, now it is an encouraging that around 1.8 million gallons of water is being provided for cultivation to Sabzal road, Samungli road and Nau Hisar after treatment of the sewerage water. He stressed to increase the capacity of water treatment plant further from existing 1.8 million gallons so that the service stations may also be provided the same treated water. The Minister also stressed the need to increase awareness among the masses about importance of clean drinking water. He said that it has come to his knowledge that some officers of WASA are selling the water in connivance with the tanker mafia, which is a great offence. He warned them to mend their way otherwise stern action would be taken against them. Sardar Ejaz Jaffar was also concerned about the lack of better strategy for conservation of the rainwater. Earlier, the MD WASA briefed the caretaker Minister about functioning of the water treatment plant. He also informed that currently 2.6 million people of Quetta need around 5 crore gallons of water, but we are supplying 3.5 crore gallons of water. In order to meet the daily water requirement, we are installing 19 tube wells in the hard rock near Akhtarabad.

India, violator of global laws in Kashmir, waging propaganda against Pak

ISLAMABAD (INP): India in violation of all international laws and conventions, is using chemical weapons along with its latest war technology during violent cordon and search operations to suppress the Kashmiris' demand for resolution of the Kashmir dispute in line with the UN-acknowledged right to self-determination. According to Kashmir Media Service, India is using its army, paramilitary and police, shielded under draconian law Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) to kill Kashmiri youth in fake encounters and arrest them under Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in the territory. The Hindutva-inspired BJP government revoked Kashmir's special status in flagrant violation of international laws in August 2019 and settled non-Kashmiris in the territory against the United Nations resolutions. As part of snatching the Kashmiris' identity, India granted tens of thousands of domicile status to non-Kashmiris.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Advisor Mir Danish Lango meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

MoCCC joins forces with UAE's Blue Carbon for sustainable forestry growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCCC) and UAE's Blue Carbon collaborated to unlock economic potential in forestry, aligned with global climate goals, with a focus on carbon reduction projects and their community benefits. The Ministry of Climate Change recently hosted a four-day technical workshop with UAE's Blue Carbon, attended by representatives from the provincial forestry departments, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan, a news release said on Monday. The workshop's main goal was to explore how Pakistan's Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector can generate carbon credits known as Internationally Transferable Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Throughout the workshop, the primary focus was on exploring potential projects to reduce carbon emissions within Pakistan's AFOLU sector, with a specific emphasis on its forests. The in-depth conversations that occurred during these sessions illuminated Pakistan's forest resources and their readiness for Article 6 mechanisms, thereby highlighting potential areas of cooperation with Blue Carbon. Under the guidelines of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.



QUETTA: DG Khana-e-Farhang Iran Dr. Abul Hasan Miri and Secretary Culture Manzoor Hussain meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports and Culture Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani.

JI stages sit-in outside KP Governor House against electricity, petrol hike

PESHAWAR (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Monday staged a sit-in outside the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor House in Peshawar against the increase in electricity and petroleum prices, as well as rising inflation. The JI workers have also placed containers near a museum located near the Governor House for the party's three-day sit-in. JI's Amir, Sirajul Haq, has also arrived in Peshawar for the sit-in. "Our protest movement is peaceful and not aimed at causing chaos; instead, it intends to compel the government to roll back the unjust increase in prices of electricity and petrol," a JI spokesperson said. He also said that JI will

also approach the Supreme Court against the excessive increases in electricity and petrol prices. It is noteworthy that JI has also announced protests in Lahore on September 21, in Quetta on September 24, and in Karachi on October 6, all in front of governor houses, to continue their anti-inflation campaign.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafaqat visiting proposed site for bus stand at Railway Station and Koila Phatak

On orders of Provincial Ombudsman: WASA starts supply of clean drinking water to office and colony of Met department

Independent Report
QUETTA: The WASA Quetta has started supply of water to the office and residential colony of Pakistan Meteorological Department here. The water supply was started by WASA in light of the orders of Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan, Nazir Muhammad Baloch Advocate. According to the spokesman of Provincial Ombudsman, the PMD's Usman Ghani had submitted an application to the provincial Ombudsman. According to which, an agreement was signed between PMD and WASA under which the former would provide 10,000

square feet land to WASA in the premises of its office where WASA would install a tube well besides constructing a control room. As per the agreement, it was decided WASA would ensure free supply of water to the office and colony of PMD. The PMD's official complaint to the Provincial Ombudsman that WASA is not providing water violating the agreement. Therefore, their complaint may be resolved in this regard, it was requested to the Ombudsman. On this, the Director Investigation, Abdul Manan Achakzai issued notice to MD WASA and sought explanation from him.

Man killed in firing

QUETTA (APP): Unidentified armed men on Monday gunned down a man at Qambrani Road near Sarab area of the provincial capital. The police said the victim was near Kashmiri Abad when armed assailants opened fire at him and fled from the scene. As a result, he died on the spot. The body was shifted to civil hospital where it was identified as Ghulam Qadir. The body was handed over to the heirs after completion of medico legal formalities. The motive behind the killing could not be ascertained so far.

8-year girl raped, strangle to death

KHUZZAR (INP): Unknown culprits abducted, raped and strangled to death a 8-year-old girl in tehsil Nal of Khuzdar, Levies sources said on Monday. According to details, the girl went missing from the area the other day. Very next day the throttled body of missing girl was found near her residence. Levies sources said that two suspects have been detained in connection with the rape, murder.

Senator Samina hails Justice Qazi Faiz Isa on assuming post of CJP

QUETTA (APP): Central Vice President Balochistan Awami Party Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri congratulated Justice Qazi Faiz Isa on assuming the post of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). Expressing good wishes for the new Chief Justice of Pakistan in her congratulatory statement, she said that Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa is an able and senior jurist. There is a strong hope that under the leadership of the new Chief Justice, the institutions providing justice will be more active and strong and will perform their duties effectively, she noted. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that it is the need of the hour for

the legislature, judiciary and executive to work together for the rule of law and justice in the country. She further said that for some time now, there have been talks of discrimination against institutions providing justice, but Qazi Faiz Isa will further activate and strengthen the public's trust in institutions for the rule of law in the country and restore the dignity of the judiciary. She further said that Balochistan Awami Party wants rule of law in the country. The eyes of the entire nation are now towards the Supreme Court for cheap and quick justice so that lakhs of cases of common people can be heard immediately.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE & Population Welfare Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar inspecting water treatment plant and booster pump at Sabzal road.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed meets with delegation of World Bank led by its country Director Njay Benhassine at the Planning Ministry.

Armed bandit injured man on resistance in Mastung

QUETTA (APP): Unknown armed robbers shot and injured a man when he resisted them attempting his bike snatching on the National Highway near the Ghanja Dhori area of Mastung district on Monday. According to Levies sources, the victim identified as Muhammad Saleh was on his way somewhere on a motorbike when armed bandits intercepted and opened fire at him as he put resistance with them to snatch his motorcycle. As a result, he received bullet injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital for medical aid. Levies force registered a case and started an investigation.

FIA arrest wanted criminal from France

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Interpol Pakistan has arrested the accused Nasir Iqbal from France and later transported him to Sialkot Airport. According to the FIA spokesperson, the accused Nasir was wanted for a serious crime by the Punjab Police. A case was registered against the accused in Gujrat under the provisions of murder. FIA National Central Bureau (NCB) Interpol Pakistan had issued a red notice for the arrest of the accused. The extradition of the accused was possible due to the close coordination of Interpol Islamabad with Interpol France. Later, FIA Immigration handed over the accused to the concerned police authorities. NCB Interpol Pakistan was rendering valuable services for the arrest of the accused who were absconding abroad and is always striving for the arrest.

Hamza for making foolproof security arrangements for anti-polio drive

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat has directed to make foolproof arrangements of security in the sensitive union councils and high risk areas of Quetta during the upcoming anti-polio campaign. In this regard, the police mobile patrolling, cordoning off the areas and checking should be increased further. This was directed by the Commissioner while presiding over a meeting about the overall situation and security arrangements in Quetta on Monday. Also present in the meeting were Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad and other high ups of different concerned departments and agencies.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner said that no case of polio has been registered for last one and half year. Despite this, there is a threat of polio in Quetta, therefore, we have to work hard with the same spirit and hard work and eradicate the polio virus, adding he stressed. He also directed to take steps under comprehensive plan for security in wake of the recent incidents during the anti-polio campaign. He also stressed to make the anti-polio campaign successful by removing the hardships in the sensitive areas. In addition to this, the cooperation of religious leaders as well as political and social elders should be sought to make the campaign successful.

Huafa Exhibition Center Gwadar ready to be functional

GWADAR (INP): Recently constructed South China Exhibition and Trading Center also called Huafa Exhibition Center Gwadar is all set to be functional. It gears up the holding of "3rd edition of Gwadar Investment and Expo Forum on the subject of Blue Economy and Petrochemical Industry soon, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Two months back

then Prime Minister Shahabz Sharif had inaugurated the Center located in Gwadar Port facing Gwadar Business Center. Preparations in this regard are on the go and it is highly likely that function will mark official operationalism of Huafa Exhibition Center Gwadar. In this connection, China Overseas Ports Holding Company, operator of Gwadar Port.



QUETTA: Inspector General Motorway Police Sultan Ali Khawaja offering Dua after laying floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada in CPO.

Petitioner requests LHC Court should consider to investigate into ailment of Nawaz Sharif

LAHORE (Online): The petitioner seeking investigation against former Prime Minister (PM) Shahabz Sharif for sending former PM Nawaz Sharif abroad came up for hearing in Lahore High Court (LHC). Shahabz Sharif, speaker national assembly and interior minister have been made respondents. Imran Khan chief election commissioner and IG Punjab have also been made respondents. A single bench of LHC led by Justice Sultan Tanvir took up the petition filed by citizen Azhar Abbas for hearing Monday. The court directed the

state counsel to give arguments on the maintainability of the petition. Assistant Attorney General Haroon Rashid said the petition is not maintainable. The state counsel said the petitioner be directed to resort to Islamabad High Court (IHC). The court adjourned the hearing of the case for indefinite period. The petitioner has taken plea in his petition that Shahabz Sharif is charged with sending his brother Nawaz Sharif abroad. Shahabz Sharif has violated article 62/63 by sending his brother Nawaz Sharif abroad.