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

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

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar alongside prominent business figures met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, here on Sunday.

Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also attended the meeting in which country's economic trajectory was discussed in detail. LCCI spokesman confirmed this to the media.

During the meeting, General Asim Munir highlighted the pivotal role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), emphasizing its potential to attract substantial investments of up to 100 billion dollars from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the

UAE, Kuwait and others. To bolster economic decision-making, he revealed the formation of task forces focused on economic matters and different sectors.

Kashif Anwar, in alignment with the broader business community, recommended active engagement with all chambers to incorporate diverse perspectives into the task force's agenda.

Addressing critical issues faced by the public, Kashif Anwar proposed a reduction in income and sales tax rates on electricity bills. He noted that the populace grapples with the burden of high taxation on electricity, impacting daily lives, businesses and common people. Additionally,

Kashif Anwar introduced a pragmatic approach to fuel adjustment charges, advocating for their collection during the winter months when electricity consumption is lower, alleviating financial stress on consumers.

Recognizing the pivotal role of exchange rates in Pakistan's economic landscape, the LCCI President called for greater control over the rates of the US dollar in both interbank and open markets.

The COAS General Asim Munir responded positively, assuring that money exchanges would be brought under the purview of taxation, fostering transparency in dollar exchange and interbank rates.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has said that what happened in the country on May 9 this year was an attempt to stage a coup and civil war.

In a programme of a private news channel, he said that the target of the May 9 incidents was the current Army Chief and his team.

The caretaker prime minister said that he did not want to give the impression that any revenge was being taken on the May 9 accused.

"But, if action is not taken according to the law against the political party willing to resort to violence and violate the laws of the country, [then] we will be seen as a party to this matter," he stated.

"Electricity is not an

issue on which there should be a wheel-jam strike.

We have a lot of sympathy for the segment of the society that is burdened with electricity bills," he remarked.

He said that the decision regarding closing the shops at night would be taken by taking the provinces into confidence.

"The implementation of the decision will soon be witnessed. We do not want to take a decision in haste on the issue of electricity."

We do not want to take such a decision that should be taken back," he added.

Interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has said that as per the law, deciding the date for general elections was the

Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) prerogative.

The caretaker premier gave this statement during his first interview after assuming the top office on media — aired on Sunday — when asked about the ambiguity on whether the authority to decide and announce the poll date rested with the president or ECP.

The issue arose after President Dr Arif Alvi invited Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja last month for a meeting to "fix an appropriate date" for general elections.

This was after the ECP expressed its inability to hold elections within the constitutionally mandated period following the notification of the latest 2023.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): The federal government is considering increasing the basic electricity tariff by Rs 4.96 paise per unit during this month to meet the terms of the agreement with the IMF, which will be borne by the consumers.

According to media reports, the federal government will decide to impose basic tariff and additional electricity burden on consumers after receiving subsidy concession from IMF.

The decision taken by NEPRA (National Electricity Power Regulatory Authority) on the request of electricity distribution com-

panies, if the decision is implemented, the domestic consumers will have a slab-wise burden.

The tariff of 100 units per month will be increased from 13 point four to 18 point 36 rupees per unit without taxes and surcharges.

The bill of a user using 100 units will be Rs 1836. The tariff for 200 units per month will be Rs 2391 per unit and the bill will increase from Rs 3700 to Rs 4700 per month.

The electricity bill of those using 300 units per month will increase from 6,000 to 8,000.



LAHORE: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Bloom meeting with Pakistan Muslim League Chief Organizer and vice president Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

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

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League chief organizer and vice president Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with the US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Bloom Sunday.

During the meeting, both sides discussed importance of historical and bilateral relations between both countries.

During the meeting, both sides stressed for promoting mutual cooperation including trade, economy, security, peace and regional stability was also emphasized.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif also appreciated the efforts made by the American government during the most difficult conditions of COVID-19 pandemic and floods.

Earlier, Pakistan, USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman announced \$16.4 million in additional development and humanitarian assistance to

support the resilience of communities in Pakistan that experienced 2022's historically severe floods, which impacted an estimated 33 million people and had a devastating impact on infrastructure, crops, livelihoods, and livestock throughout the country.

This new funding will reach over 20 million flood-affected individuals to assist in their recovery, risk reduction, and resilience.

The assistance will address worsening food insecurity and malnutrition and help curb the spread of disease.

In addition, this funding will support humanitarian partners to provide nutritious food to mothers and their children, help families rebuild local infrastructure to protect them from future disasters, and increase protection services to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors.



LAHORE: Rangers and police personnel stands alert outside Gaddafi Stadium during the Asia Cup 2023 one-day international (ODI) cricket match between Bangladesh and Afghanistan at the Gaddafi Stadium, in Provincial Capital.

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

WASHINGTON (Online): Senior US official Elizabeth Horst has said that Pakistan needs to reform the energy sector and choose renewable energy sources.

The reforms proposed by the IMF will help Pakistan get out of the debt and external financing trap, she added. According to media reports, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst, who heads the Bureau of South and Central Affairs at the US State Department, stressed the need to implement reforms to meet future challenges.

Elizabeth Horst said that this is a difficult economic situation, this is the situation in Pakistan, in America and in the whole world. How can America help Pakistan to avoid economic disaster? We are working every day to help Pakistan advance economic

reforms that will make it more competitive and better prepared to meet future challenges.

The US official highlighted recent US efforts to help ease the pressure of the economic downturn and aid to victims of last year's devastating floods, including emergency shelter, flood relief and food aid which is more than \$21 million. She said that at the same time we are building the future to help Pakistan move towards building resilience against natural disasters after recovery from disasters.

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



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

PPP asks ECP to unfreeze development schemes' funds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



KARACHI: Insan Dost Welfare Chairman, Qais Mansoor Sheikh is providing free petrol to motorcyclists amid rising inflation, at a fuel station located on Orangi Town.

Bringers of Imran now struggling to save him: Sanaullah

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

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

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

Those who wanted to

bring terrorists back to Pakistan, release them and resettle them are now showing a new path to the terrorists, he added.

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

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

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

Four persons burnt alive as vehicle catches fire in Nushki

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least four persons including women were burnt alive after the vehicle they were traveling in caught fire near Nushki town in Balochistan on early Sunday morning.

According to police sources, the incident occurred in Nushki where two vehicles collided with each other. As result, both vehicles caught fire wherein four people were burnt alive, a private news channel reported on Sunday.

Police and rescue workers put out the fire, besides retrieving the bodies from the wreckage of the vehicles.

Jaranwala tragedy Investigation reveals incident pre-plan

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

Sources told Online that according to the report of the investigation team, the arrested accused Pervez Kudu prepared a horrible plan to trap the rival. The accused Pervez suspected that Raja Umair was having a relationship with his wife.



SIALKOT: President Chamber of Commerce Abdul Ghafoor Malik addressing to a special ceremony in connection with Pakistan Defence Day organized by CSDO a social wing of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) held at SCII Auditorium.



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

Murtaza Solangi says: Situation in GB completely peaceful

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that situation in Gilgit-Baltistan was completely peaceful and speculative news about deployment of Pakistan Army were completely baseless.

In a post on his X account, quoted a statement released by the Home Department of Gilgit-Baltistan which said "it has been clarified that the situation in Gilgit-Baltistan is completely peaceful."

All roads, trade centers, business activities and educational institutions in Gilgit-Baltistan are open as usual, Solangi said in the statement. The services of Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces have been requisitioned only to maintain law and order on the eve of Chehlam of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S).

The minister said that services of the Pakistan

Army and the civil armed forces had been requisitioned "only to maintain law and order" on the eve of the chehlum. "Moreover, special measures have been taken for the security of the procession routes and imambargahs as per past practice," he said.

The minister said that the GB home department had also stated that Section 144 had been imposed across the region to maintain law and order, protect lives and property of the people and avoid any untoward incident. Moreover, special measures have been taken for the security of the procession routes and imambargahs as per the past practice, he maintained.

It has been further stated by the GB Home Department that Section 144 of CrPC 1898 has been imposed across the region to maintain law and order, protect the lives and property of the people.

Five killed including two women, child in Mardan

PESHAWAR (INP): Five persons including two women and a child were killed in a house Par Hoti area Kacha Sarak, said 1122 on Sunday.

Rescue teams reached the incident place and shifted the bodies to a nearby hospital.

The deceased were identified as Waqar, his wife, mother and four-year-old Azan son of Waqar.

4 killed, one injured as passenger car falls into Neelum river

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): At least four people, including a woman, were killed and one injured as a passenger car skidded off the road and fell into Neelum river near Patihka on Neelum valley late Saturday night.

Talking to APP, Station House Officer (SHO) the area's Panjral Police Station Sub Inspector Mir Mushtaq Ahmed told that the ill-fated car (FX - 286 ICT) moving from Pahika village for local Develiyan village met the accident by skidding off the road due to heavy rainfall and fell into the river at about 10.30 p.m from over 2500 feet height from the road leaving four persons dead and injuring one belonging to a local family.

Those ill-fated lost lives were identified as Arif son of Rehman Ullah, Zameer son of Din Muhammad, Adil son of Aslam.

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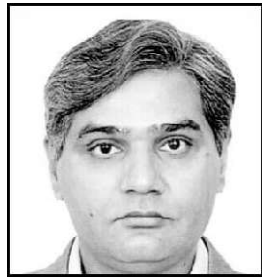
Monday September 04, 2023

More action, please

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

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

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



Muhammad Amir Rana

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mughal-e-Azam vs Modi



Ghazi Salahuddin

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

But why am I talking about an old movie and

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

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

The buzz had been building up because the musical was on its North American tour for more than three months, visiting major cities. The tour ended in Long Beach, in Los Angeles county, and I attended its finale on Sunday that was marked by much emo-

tion and ceremony. An excellent theatre with the capacity of more than 1700 was overflowing with applause and excitement.

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

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

An interesting point here is that Emperor Akbar

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

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

It is hard to imagine that Bollywood would at-

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

Coming back to Amartya Sen, I am tempted to quote an entire paragraph from his book 'The Argumentative Indian': "To widen the path of economic development, one has to expand the democratic system, which provides for greater liberalisation of political rights. This has been our heritage for a long time. Mughal emperor Akbar tried this exchange of opinion in the 16th century when in Europe, the likes of Giordano Bruno were being burnt to death".

Sen is extremely critical of the 'exclusionary' thinking of the Hinduist movement. Besides Akbar, his heroes are Asoka and Buddha. These are figures that Sen re-

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

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

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

A sorry incident



Muna Khan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

None of this prepares anyone for seeing a sliver of a resemblance of themselves on screen.

Rape should never feel like entertainment on screen. We must condemn shows where the use of sexual violence is exploitative and gratuitous. The entertainment industry has profited from the pain of survivors — all for the sake of ratings or public awareness, when it's just regurgitating terrible tropes and stereotypes, like whether a woman's choice of clothing provoked her rape.

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

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

Also, rapists (and their protectors) as well as censors do the most harm to the country's image.

If and when rape survivors speak up, they are punished for doing so. The legal system is stacked against them, they are portrayed as victims and powerless. "If you survive, you have to prove it was that bad; or else, they think you are," Roxane Gay wrote in her book Not That Bad.

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

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

Expanding BRICS



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

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

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

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

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

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

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

within the Global South.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said that it was

moment of immense pleasure for him that around 500,000 devotees were visiting Urs celebration daily basis. Governor said that this Urs was being celebrated after 4 years which was hampered due to Covid restrictions and people also earn their livelihood as usual.

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

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

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



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

Tribute paid to martyrs, ghazis at SCCI Defence Day ceremony

WCCIS Executive Committee Members, students and teachers of CSDO schools.

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

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

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



HYDERABAD: Water level increases while high grade flood water reaches into River Indus.

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

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

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

Mohsin Naqvi stated during the briefing that a

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

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

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

Haris Nawaz says: Preparations underway to launch major operation

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

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

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

"Preparations have been completed for an

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

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

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

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

Officers of art councils removed over negligence

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

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



ABBOTTABAD: A man checking weapons on a police stall, during exhibition in the city.

Minister underscores government's commitment to promote tourism in region

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

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

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

The minister expressed unwavering

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

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

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

Haleem Adil, brothers booked in fraud case

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

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

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

Govt providing all facilities to investors in Sindh: Tessori

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

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

During the meeting, the investment

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

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

Indonesian diplomatic reception held

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

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

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

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

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

Constable embraced martyrdom during police encounter

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



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

Sanitary workers deployed in 795 villages

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

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

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

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

GCWUF to start tree plantation drive today

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

Minister directs to complete ongoing development schemes

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

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

was also attended by Secretary Irrigation Sindh Zarif Ahmed Khehro, all chief engineers, project directors and other relevant officers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAPM vows to address public grievances, boost overseas employment opportunities

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik has expressed his resolve to address the public grievances and boosting overseas employment opportunities.

The SAPM on Sunday visited the autonomous bodies of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development including Employees Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI), Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), and Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment (BE&OE), an attached department.

On the occasion, he was briefed by head of each organization about their working mechanism on public complaints and their resolution. The SAPM also interacted with concerned officials dealing with public grievances and enquired about the attending and disposal method of complaints.

Reiterating the vision of the Prime Minister to accord priority to resolve public grievances particularly public grievances, Jawad Malik urged the management to ensure timely delivery of old-age pension for retired workers, alleviating any hurdle in receiving their rightful and other legal benefits.

He asked the Managing Director, OEC and Director General Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment to explore new avenues for employment abroad for Pakistanis along with making efforts to increase export of workforce to the existing destinations which will not only help to mitigate unemployment but also generate remittances for our fragile economy.

The Director General, Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment was also asked to ensure early digitization of different emigration related process to facilitate intending migrants. SAPM particularly emphasized the Director General Bureau of Immigration & Overseas Employment and Managing Director, Overseas Employment Corporation to intensify their efforts and focus on to increase the export of manpower from Pakistan.

Jawad also stressed upon the Director General Bureau of Immigration & Overseas Employment for digitization of protector process on priority to ensure transparency in visa protection & smooth export of manpower.



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Naseer Khan presided over a high-level crime and security meeting held at the Central Police Office.

High level crime, security meeting reviews performance of Police Officers

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Naseer Khan presided over a high-level crime and security meeting on Sunday which was held at the Central Police Office, a public relations officer said. He said that the ICCPO reviewed the performance of the officers separately.

The meeting was attended by CPO Operations, SSP CTD, SSP Operations, SSP Headquarters, AIG Operations, SSP Investigation, all Zonal DPOs, SDPOs, and all incharge police stations.

The performance of all divisions was critically evaluated, and each officer was individually scrutinized. Incharges of Aabpara, Shehzad Town, Ramna, Shalimar, and Industrial Area police stations with weak performance were given a 15 days deadline to improve their performance.

The ICCPO appreciated all officers for their exceptional commitment to ensuring public safety during different law and order events in the city. He emphasized the need to enhance the security of government, police, and other private important installations and to make the city's patrolling system more effective, and conduct a weekly review of Dolphin's performance.

He further stated that all senior officers should personally supervise investigations of the case adding that the challan of the cases should be completed purely on merit and submitted in the relevant courts in the given time frame.

Dr. Akbar Naseer Khan also urged all officers to expedite crackdowns against proclaimed offenders and court absconders while a secure parking system for curbing car theft should be implemented.

HEC announces scholarship program for GB students

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced a scholarship program for outstanding students of Gilgit-Baltistan who wish to pursue undergraduate studies at top Pakistani universities or institutions.

According to HEC, the scholarships are being offered for the academic year 2023-24 in all areas of study or disciplines.

The HEC set criteria for scholarship is to be a domiciled in Gilgit-Baltistan, have a Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) or equivalent, be 22 years old or younger as of the closing date for applications and not be currently enrolled in any other scholarship program.

The scholarship covers tuition fees, hostel fees, and other charges up to Rs. 240,000 per year. It also includes a stipend of Rs. 15,000 per month and books and traveling allowances of Rs. 30,000 per annum.

Candidates will be shortlisted based on their scores in an aptitude test to be conducted by the Education Testing Council (ETC), HEC. They must also secure at least 50% marks in their academic credentials.

Students who are already enrolled in a BS program at a public sector university or institution prior to the advertisement or announcement of the scholarship may also apply.

The award of the scholarship is purely merit-based and is not based on gender, caste, race, or religion.

The application can be submitted online through the HEC website: <http://reportal.hec.gov.pk>. The last date for submission of applications is September 30, 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used for expansion work of Club Road during development work in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik visits EOEI, Emphasizes Resolve to Address Public Grievances, and Boost Overseas Employment Opportunities.

GPEI strategy body officials discuss matters with Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Global Director for Polio Eradication at World Health Organization (WHO), Aidan O'Leary, met Caretaker Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on the visit of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's (GPEI) Strategy Committee.

This was the first engagement between senior GPEI officials and the caretaker government.

In a meeting held at the Health Ministry, Dr Jan said, "It is important for us that our country and global partners and donors stand together in this final leg of the eradication journey."

The Strategy Committee of the GPEI, chaired by O'Leary, is an executive committee set up to oversee the management and execution of the Polio Endgame Plan, that aims to achieve eradication by 2026.

"There is no time to waste. The Health Ministry will support any measure to interrupt wild poliovirus transmission by the global deadline at the end of 2023," the minister added.

"I am a polio worker at heart. I will ensure that not only does polio remain a priority at all tiers of government, but efforts are more targeted and intensified," he stated.

Speaking after the meeting, O'Leary said, "Political will and commitment to get the job done is absolutely critical to the success of the programme."

"We have been particularly impressed by the Health Minister's very immediate and hands-on engagement with the Polio Programme."

"We certainly look forward to continued advocacy and support."

Masarrat appeals world HR organizations to raise voice against Indian atrocities

ISLAMABAD (INP): The illegally detained Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Masarrat Aalam Butt Sunday appealed to the world human rights organizations to raise their voice against the Indian atrocities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The world's criminal silence has emboldened India to continue its repression in IIOJK, he said in a message from New Delhi's Tihar Jail, Kashmir Media Service reported.

Masarrat Aalam said the Narendra Modi-led Indian government is using its military might to suppress the Kashmiris' struggle for right to self-determination but will never succeed in its nefarious designs.

He pointed out that India has waged a war on the unarmed people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian atrocities witnessed an upsurge after 5 August 2019.

The APHC Chairman said the Kashmiris have been facing the Indian brutalities for the last seventy-six years just for demanding their right to self-determination adding he said the Indian repression cannot force the Kashmiri people to give up their just demand.



ISLAMABAD: A man is throwing plastic empty water bottle in dustbin, As Capital Development Authority (CDA) installed new dustbin alongside a road at Sector G-7 in Federal Capital.

CDA plans to develop several new parks

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is planning to develop several new modern parks in the federal capital to provide better recreational facilities to the residents of the city.

"The civic authority has already developed around 37 public parks in the federal capital during the last ten years and is working on a policy to increase their number in the coming years," official sources in the CDA told APP.

"We need three to four months to develop a new park after completion of the codal formalities."

At present, they said the federal capital had six amusement parks, which were considered sufficient to cater to the recreational needs of Islamabad residents. "But the policy has been made that whenever a new sector will be developed, an amusement park will be constructed along," they added. The sources said that the CDA was developing several new sectors, including I-11, I-12, I-14, I-15, I-16, D-12.

PIDE releases report on unraveling state of industry in country

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has unveiled a groundbreaking report shedding light on the challenges faced by the engineering industry in Pakistan.

The comprehensive study, conducted by a team of esteemed researchers led by Dr Nadeem ul Haque, and including Dr Usman Qadir, Dr Abid Rehman, and Mr Mohammad Armughan, delves into the realities faced by engineering firms and provides valuable insights into the state of the industry, according to a press release issued here on Sunday.

The report is based on an extensive survey of 328 engineering firms from across the Golden Triangle of Lahore, Gujrat, and Gujranwala.

It reveals compelling statistics that underscore the critical concerns affecting the industry's growth and productivity. One of the foremost issues outlined in the report is the severe impact of electricity unavailability on daily production targets.

A staggering 83% of surveyed firms expressed that the unavailability of electricity creates hurdles in achieving their production goals, resulting in a detrimental gap between demand and supply for the industry.

Moreover, 78% of these firms reported that electricity scarcity hinders their operational efficiency, a crucial factor where economies of scale need to be achieved.

Load-shedding and voltage fluctuations further exacerbate the chal-

Financial support to terrorism Cell set up in Islamabad Police to investigate cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special investigative cell in the Anti-Terrorism Department of Islamabad Capital Police has been set up which will investigate cases related to financing terrorism and extremism.

On the special directions of Federal Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Naseer Khan has taken the initiative to set up this special cell.

A police spokesperson said, "The in-charge of this cell will be an officer in Grade 17 and it will operate under the supervision of SSP CTD."

The ICCPO has stated, "This cell will function in accordance with international standards and will also seek cooperation from other law enforcement agencies in matters of special investigations."

He further said, "Robust legal actions will be taken against the individuals involved in the financing of terrorism and extremism."

Previously, ICCPO Dr Akbar Naseer Khan had established an anti-terrorism and extremism unit in CTD which was the first one of its kind in Pakistan. In this unit, Islamabad Capital Police teams are working to combat extremism in educational institutions and schools.

Furthermore, the Anti-Extremism Unit monitors sermons in mosques, reviews political, linguistic, religious, and sectarian content on social media and websites, and identifies individuals involved in extremism-related crimes.



ISLAMABAD: Surveyor busy in survey of road during expansion work of Club Road in the Federal Capital.

AC conducts crackdown against Dengue violators in Secretariat Subdivision

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to curb the spread of dengue, the Assistant Commissioner Secretariat conducted a surprise inspection of various locations in the Secretariat Sub-Division here Sunday.

The inspection team sealed four factories, stores, and dustbins for violating dengue SOPs, while the managers were taken into custody, while other infringers were fined and warned, ICT Spokesman said.

The AC Secretariat, Syed Faizan Ali, led the inspection team, which comprised of officials from the health department, the municipal corporation, and the police. The team inspected workshops, tyre stores, nurseries, dustbins, and other facilities.

The inspection team found that four factories were not following the dengue SOPs. The factories were storing water in open containers, which is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

The team also found that the tyre stores were not disposing of used tyres properly. The used tyres can also collect water and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

AC also ordered the factories and tyre stores to be sealed immediately. The managers of the factories and stores were also taken into custody.

The inspection team fined several other violators of the dengue SOPs. The team also warned them to comply with the SOPs in the future.

The inspection was part of the government's efforts to curb the spread of dengue. He said that the government would not tolerate any violations of the dengue SOPs, he added.

He urged the people to cooperate with the government's efforts to control dengue.

Court issues written orders on Imran Khan bail plea in Cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad Official Secret act court issued written orders on chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan's bail plea on Sunday.

Judge Abul Hasanat Muhammad Zulqernain issued written orders.

According to written orders court has summoned both parties for argument on bail application.

2 separate application in High court are facing delay in the same case.

Arguments on bail cannot be heard today.

Court summoned arguments on separate applications for bail on Monday.

Court adjourned hearing till September 4.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters jumping and bathing in water channel of Rawal Dam to get some relief from hot weather in the Federal Capital.