

Independent

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

Vol. XIII No. 266 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Wednesday September 13, 2023, Safar 26, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

President for enhanced cooperation with China, Venezuela, Colombia

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

He said that Pakistan would continue to support China on all core issues. Highlighting the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the president said that CPEC would greatly contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

He said that the project had helped in modernizing "our infrastructure, building our capacity and ensuring a sustainable energy supply". Pakistan was fully committed to timely completion of all projects under CPEC, he reiterated.

The president expressed his gratitude for China's unflinching support to Pakistan's socio-economic development as well as its principled stance on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

In his meeting with Ambassador-designate of Venezuela Jose Rafael Silva Aponte, the president said that Pakistan placed special emphasis on improving trade and economic relations with Venezuela.

He highlighted that the Venezuelan investors could benefit from investment-friendly policies of Pakistan.

While talking to Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Colombia, Julio Anibal Riano Velandia, President Alvi underlined the need for further enhancing economic, culture and trade relations with Colombia. The president congratulated the envoys on their appointments and expressed the hope that they would play their role to further enhance bilateral cooperation between their respective countries and Pakistan.

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

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

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



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

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

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

Fawad appointed as caretaker Federal Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi has appointed Fawad Hassan Fawad as Caretaker Federal Minister. President has appointed Fawad Hassan Fawad on the advice of Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar Haq Kakar.

Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed passes away

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed passed away in Lahore on Tuesday after having been well unwell for some time.

Ahmed was elected as a Senator in 2018 on a general seat. His tenure was to end next year, in 2024. The deceased PML-N leader was the chairman of the Senate's Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat.

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

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

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

At least 2,300 dead in epic Libya floods as 10,000 missing

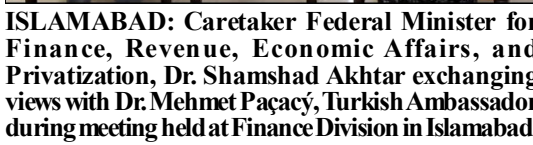
Monitoring Desk LIBYA: At least 2,300 people have died, and 10,000 are missing after Storm Daniel dumped devastating rain on Libya's northeast, reportedly bursting two major dams and overflowing the already heavily inundated areas of the country.

Tamer Ramadan, head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) delegation in Libya, stated that "the death toll is huge and around 10,000 are reported missing."

Othman Abduljalil, the health minister in Libya's eastern parliament-backed government, reported that as many as 6,000 people are missing in the city of Derna alone, describing parts of it as a "ghost town."

The floods have overwhelmed several cities in the country's northeast, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, including Derna, which has been hit particularly hard.

Hichem Abu Chkiouat, the minister of civil aviation and a member of the emergency committee in the eastern region, painted a grim picture, stating, "The situation was catastrophic... The bodies are still lying in many places. There are families still stuck inside their homes, and there are victims under the rubble."



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar exchanging views with Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, Turkish Ambassador during meeting held at Finance Division in Islamabad.

Nawaz to return to Pakistan on October 21: Sharif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced that PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif would return to Pakistan on October 21.

Shehbaz Sharif, in a statement, said the PML-N Quaid would be accorded a warm welcome upon his arrival in the homeland.

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

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

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan took up the case for hearing Tuesday. The court maintained the matter is fixed for September 20 in high court. High Court should hear the case on day to day basis and give decision within 30 days.

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



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

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

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

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

Govt decides to dissolve BODs of power distribution companies

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

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

According to sources the incumbent board mem-

bers get Rs 60000 compensation against one day meeting.

Decision has been taken to abolish the existing procedure for participation in the meeting. Now companies board members will be honorary. On the other hand crackdown on power pilferers is underway across the country. Power stealing more than 80000 units was caught during 4 days crackdown. Fine to the tune of Rs 352 million was slapped on power pilferers.



ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training launched the Pakistan Foundational Learning Hub. The Pakistan Foundational Learning Hub has been set up with the generous support of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the World Bank.

Visits Gwadar: Blome assures US assistance for development of Balochistan

Independent Report

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

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

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

The United States and Balochistan have a strong history of successful collaboration. In the face of last year's devastating floods, the United States helped 661,000 individuals, providing both food and much-needed cash as-

istance. And nearly 90,000 children were given nourishing meals to combat the threat of starvation. Over the past year, with U.S. support, 41 health facilities were successfully renovated. In the field of education, U.S. support is strengthening programs at BUITEMS and Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, and empowering the next generation of youth by developing literacy and education materials in Balochi and various local languages.

During his visit, the Ambassador held productive discussions with political leaders, representatives from the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce, and a diverse group of government and private sector leaders. In his meeting with political leaders, the Ambassador reiterated U.S.

support for Balochistan's development, touching on economic growth, disaster relief and preparedness; security; the benefits of U.S. trade and investment; and measures Pakistan can take to strengthen and improve its investment climate.

Ambassador Blome's meeting with members of the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce focused on ways to increase U.S. trade and investment in the region's business, logistics, tourism, fisheries, and blue economy sectors. The group shared how growing these business-to-business relationships can help create inclusive, Pakistani-led growth that supports jobs across Balochistan. They also discussed how deepening business partnerships can enhance technical skills in Balochistan and



help increase bilateral trade.

In his meetings with government and business leaders, Ambassador Blome discussed the U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework, which is helping our countries jointly meet climate, energy, water, and economic needs.

"We are especially focused on supporting Balochistan and all of Pakistan as it strengthens cli-

mate resilience, pursues energy transformation, and fosters inclusive economic growth," Ambassador Blome said.

Under the Green Alliance, U.S. assistance has helped more than 12,000 farmers, including many in Balochistan, across 2,000 hectares increase yields and reduce harvest and postharvest losses through improved technology and management practices.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Wednesday September 13, 2023

G20 summit

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Arifa Noor

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

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

Silently many of his party members would perhaps agree. For the party seems to be in limbo, while other parties such as the PPP and JUI-F are kicking off political activities, despite the shrinking political space. The PTI is doing little because it is struggling to survive the state's on-

slaught, and the PML-N seems equally paralysed but without good reason.

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

If this were the only challenge the PML-N faced, it may still have found an answer. Instead, it is struggling with much more. First, there is little clarity or belief in Nawaz Sharif's return, despite the party's promises and announcements about the date. And even if he does, his future remains far from clear.

While his campaigning is a necessary condition for the party's performance in the coming election, few are confident he can become prime minister again. For the whispers (similar to the proclamations about the PTI) are that the elder Sharif may have the maqbooliyat but not necessarily the qabooliyat. If they are true then the conclusion is the

young brother is likely to find the doors to the prime minister's house open and not the elder one.

And ordinary mortals have heard these rumours as has the family itself; loud pronouncements from the likes of Javed Latif and Asif Kirmani about how only Nawaz Sharif will be the party's leader and prime minister testify to this. Hence, one is forced to wonder why he would return simply to win the election and hand over government to whoever is in charge, once Shehbaz Sharif is prime minister.

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

Third, the party itself is divided between those

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

But there is more to the N's woes than just sibling rivalry. And for this fourth challenge, a slice of boring recent history must be recounted.

The PML-N journey since its inception has seen many twists and turns. The right-wing party which first emerged to challenge the PPP's domination of Punjab worked hard to burnish its image post-2008. Obviously, the party wanted to put its 1997 term behind it, when its government picked fights with the judiciary and media and attempted to push through the amirul mumineen law.

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

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

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

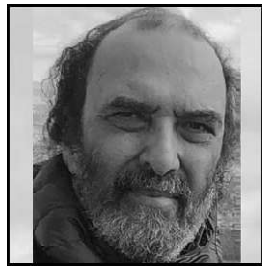
But then came the twist which spares no popular prime minister; Nawaz Sharif was sent home. As in 1999, this was a difficult time for the party: allegations, investigations and prison time for its stalwarts. Opposition time is difficult for the PML-N for other reasons too.

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

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

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

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

Family at high noon**G20 with a hope and a prayer**

Jawed Naqvi

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

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

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

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

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

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

alliance while only three remained with the BJP.

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

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

lowers who revile Gandhi and hero-worship his killers.

That said, the two more visible issues that stood out at the G20 summit require a closer look. The inclusion of the African Union into the fold is laudable but needs discussion. And the concern expressed on the Ukraine war appeared to be acceptable to everyone except Ukraine. Let's examine both decisions closely. The quest to include the African Union as a G20 member found Mr Modi positioning himself as the voice for the Global South.

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

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

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

reject big power loyalties; it also opposed the continued exploitation of their countries by the industrial West, their former colonisers.

Nehru did one better. He saw Asia as the lynchpin of his embrace of the Third World, and it saw him flying ace pilot Biju Patnaik to secretly rescue Indonesian president Sukarno from the colonial plot that toppled him. He saw South Asia as an oasis of fellowship of postcolonial societies, and he spoke of a South Asian confederation ahead of the EU.

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

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

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

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

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

By Hamza Shahzad

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

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

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

It is clear that there are significant challenges facing women in Balochistan when it comes to education and empowerment. The male-dominated approach and cultural obstructions have hindered female participation in society and prevented girls from receiving education. It is lack of education leads to a lack of economic opportunities, as well as issues such as child marriages and maternal mortalities. However, there are women in Balochistan who are leading the way in promoting female education and making efforts to provide quality and skilled education to girls. **Dr Qurat ulain Bakhit yari**, Razia Sultana Baloch, Zubaida Jalal, Rahima Jalal, and Dr Shadida Jafery are just a few of the inspiring women working to ensure that girls in Balochistan have access to education. These women understand the importance of education in empowering women and bringing about positive change in society. They serve as role models and inspiration for others in Balochistan, and beyond. By advocating for female education, these women are working towards a future where women can lead and alter societies for the better.

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

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

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

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

region's economy.

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

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

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

example for aspiring athletes.

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

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

Induction of quality faculty in AJK-run medical colleges ordered

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

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

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

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

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

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

The prime minister directed that transport, theaters, and other

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

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



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

Interim CM Sindh meets Jamaat Islami delegation

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

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

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

interest.

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

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

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

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

Governor Mehdi Shah calls on Caretaker PM

GILGIT (APP): Governor Gilgit Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah on Tuesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

During the meeting, the governor apprised the prime minister of the administrative affairs and law and order situation in Gilgit Baltistan, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The governor also thanked the prime minister for visiting Gilgit Baltistan and his special interest in the development of the region.

23 more dengue cases surface in 24hrs

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 23 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 438 in the district.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Tuesday said that, among the new cases, 15 cases had arrived from Potohar town urban, five from Chaklala Cantonment, and one each from Municipal Corporation and Rawalpindi Cantonment area. He said 97 patients were admitted to district hospitals of which 52 were confirmed cases while 386 were discharged after treatment. Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered 53 FIRs, issued tickets to 16, sealed eight premises, and a fine of Rs 43,500 was imposed against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours.

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

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

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

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

He attentively listened to the issues faced

by female prisoners and issued immediate instructions for their resolution.

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

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

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

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

Addressing the officers of the jail, the judiciary.



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



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

CM distributes 32 plots allotments letters among police martyred families

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

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

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

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

Naqvi for completion of Civil Secretariat by Dec

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

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

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

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

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

Home minister terms Safe City project pivotal for safety of citizens

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

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

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

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

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

Sindh University extends last date for online exam forms submission

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

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



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

Walk held in Swat to raise awareness about conservation of butterfly

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

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

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

"This is the first time

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

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

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

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

Security beefed up in Peshawar

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

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

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

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

Sadiq Public School is a prestigious institution

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Dengue; five KP districts declared high risk zones

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

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

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

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

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

IUB delegation visits China, signs MoU with various institutions

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

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

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

Madad Sindhi launches drug awareness, curtailment drive in academic institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to take effective measures to curtail the spread of drugs in academic institutions across the nation.

Anti Narcotics Force Deputy Inspector General, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Executive Director, the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) Deputy Director General, and representatives from the Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA) attended the meeting. Senior officials of the ministry including Additional Secretary Junaid Ikhtlaq and Senior Joint Secretary Abdul Sattar Khokhar were also present.

Madad said we had launched a comprehensive campaign to spread awareness about the issue and further take practical and

decisive actions to curtail drug usage in academic institutions across the country.

He emphasized the role of HEC, PEIRA, and FDE to control the spread of drugs in academic institutions. He ordered all of these bodies to conduct a comprehensive exercise to identify the problematic areas in collaboration with the ANF. He said we needed to understand the spread of the problem first before we devised a strategy to curtail it. Madad said youngsters in Europe were dying on the roads because of this problem. He said we had not reached that point yet and we would ensure that we could control this issue before it got out of hands. He said there were almost 250,000 students in the Federal Public Schools that should be put at top priority.

He directed the FDE to table a comprehensive

report on the spread and use of drugs in public schools. He said all of these students were the future of Pakistan and we could not let them waste their potential due to drugs.

Madad was briefed by the representatives of FDE, PEIRA, and HEC about their policies regarding drug use control. He was told that all three institutions had detailed policies that were in place to curb the spread of drugs.

He was informed that the issue remained in the implementation of the policies. He directed all the officials to establish a common forum to oversee the efforts to eradicate drug use in educational institutions.

ANF DIG Rommel Akram told the minister that ANF was able to seize 80% of the total drugs in Pakistan, adding the ANF faced a serious issue of resources as it only had 1972 employees.



GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar offers prayer at the Yadgaar-e-Shuhada in Gilgit

Education; key for empowering women: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Tuesday emphasized that the provision of basic facilities to educate women and girls would provide them with better socioeconomic opportunities.

"Women are more than half of the country's population and without their participation in the socioeconomic sector, the country cannot progress," said the NA Speaker addressing to delegation of students and faculty members of the Government Associate Degree College for Women Manghot, Gujjar Khan.

"Educating women would render them a more productive and contributive segment of society," he remarked.

The delegation of students and faculty members of Government Associate Degree College for Women Manghot, Gujjar Khan were

on an official visit to express their gratitude and thankfulness to Raja Pervez Ashraf for his dedicated efforts to provide a bus and two Hiace to their college.

While expressing his gratitude to Allah Almighty for enabling him to fulfill his promise of provision of one bus and two Hiace for transportation of girl students of Government Degree College for women Manghot, he said, "The prime responsibility of parliamentarians being public representatives is to resolve challenges faced by common people." He said the facility of transportation would enable female students from far-flung areas to get higher education. He also expressed his resolve that he would leave no stone unturned to resolve the challenges faced by the daughters of Gujjar Khan, especially in matters of education and health.

Principal Government Associate College for Women Manghot, Gujjar Khan Samia Nishat expressed gratitude to Raja Pervez Ashraf for the provision of one bus and two Hiace for students and faculty members.

She said that this would prove instrumental in changing the future of girls and women of Gujjar Khan and would ensure their bright future.

She also added, "The provision of transportation facility indicates the dedication and resolve of Raja Pervez Ashraf to address the challenges being faced by people of Gujjar Khan."

The Principal also presented a letter of thanks for his dedication and commitment with which he fulfilled the promise of provision of transportation facilities to Government Associate College for women Manghot Gujjar Khan.

Bilateral relations in focus as Turkish delegation visits National Heritage Division

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Turkish delegation, led by Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, met with Caretaker Federal Minister Jamal Shah at the National Heritage and Culture Division to discuss mutual interests and bilateral relations.

During the event, Federal Minister Jamal Shah stressed that the profound connection between Pakistan and Turkey signifies an unmatched display of brotherly bonds and affection, setting it apart from all other relationships.

Jamal Shah expressed that Pakistan highly regards and honors the enduring partnership with Turkey, as these two fraternal nations consistently offer support to one another in times of need.

The Minister expressed a keen interest in enhancing collaboration in literary, cultural, cinema, film, tourism, and other areas of mutual interest. This aims to deepen and strengthen the effectiveness

and recognition of this relationship.

Turkish Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci emphasized the significant importance of Turkey's relationship with Pakistan. He also highlighted the immense potential for enhancing cooperation in cultural and literary domains between these two fraternal nations.

He mentioned that the Turkish Embassy plans to host a two-day celebration in Islamabad on October 29, 2023, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic.

He extended an invitation to the minister to join in marking this significant milestone in Turkey's history—the centenary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey.

In reply, Shah pledged the complete support of the National Heritage and Culture Division in arranging the two-day festivities for the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic.

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



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

Jilani highlights Pak efforts to create opportunities for youth

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

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

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

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

He underscored that engagement is a catalyst for the youth.

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

Govt launches 'Smart app' to assist Pakistani Hajj 2024 pilgrims: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday said that a strict monitoring system has been introduced for private Hajj tour operators from the year 2024 to provide maximum facilitation to pilgrims and a smart app has been launched to register the complaints of Hajj effectively.

Talking to a private channel, he instructed the ministries of Religious Affairs and Information Technology to construct a mobile application and website for the facilitation of Hajj to get their complaints registered.

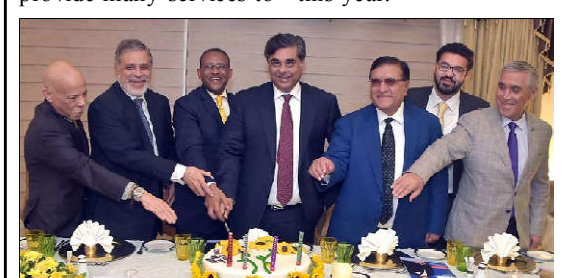
He said that pilgrims can download the smart pilgrim app, which will provide many services to

his or her smartphone and chat with their Hajj service provider to report any violation or file a complaint.

The Hajj directorate will make every effort to provide complete training and facilities to pilgrims so that they can avoid any difficulty in the performance of Hajj, he added.

He made it clear to them that strict action would be taken against them in case of any complaint against private tour operators.

"All such individuals and companies are strongly urged to refrain from any illegal activity", he said, adding, that the ministry would personally supervise all aspects of the Hajj arrangements this year.



ISLAMABAD: Interim Federal Minister for Commerce Gohar Ejaz, Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Beker, Dean of African Group, Ambassador of Morocco Mohammad Karmoune and other cutting cake to celebrate the Ethiopian New Year at Ambassador residence.

AIOU VC says: Youth needs to focus on entrepreneurship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Vice-Chancellor (VC), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood on Tuesday emphasized the need to provide maximum opportunities to youth in entrepreneurship for the development and economic stability of the country.

Addressing the prizes and certificates distribution ceremony of best business ideas in entrepreneurship activities, he said this era belonged to skills and education as countries are making amazing products through recycling used plastics to support their economy.

The VC said, "Our young generation is very

skilled, all they need is a guideline to make the best use of their potential."

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) Executive Director, Dr. Latif Gondal said we received 100 applications for the Big Ideas 2021 competition, and 18 students were shortlisted. He said prizes were given to the five best ideas. ORIC Additional Director, Dr. Saima also addressed the ceremony.

AIOU VC, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood presented the prizes and certificates to the students, Deans, professors, faculty members, and a large number of students attended the ceremony.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights, Khalil George in a meeting with US based NGO.

Mishaal Malik urges G20 leaders to play due role in resolution of Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Human Rights, Mishaal Hussain Malik Tuesday appealed to the world leaders, participating in the G20 Summit in New Delhi to play their due role in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute and to hold India accountable for human rights violations.

"Kashmiris are facing unabated extrajudicial killings, custodial torture, and death, arbitrary detentions, burning and looting of houses to inflict collective punishment, and other worst forms of human rights abuses", she said while talking to a Private news channel.

Pakistan is always stand by the "Kashmiris in their self-determination struggle and will continue to highlight the dispute to the international community, she mentioned.

Replying to a ques-

tion, she replied Indian government is suppressing every voice raised for freedom, the right to self-determination and justice in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. She further called on the G20 leaders to help stop imperialist measures like the occupation of people's lands and properties and the confiscation of houses and other properties in Kashmir. Modi Prime minister was trying his best to hide the truth, but the world want to hear the truth, she mentioned. To another question, she called upon the international community to take cognizance of the grave human rights violations being perpetrated by Indian troops in the occupied territory. She asked G20 members should realize that India's ulterior motives behind holding the groupings meeting in IIOJK is nothing.

MPO order case: DC Islamabad withdraws MPO order against Elahi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad has withdrawn MPO order issued against PTI president Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi.

The case against MPO order related to Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi came up for hearing before Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri took up the case for hearing.

During the hearing of the case DC Islamabad informed the court MPO order issued against Perwaiz Elahi has been withdrawn.

Senate body constitutes NSSC to control issues against minorities

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

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

Islamabad Police arrest car lifter

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) on Tuesday arrested a wanted member of a car lifter gang and recovered a stolen vehicle worth Rs 3.5 million.

The police spokesman said the accused, Aurangzeb, was arrested in Tarnol area on the basis of technical and human intelligence.

The accused was a habitual offender and had been involved in numerous car-lifting incidents in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and other districts.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi and Begum Samina Alvi offering condolences and Fateha over the demise of the wife of Air Chief Marshall (r) Asghar Khan.

Police, FIA harassing Bushra Bibi persistently: Counsel tells IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has clubbed the petitions of Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI and Zulfi Bokhari related to audio leaks with already sub-judice petition of Najam ul Saqib.

Justice Babar Sattar of IHC took up the case for hearing Tuesday.

The court while issuing notice adjourned the hearing of the case till September 18.

Justice Babar Sattar remarked assist the court on the legal position of phone tapping. Source of information cannot be asked from the law enforcement agencies.

Counsel Latif Khosa took the plea our phones are being bugged persistently unhelpfully.

Justice Babar Sattar remarked phones of all are being bugged. There is objection on your petition that you have not challenged any order.

The counsel told the court Police and FIA are harassing Bushra Bibi continuously.

The court remarked assist the court legal position of phone tapping and this aspect of law of evidence on next hearing.

The counsel requested the court to stop FIA from harassing till next hearing.

UN organizes seventh of 12 dialogues about sustainable development in Mansehra

ISLAMABAD (Online): United Nations and the district administration on Tuesday held the seventh of a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories will discuss the development challenges which they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts. The dialogues will be held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan in the coming weeks, said a UNIC press release issued here.

"These dialogues bring the United Nations closer to the people and the local governments that we serve," said Julien

Harnes, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. "We are actively listening to their concerns and their ideas. They will work together, and with us, on accelerating progress to bridge inequalities and reduce poverty. We will share their suggestions with the Federal Government as we focus on returning to sustainable development."

In Mansehra, the discussions focused on four topics chosen by the participants ahead of the event: education, governance, climate change, and digital transformation.

Nearly 100 local leaders—women and men, including youth—participated together with senior Mansehra officials, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and other UN staff.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Mr. Khazar Farhadov calls on Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed.

26 drug peddlers held, huge cache of narcotics recovered

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 26 drug peddlers who were allegedly involved in supplying drugs at educational institutions and recovered 8,550 grams of hashish and 4,983 grams of heroin from their possession during the last 48 hours from different areas of the capital city.

The Federal Capital Police has intensified its crackdown on drug pushers who were supplying drugs at educational institutions in order to eliminate this menace from the city, a police public relations officer said on Tuesday.

The Margalla police team arrested two accused namely Hanoor Tanveer, and Asif Khan, and recovered 980 grams of heroin from their possession. The Karachi Company police team arrested an accused namely Nabeel Masih and recovered 637 grams of heroin from his possession.

The Shalimar police team arrested two accused namely Azhar Hussain and

Shan Ali besides recovering 560 grams of hashish and 215 grams of heroin from their possession.

Likewise, the Ramna police team arrested an accused namely Sajjad Ali, and recovered 510 grams of heroin from his possession. The Golra police team arrested two accused namely Asif Khan and Afzal and recovered 1021 grams of heroin from their possession. The Sumbal police team arrested an accused namely Shafi Ullah and recovered 1246 gram hashish from his possession. The Industrial Area police team arrested an accused namely Salamah Masih and recovered 550 grams of heroin from their possession.

Similarly, the Tarnol police arrested an accused Ameer Ali, and recovered 225 grams of hashish from his possession. The Sangjani police arrested an accused namely Kashmir Khan and recovered 680 grams of hashish from his possession. The Sabzi Mandi police team arrested two accused namely Hassan Raza and Sher Ahmed.



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