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

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PM for expanding cooperation with Turkiye in multiple sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday stressed the need to enhance bilateral cooperation with Turkiye in multiple sectors, including trade, agriculture, energy, mining, IT and defence. Talking to Ambassador of Turkiye in Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, the prime minister said Pakistan was keen to attract foreign investors and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had been established to generate new and attractive investment opportunities in priority sectors.

He said in addition to having strong and time-tested bilateral relations, Pakistan and Turkiye shared convergence and close cooperation on a wide range of regional and multilateral issues, including efforts to combat

Islamophobia. He appreciated Turkiye's reconstruction efforts following the tragic earthquake of February 2023 and reiterated Pakistan's readiness to continue extending all possible support to the Turkish people.

The prime minister thanked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Turkish leadership for their warm messages of felicitations on his assumption of office.

He said the people of Pakistan enjoyed a historic, cultural and fraternal relationship with Turkiye. President Erdogan and the Turkish leadership for their warm messages of felicitations on his assumption of office.

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ISLAMABAD: Interim Interior Minister, Sarfraz Bugti called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

No relief for Imran, Qureshi in cypher case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special court on Thursday dismissed the post arrest bail petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman and Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi in the cypher case registered under the Official Secrets Act.

However, the court granted interim bail to PTI leader Asad Umar in the same case against surety bonds of Rs 50,000.

Special Court's Judge Abul Hasan Zulqarnain announced the verdict which he had reserved earlier after hearing arguments from the two sides.

At the outset of hearing, the petitioner's lawyer Salman Safdar Advocate said that an officer of Interior Ministry was the complainant in the cypher case against the PTI chief.

The prosecution had to prove that what was the original and copy versions of the cypher, and that how his client had damaged the national security, he added.

To a court's query, the lawyer said that the cypher was received and handled by trained people as a common man could not read it.

The judge asked whether section-V and section-3 could be applied in the case and whether section 3-A could be applied if the charges were proved.

He also asked where was the cypher, which was received by the then prime minister from the Foreign Office, now.

Giving arguments on behalf of Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Dr Babar Awan said that his client had no connection with the case and that the Federal Investigation Agency had also not named him in the case.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Commerce, Gohar Ijaz calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

SBP keeps policy rate unchanged at 22%

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan, Thursday, decided to maintain the policy rate at 22% owing to declining inflation, improving agriculture outlook and economic activity, and positive impacts of administrative and regulatory measures against price hike and speculative activity in commodity and forex markets.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) that met here at SBP, stressed on maintaining a prudent fiscal stance to keep aggregate demand in check and termed it necessary to bring inflation down on a sustainable basis and to achieve the medium-term target of 5-7 percent by the end-FY25.

The MPC vowed to continue monitoring the risks to the inflation outlook and take appropriate action, if required, to achieve the objective of price stability, said a statement issued here by the central bank following the MPC meeting.

The MPC decided to keep the policy rate unchanged while taking into account various factors including the latest inflation outturn that reflected a continuing declining trend in inflation from its peak of 38 percent in May to 27.4 percent in August 2023.

Even though global oil prices have risen recently and are now hovering over

the \$90/barrel level while the rise was being passed on to consumers through adjustments in energy prices, inflation is projected to remain on a downward trajectory, especially from the second half of this year, the MPC observed adding that real interest rates continue to remain in positive territory on a forward-looking basis as well.

The committee was confident that the expected ease in supply constraints owing to better agriculture output and the recent administrative measures against speculative activity in the FX and commodity markets would also support the inflation outlook.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye during meeting held in Islamabad.

Petrol price likely to increase by Rs20

ISLAMABAD (INP): The inflation-hit masses are all set to get another shock, as the prices of petroleum products are expected to see a staggering rise over the weekend. A proposal prepared to increase the prices of petrol and diesel from September 16 has come to light. A working paper has been prepared for making changes in the prices of petroleum products.

According to the working paper, the prices of petroleum products are proposed to be increased by Rs20 from September 16, sources say.

It suggests that the price of petrol would be raised by Rs20, high speed diesel Rs14 per liter, kerosene oil Rs10 and light diesel Rs9, the sources added.

It has also been proposed to increase the ex-refinery price of petrol by Rs13.5, the sources added, after which the ex-refinery price of petrol would rise from Rs228.59 to Rs242.10.

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Hafiz Hamdullah among 11 injured in road side bomb blast in Mastung

QUETTA: In all 11 persons including senior leader and spokesman of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Hafiz Hamdullah were injured in a roadside bomb blast occurred in Mastung area on Thursday afternoon.

According to the sources of Police and district administration Mastung, the bomb blast occurred at the road side on main Quetta-Karachi highway in Mastung area when the vehicle of JUI leader Hafiz Hamdullah was passing through there. As the powerful device went off with a big bang, it caused damages to the vehicle carrying the JUI leader and his other associates. As a result, Hafiz Hamdullah and four other persons riding in the vehicle sustained injuries.

Some of the passengers were also injured in the blast, the reports suggested. However, the area police, Levies and local administration rushed towards the spot and shifted the injured to the hospital.

Bugti, Sanjrani discuss country's prevailing law & order situation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Interior Minister, Senator Sarfaraz Bugti, called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, at the Parliament House and discussed with him the prevailing law and order situation in the country.

During the meeting, Senator Bugti assured Chairman Senate that the caretaker government was committed to maintain peace and stability in the country. He emphasized that no one would be allowed to disturb the peace and security of the country under his watch.

Senator Sarfaraz Bugti, emphasized the need for collaboration and unity among all stakeholders to address the pressing challenges Pakistan faces. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledged the importance of a collective effort in ensuring a stable and prosperous Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledged the vital role of intra-institutional cooperation among government bodies and security agencies to effectively address Pakistan's challenges. He stressed that collaboration, information sharing, and coordination among institutions are paramount in maintaining national stability and ensuring the safety and security of citizens.

Furthermore, the leaders discussed steps taken to restore peace and promote development in the region of Gilgit Baltistan. Senator Bugti shared insights into the ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing security and improving the socio-economic conditions in the area.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of prominent businessmen from Lahore and Karachi met with the Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ijaz.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah sculpture unveiled in Beijing

BEIJING (APP): The sculpture of Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Father of the Nation was unveiled at a graceful ceremony held at the Jintai Art Museum here on Thursday. The sculpture, unveiled by Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, is a testament to Jinnah's visionary leadership and was masterfully crafted by renowned Chinese sculptor Master Yuan Xikun, symbolizing the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. The ceremony was attended by Ambassador Sha Zukhang, President of the China-Pakistan Friendship Association, officials from the Chinese People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFC), media, the Pakistani community, and Embassy officials. Master Yuan Xikun, internationally acclaimed for his sculpture, philanthropy, and environmental advocacy, has received a number of prestigious awards.

His work includes 25 sculptures of historical international celebrities at the International Celebrities Sculpture Garden of Beijing Jintai Art Museum. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Moin ul Haque highlighted the significance of this unveiling ceremony, coinciding with the 75th death anniversary of Jinnah.



BEIJING: The sculpture of Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was unveiled by Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque. It was masterfully crafted by renowned Chinese sculptor Master Yuan Xikun, symbolizing the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China at the Jintai Art Museum.

ECP responsible to conduct elections: Information Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi says it is the prerogative of Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct elections in the country under Article 218 (3) of the Constitution.

Talking to the private channel, he said the job of caretaker government is to facilitate and assist the Commission in electoral process.

The Minister said the Election Commission is busy after the approval of census and it has asked to complete the constituencies by 30th of November.

The Minister expressed hope that Election Commission will release the election schedule after completing the constituencies.

Murtaza Solangi said 54 days will be provided to all parties for election campaign and Election Act is very clear in this regard.

He said that measures against electricity theft will reduce electricity prices and Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Energy both are working on it.

Meanwhile, the Minister, in a statement, expressed his deep grief over the sad demise of mother of Bol News senior reporter Umar Hayat Khan.

Expressing his condolences to Umar Hayat Khan and his family, Murtaza Solangi prayed to Allah Almighty to grant place to the deceased in Heaven and courage to the bereaved families to bear this loss.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan visit the Poly Clinic Hospital to review the facilities given by the hospital

Steps empowering EC to give election date challenged

LAHORE (Online): The steps for assigning powers to Election Commission (EC) to give election date have been challenged.

In this regard Judicial Activism Panel (JAP) has filed constitutional petition in Supreme Court (SC) Lahore registry making federal government, election commission and others respondents.

Through the petition the court has been requested to declare amendment in election act unconstitutional. Under the constitution the tenure of assembly is five years.

It is pertinent to mention here that ministry of law and justice and Election commission had said to the president through a letter in the matter of date for general elections in the country that powers for giving date for election rest with election commission.

On the other hand president has also given proposal to election commission to hold general election on November 09 throughout the country.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Deputy Convener, Farooq Sattar exchanging views with Maulana Rashid Soomro, Leader Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) during meeting held at Bahadurabad Markaz in Karachi.

JUI-F, MQM-P join hands to 'free people of Sindh from clutches of PPP'

KARACHI (INP): The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Thursday decided to go together in alliance against the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in Sindh.

The development came after a meeting of a JUI-F delegation led by Molana Rashid Mehmood Soomro, with the MQM-P Rabita Committee at their temporary headquarters in Karachi's Bahadurabad.

MQM-P Senior Deputy Convener Dr Farooq Sattar said while addressing the media that his party, JUI-F, Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) have decided to "free people of Sindh from the clutches of the PPP".

"We have decided not to let Sindh card work anymore. The JUI-F has the political force in rural Sindh, we will together remind the landlords and feudal of their times and beat the PPP's policy of hatred and nationalism," Sattar said.

He said that the allied parties would erase the misconception of the people in rural Sindh that they do not have an alternative leadership. "The new political alliance is ready to serve the people of Sindh."

JUI-F's Soomro said that it has been agreed in the meeting that the three parties will not fight for any one ethnicity but will fight for everyone from Karachi to Kashmir.

He also called upon the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to address the JUI-F, MQM-P and GDA's reservations on transfers, appointments and delimitation of constituencies.

"If the reservations are not removed, we will decide the future course of action together," he added.

It may be noted that all the political parties are now gearing up for the upcoming general elections in the country. However, the matter of elections has been plagued by the controversy surrounding the date and timing of the polls.

PPP focusing on stability of national economy: Shazia Marri

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Parliamentary Secretary Information Shazia Marri said that her party was primarily focusing on stability of national economy, stressing that while elections were inevitable, the party was not concerned about who sets the date for the general elections.

She was giving a press briefing outside Bilawal House, here on Thursday. She was joined by Faisal Kareem Kundi and Shahzad Saeed Cheema during this briefing, which followed the PPP's Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Friday September 15, 2023

Nawaz's return

After living in London in self-exile for the last four years, PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif is finally set to return to Pakistan next month. This is welcome news.

This paper has time and again called on Mr Sharif to return and face political and legal realities and end the remote management of his party — both when the PML-N was in opposition and then in government.

That he is finally ready to return to the country and engage with his party and supporters face to face will come as a relief to his party's second-tier leadership that has spent the last year making too many trips to London to seek Mr Sharif's advice on several issues.

However, the country Mr Sharif is returning to is, in many ways, quite different to the one he left in 2019. The economy is in a historic mess and businesses are rapidly losing confidence. Households cannot pay their electricity and food bills.

The government is not generating enough revenue to address any of these serious challenges, and there are no quick fixes to the country's woes. Terrorism, too, is on the rise. The state of human rights in the country is dire. And political space is as narrow as ever.

In this grave situation, what message will Mr Sharif give to his supporters? How will he explain the last 16 months of the PML-N-led PDM government's performance?

How does he plan to counter the enormous support base of the incarcerated Imran Khan, who remains popular despite being pushed out of politics? Importantly, how will Mr Sharif proceed legally against the court cases against him?

The return of the elder Sharif has often been linked to the timing of general elections in the country by members of his party. Now that he is returning, he must call for timely elections — and then face the decisions of a public that is angry and crushed by multiple economic burdens.

For many months after the PDM government came to power, it was speculated that the PML-N was afraid of elections because of how much political capital it had lost during Mr Sharif's prolonged absence, and later because of the PDM's inability to give relief to the public.

Though Mr Sharif's key rival has been removed from the political battlefield for now, the matter of the PML-N's bruised support remains. How he will galvanise his party, and persuade voters remains to be seen, but his party seems to think the 'Nawaz Sharif effect' itself will yield some positive results.

When he returns, Mr Sharif will not only have to explain why he left and stayed away from the country for four years, but also what his party plans to do to address the serious internal challenges the country is facing.



Sakib Sherani

Pakistan is experiencing its most severe economic crisis in recent history. However, as I have argued previously, this crisis is "a crisis like no other" (Dawn, May 2022). It is not just an economic meltdown, but a confluence of myriad and complex challenges in the political, governance and environment domains.

With regards to the economy, the current episode is comparable in many ways to the economic crises that have devastated countries such as Argentina, Mexico, Greece and Lebanon, etc in the past. Public commentators as well as policymakers appear to have been slow to recognise the magnitude and complexity of the crisis. Partly due to a lack of appreciation, and largely due to political

considerations, the policy response since last year has also been slow, behind the curve and, now, deeply flawed.

More recent plans formulated to respond to the perennial crisis via attracting investment in a handful of sectors of the economy are overly optimistic as well as simplistic, reducing the country's myriad and complex problems that hinder capital formation, the creation of an entrepreneurial ecosystem, the development of a vibrant export sector, etc, down to a mere shortage of dollar liquidity. For these reasons, it is important to understand why the crisis Pakistan is currently experiencing is so different than the past.

First, this one is unprecedented in its severity as well as its complexity since it has emanated from a confluence of multiple shocks. A large terms of trade shock since 2021 coincided with the impact of a 'sudden stop' in external capital availability caused by the aggressive monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve. In addition, the country is in a full-blown public debt crisis, with the need for a very large

fiscal adjustment over the course of the next few years, one that could total around three to four per cent of GDP — by far the highest the country has ever undertaken.

Along with the fiscal adjustment, Pakistan also needs a degree of orderly (ie negotiated) sovereign debt restructuring or re-profiling, without which its debt repayment capacity will remain unsustainable. To compound the situation, the crisis could also envelop the country's banking sector at some later stage, despite substantial capital and liquidity buffers at present (more on this later).

Second, the sense of a polycrisis is accentuated by the fact that the country is facing a political and constitutional crisis since April 2022. Political uncertainty and institutional gridlock are complicating policy responses and 'whole-of-nation' approaches that are required for an early resolution.

Third, the current economic crisis is accompanied by a crisis of confidence — not just with regard to the prospects of the economy or the rupee

in the short term, but more fundamentally, by a lack of confidence in how the country is run, and in the ability as well as willingness of the elites responsible to change course. Investors, economic agents as well as the country's youth are voting with their feet via capital flight, dollarisation and brain drain. Of all the problems afflicting us, the vapourisation of confidence in Pakistan's long-run prospects is perhaps the most pernicious — and unrecognized.

Fourth, the country's banking sector could experience heightened stress in the months ahead, unlike in previous episodes. There are two potential channels: 1) the government, the banking system's largest borrower, is under increasing fiscal duress, with its fiscal position now clearly unsustainable; 2) any restructuring of sovereign external debt could include domestic public debt — with bank credit to government the largest component. A significant haircut for banks could be inevitable under this scenario.

In this complex and challenging environment, the prospects for Pakistan's economy for the next three to four years appear less than sanguine, despite the relative optimism surrounding the securing of a nine-month Stand-By Arrangement with the IMF. While the near-term risk of a sovereign default has been averted for the interim, contingency on continued implementation of IMF conditionality, stabilisation and austerity policies will need to remain in place beyond the current SBA as the country undertakes a debt workout, one that could include domestic debt as mentioned above. Economic growth will remain suppressed and financial conditions restrictive, while the overall business environment will be challenging, especially for the formal sector.

These difficult conditions are likely to lead to industry and business closures, many permanently, in economic 'scarring'. Macroeconomic risks are likely to remain elevated, which could be compounded by the risk

of political instability. Climate-related shocks are grey rhinos (slow-moving, probable risks with high impacts) that can precipitate at any time over the forecast horizon. Vulnerability to external shocks will remain high until 'break out' conditions prevail.

Each of the conditions above is necessary though not sufficient on its own. Ultimately, the surest guarantee of finding a path to recovery and durable prosperity is for all stakeholders to view the current crisis as an opportunity for wide-ranging, deep and credible reform.

Tailpiece: Unfortunately, another IMF programme appears inevitable, simply because despite the populist talk, there is no credible and workable alternative plan that anyone has crafted or presented. The glib talk on the media about living without the IMF is, unfortunately, without any basis, and is designed to play to the gallery. Pakistan needs to have its external debt rescheduled, and an IMF programme is necessary for this process. -- Courtesy Dawn

Understanding this crisis

Fix the education system



Kamila Hyat

The recent controversy over A-level results in Pakistan has stirred up new thinking on education. While most A-level students who sat for their exams earlier this year are likely to retake them in November 2023 as offered by the Cambridge Board, others are more worried about their future, given how the grades affect students' chances of scoring admission in top-ranking institutions. It is not just students but their parents, teachers and others from various spheres of life who are also now looking at the exam system through a different lens. Some education specialists believe that Cambridge has changed its exam format to some degree this year — a shift from a mainly rote-based system to something that requires greater thinking and ability to put forward arguments clearly.

It is unclear if this is truly the case, but those who have been teaching at schools offering O- and A-level education for years do agree that just like the FSc and matric exams, these exams now promote rote learning; they are now less intellectually demanding of students whose creativity and talent is tested in this. This is something that people are wondering about.

There are now other exams available in the country which can be seen as an alternative to A-level and appear to provide students a greater opportunity to use critical thinking mind and come up with original thought. The idea of education should be to develop in students the ability to think for themselves and go forward from that point on, instead of encouraging them to memorize page after page of text and repeat it verbatim on answer sheets.

Moving away from this could in fact be the critical step needed to alter our education system and make it more meaningful in different ways. At present, especially at the FSc and FA levels — which is the examination system undertaken by most students in the country — we have an extremely

high dependence on rote learning. The fact that teachers are not trained to teach, but only to make students learn all lessons by heart, simply exacerbates the problem. We need to move away from this.

In recent months, there has been much discussion over the national curriculum and how to improve it. This can be achieved by simply altering the examination system and setting it up in a way that requires students to think as individuals and not repeat long passages of text as if they were some form of robots, or as 'parrots'. This is essential to creating capacities which many parents and even teachers do not believe students possess. It is essential then to move away from this system.

The ability of young children to think and come up with answers to complex questions was exhibited earlier this year at a session organized by a private group which offered winners a chance to visit NASA in the US. Students from low-income schools were asked to develop a scientific object of their choice and on their own. The results were fascinating. Teams of young girls and boys worked to-

gether and came up with interesting inventions, including making paper from chicken feathers. The winning teams visited NASA in Houston and gained an experience which would not have been available to them had it not been for this effort. Besides this, we have also seen plenty of other examples of students performing extraordinarily well in other tasks at school when they are given a chance to think and come up with original ideas.

This would of course mean some major steps within the educational system, beginning at schools and ideally moving on to higher education perhaps in one or two years at the time. In the first place, teachers will need to be trained to educate children as intelligent beings and not as objects capable of rote learning like a recording machine. To do so, they need to undergo new courses and a new curriculum for government-school teachers as well as a compulsory criterion that teachers at private schools have proper certification.

In addition, parents and children would also need to become accustomed to the new mode of learning and understand that it does

indeed constitute education and not just games as many parents believe to be true of exam systems which demand the child lead the way in the educational process. The fact that children everywhere are able to think is a well-established fact, but the problem lies in our failure to allow them the opportunity to do so or to move forward through their wit rather than through memorization.

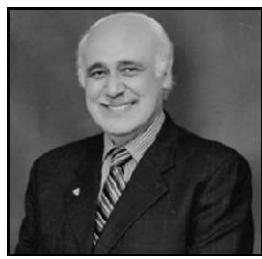
Indeed the fact that our exam system is based on memorization may be the most basic flaw in our exam system. We do not need a single curriculum; we need a curriculum that has a basic point on which all students must come through — such as standards in Urdu, Maths and ideally the native language of students as well as English at a later point in their education. We also need an education system which has the capacity to introduce tests and exam papers which force students to think and develop their ideas or thoughts, instead of relying on borrowed ones from exam guidebooks, still widely available at all education stores and at roadside markets everywhere in big cities.

Altering the education

system in this manner could be of enormous benefit to children everywhere and also help them develop the skills they would need in the outside world as well as from high learning. It is imperative that we begin putting in place such a system block by block and keep building it up. The results of the A-level exam should act as a reminder of what we need to do. It is hard to believe that the results were affected entirely because exams were suspended in parts of the country by political protests. It seems far more likely that at least a large number of candidates do not have the skills Cambridge seeks in its students.

Our examination and teaching system needs to change so that our students at all levels can move forward and not be held back by our focus on rote learning and the many flaws it brings with it. This has to be our first priority in the education sector so that young people can learn how to think, and we can produce thinkers like Dr Abdus Salam and others, who once made their way to the world's top centres of research while starting from our government schools. -- Courtesy TheNews

What's in a name?



F.S. Aijazuddin

Pakistan holds an unusual pack of cards. It has no kings. They have been either deposed, exiled, assassinated, or hanged. It has no queens. One potential qualifier Miss Fatima Jinnah was defeated by an armed dictator using rigged polls in 1965, and the second Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was murdered on another's watch in 2007.

It has no jacks. They have either lost heart, swipe clubs against their opponents, or use spades to dig each other's graves. None sparkle like diamonds. All that Pakistan has left is a full deck of jokers.

Each day, we Pakistanis wake up to a false dawn, hoping that each new day will have forgotten yesterday. Each night, we sleep and dream of a utopia where gas and electricity flow like milk and honey.

Were astrologers right when they advised Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to celebrate independence on Aug 15 rather than the unlucky 14th? Why did Nehru prefer the name India to the archaic Bharat or emotive Hindustan?

Those who wrote the Indian constitution gave their countrymen both the anglicised India and Sanskritised Bharat. Nehru preferred the former, and not because it could increase the sales of his book *The Discovery of India*.

His feel for the flow of history was too strong. He saw the vast subcontinent — from the top of the northern Himalayas to the southern tip of Cape Comorin — as a contiguous cultural, ethnic, spiri-

tual whole. Not, as the British had done, as a colony consisting of princely states marooned in a sea of vanquished territories. Nor, as his successor PM Modi sees their country, through saffron-tinted lenses.

PM Modi has already demonstrated his electoral authority by redefining borders, revoking Article 370 and appropriating the contested area of Jammu & Kashmir. He now wants Nehru's secular India to convert into BJP's Hindutva Bharat, and Gandhi's charhka or spinning wheel to be replaced by Shiva's trishul or trident.

PM Modi's timing could not have been better. He had an audience of world leaders in New Delhi at the G20 summit. Two leaders to whom this change of name will make no difference are deliberate absentees from the G20 conclave: China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin. To them, India by any other name still smells of regional hegemony.

Once before New Delhi was propelled into such prominence. In 1982, Mrs Indira Gandhi hosted the Asian Games. She commissioned a talented young designer called Rajeev Sethi to refurbish the tired city. He began with the airport where he hung cylindrical cloth tubes stamped with vivid colours drawn from a Rajasthani palette. India's welcome swung gaily above the heads of arriving visitors.

Outside, they were surprised to drive along four-lane highways rather than having to compete, as ambassador J.K. Galbraith put it, with 5,000 years of transport. Seventy-six years later, while India/Bharat is oscillating between names, we in Pakistan are still trying to achieve a cohesive identity and secure our place in the comity of nations.

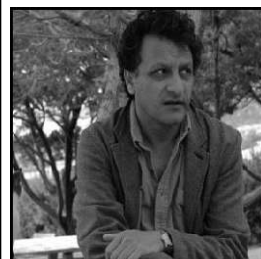
We stood on the doorstep of BRICS and watched Ethiopia slip past us

through the door. We peered over the fence like some inquisitive neighbour while New Delhi celebrated its success at the G20 summit by admitting the 55 member states of the African Union (including Ethiopia) into its fold.

If we are honest with ourselves, we would accept that no one is genuinely fond of us. Who would befriend an importuning beggar whose survival depends on handouts?

Applying the maxim 'jam yesterday, jam tomorrow, but no jam today', yesterday, the Saudis, the UAE and China shored up our forex reserves with billions of dollars as deposits that cannot be spent and will have to be returned. We are assured that tomorrow, friendly Arab countries will commit \$100 billion to reinvigorate our economy. Meanwhile, an insecure interim government tries to convince lenders that we are still a bankable bet.

Without wishing to dilute the nation's optimism, would any country (however cash-heavy) be prepared to lend endlessly to an impecunious bankrupt, whose problems are painfully short-term and their solutions even more painfully long-term, but refuses to tackle either? Political parties demand elections, whenever. The PPP is ready and wants them within 90 days. Others prefer a longer gestation period. How can they assure voters, though, that the next parliament will be better than its predecessors? Or will it be the same rancid water poured in new bottles? Thousands of our educated and skilled citizens are not waiting for the next elections to cast their votes. They are voting with their feet, by migrating to whichever country will admit them — even Ethiopia. Our bankruptcy is not only fiscal. It is intellectual. We have "an expenditure of words without an income of ideas". -- Courtesy Dawn



Arif Azad

Next week, the UN is convening three high-level meetings on universal health coverage (UHC), tuberculosis (TB) and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR) at its 78th General Assembly session.

These meetings are set to review the progress made on these intersecting global health challenges as they are tied to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the changed global pandemic architecture. They give heads of states and governments a chance to revisit the post-Covid global health landscape and recommit themselves to sustained action on the commitments enshrined in the political declarations on TB and UHC made in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The 2019 declarations on UHC-SDG 3.8 set a target of reaching an additional one billion people by 2023 and reversing trends in medical impoverishment caused by out-of-pocket expenses. Yet the latest UHC commitment review's key findings suggest that progress on UHC has stalled and in some cases reversed. This state of play on the follow-up underscores the need for expedited action on delivering on political commitments on TB-SDG 3.3 — which are way off track. Covid has blown these goals off track.

The theme of the 2023 high-level meeting on TB is "advancing science, finance and innovation, and their benefits, to urgently

Healthy opportunity

end the global tuberculosis epidemic, in particular, by ensuring equitable access to prevention, testing, treatment and care". At the 2023 meeting, progress on the targets set and achieved so far will be reviewed and a future action plan framed.

In the run-up to the 2023 high-level meeting, civil society groups voiced their expectations of the meeting in May in New York. The key policy asks which emerged out of the civil society consultation focused on reinforcing commitment to reaching all people affected by TB, accelerating research and development in new TB vaccine, drugs and diagnostic services, enhancing funding for TB programmes and prioritising TB across UHC, primary healthcare, pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and anti-microbial resistance.

The first UN high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response has assumed special urgency against the backdrop of the devastating impact of Covid-19 on health systems, SDGs, and pre-existing health inequalities. PPPR is especially important in relation to serious threats which future pandemics pose to the realisation of the SDGs, UHC and TB as demonstrated by the Covid pandemic. The Pandemic Action Network of civil society groups has called on heads of states for vigorous international action on pandemic preparedness in health and beyond health sectors in whole-of-system approach, as well as increasing ownership and accountability of pandemic preparedness and response plans, while ensuring the widest possible participation of civil society and others in these efforts.

However, the draft of the political declaration has been described by health press and advocates as long on words and short on com-

mitments and lacking in ambition. Specific actions have been kicked down the line to 2026 when the UN will convene another high-level meeting to further deliberate on the state of pandemic preparedness. Three years is too long a period when it comes to pandemics, particularly when existing pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms have been found wanting in the Covid response.

More importantly, the publicly released draft of the political declaration does not include any specific financing targets for global and domestic health spending on pandemic preparedness and response. An even earlier proposal re-launched to the establishment of an independent monitoring body to assess member state compliance with the pandemic treaty and spending commitment has been done away with in the draft declaration.

UHC, the elimination of TB and new pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms are key to achieving the SDG goals, intersecting and interlinked with nature as they are. Therefore, the convening of three high-level meetings on these global health issues is a rare opportunity for world leaders and member states to tackle global health challenges in a synchronised and integrated way. Pakistan's caretaker government should show leadership and commitment to the broader idea of ensuring that no one is left behind in UHC drives and in accessing new TB vaccine and drugs and that the future pandemic response is robust, equitable and well financed. All this will require careful preparation, nimble-footed health diplomacy and political will at these important high-level meetings in September. Like other member states, Pakistan too should step up. -- Courtesy Dawn

Religious, political leaders unite for interfaith harmony, urge justice for Jaranwala

FAISALABAD (APP): The leaders from various religious and political groups, representing diverse faiths and beliefs, on Thursday emphasized that Pakistan belonged to all its citizens and no individual, group or organization had the right to use religion as a pretext to take the law into their own hands.

The leaders including Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC) Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Bishop Dr Riaz Rahmat, Allama Tahir Al Hasan, Mufti Nasrullah, Mufti Hanif Bhatti, Maulana Asmatullah Muawiyah, Maulana Aminul Haque Ashrafi said this while addressing an interfaith harmony conference.

Addressing the recent tragic incidents in Jaranwala and Sargodha, they had called for swift justice against the culprits and demanded that the facts be laid bare before the nation. They stressed the importance of adhering to the principles of justice and the rule of law.

Chairman PUP Hafiz Muhammad Tahir

Mahmood Ashrafi announced the 'Seerat Rehmat-ul-Alameen Conference' to be held across the country from the first to the end of Rabi-ul-Awwal to educate the public about the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) regarding the rights of minorities, women and humanity as a whole.

Furthermore, he said the PUC and Christian leadership would host joint Seerat Conferences in Lahore and Islamabad to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between Muslim and Christian leaders on matters of shared concern.

He said Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar had jointly called for stringent actions against hoarders of dollars, flour, sugar, and those involved in electricity and gas theft. They emphasized that individuals responsible for exacerbating artificial economic crises should not be granted any leniency, he added. Ashrafi underscored the fundamental right of every Pakistani.



PESHAWAR: A delegation from PK-72 Peshawar tribal elites meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Sindh cabinet decides to launch military operation against dacoits, drug mafia

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh Government has decided to launch massive operation against dacoits in Sindh's Katcha area with the help of Pakistan Army, Police and the Rangers to eliminate menace of kidnapping of the innocent people.

The decision was made in a cabinet meeting held here at Chief Minister House on Thursday with Caretaker Chief Minister Justice @ Maqbool Baqar in the chair.

The cabinet also accorded approval for extension of Rangers stay for another 6 months in Sindh from September 14, 2023 to February 2024.

The Inspector General Police Sindh Riffat Mukhtar briefed the Cabinet about overall law and order situation in the province with special reference to kidnapping for ransom cases and informed that during current year 2023, as many as 218 people had been kidnapped out of them 207 have so far been recovered.

There are 11 people still under the captivity of the kidnappers, the IG

told the meeting and said of these 11 people seven were from Larkana, 3 from Shaheed Benazirabad and one from Sukkur districts.

The IG told the cabinet that Naveed Lashari were kidnap ped from Jacobabad, Sagar Kumar from Garhi Yaseen, Qadeer, Zaheer, Gulbahar from Kashmir and Shahid and Jabbar from Sukkur, Soomar from Qasimabad Hyderabad and Farhan and Shahid were made hostage by dacoits from Naushehro Feroze.

The Caretaker Chief

Minister Justice @ Maqbool Baqar asked the IG Police and other law enforcement agencies for early release of all remaining hostages from their captors.

Justice Baqar also asked the IGP to keep in touch with the family members of the hostages and make them aware about the efforts being made for their release.

The Caretaker CM also directed concerned authorities for immediate suspension of internet services in the Katcha area of the province.

Steps taken to protect lives, property of minority communities: Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Caretaker Minister for Law and Religious Affairs, Justice Retired, Syed Arshad Shah Thursday said that steps had been taken to protect lives and property of minorities as ensuring all the rights to minority community members was among priorities of provincial government.

He was addressing a ceremony that was organized by Provincial Auqaf Department and Churches Association of Hazara.

The ceremony that was aimed to promote interfaith harmony was held in Saint Lucas Church Abbottabad.

The minister expressed satisfaction over spirit of mutual coexistence in Hazara and said that provincial and federal government was committed to protect minorities and their properties.

He said that minorities were safe and enjoying their rights in the country and added that certain forces were fomenting strife and trying to wedge difference between majority and minority.

He said the government was fully aware of these activities and resources were being utilized to wipe out enemies that were hidden.

He also directed to construct damaged wall of Saint Lucas Church and assured steps to protect religious places of minorities.

The minister said that matters would be reviewed about protection of temples and illegal allotment cases.

The ceremony was also attended by minority community leaders, religious figures, deputy commissioner, District Khateeb and pastors of all the churches of Hazara.



FAISALABAD: Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council & President International Faith Harmony Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi is addressing to the "Interfaith Harmony Conference" at Razaabad.

SCCI, Zamung Kor sign MoU for welfare & education of orphan children

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and Model Institute of State Children 'Zamung Kor' have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to support the education and training of orphan children under its social corporate responsibility and collaborate in common interest initiatives.

In this regard, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by SCCI acting president Ijaz Khan Afridi and Zamung Kor Director Naja Mus Sahar during a ceremony held at the

Model Institute of State Children on Thursday.

On the occasion, the secretary social welfare department, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ziaul Haq, the Secretary General of the chamber Sajjad Aziz, officials from Zamung Kor and the Social Welfare Department were present. According to the agreement, both institutions will promote activities of mutual interests, building of academia and industry linkages along with joint training sessions and collective efforts for education of orphan children.

AKF organizes mass wedding ceremony for 21 destitute couples

PESHAWAR (INP): Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) organized a mass wedding ceremony for 21 destitute couples of the five districts of Malakand division. The mass wedding ceremony of the orphans and destitute couples was organized in Riway Wedding Hall at Thana town of district Malakand, said a press release issued here on Thursday. More than 800 guests including the relatives of the couples attended the

Walima ceremony. So far 497 families have benefited from the mass wedding facility under the auspices of the foundation. Provincial president, AKF KP, Khalid Waqas presided over the ceremony while Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) Siraj-ul-Haq was chief guest on the occasion. Prominent among those who attended the Walima of mass wedding ceremony were included vice president AKF Pakistan, Zakirullah Mujahid.



HYDERABAD: A view of sewerage water accumulated on the road outside railway workshop.

Sumbal remembered in condolence reference at Secretariat

LAHORE (APP): A condolence reference for former federal interior secretary (late) Abdullah Khan Sumbal was held at the Civil Secretariat here on Thursday.

Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman, the senior member board of revenue, additional chief secretary, additional chief secretary (home) and administrative secretaries of all the departments attended the condolence reference while all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video link. The condolence reference began with the

recitation of the Holy Quran. The Administrative Secretaries' Committee paid tribute to Abdullah Khan Sumbal for his services in civil service.

The Chief Secretary Punjab said that Abdullah Khan Sumbal was a hardworking and capable officer as well as a very good human being and his services in civil service would always be remembered. He remarked that the sudden death of Abdullah Khan Sumbal is a great loss for his family and the civil service.

At the end of the reference, Fateha was offered for late Abdullah Khan Sumbal.

Tourist places should be promoted: Governor Sindh

Chief of UNICEF's professional team also calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has stressed the need for proper projection of tourist places in the province so as to attract local as well as foreign tourists to such sites, which would generate employment for the people living there.

This he said while talking with caretaker Provincial Minister for Tourism, Environment and Climate Change Arshad Wali Mohammad at Governor House here on Thursday.

Steps to promote tourism in the province, provision of better facilities for tourists, minimizing affects of climate change and protecting natural

environment were discussed in detail on the occasion.

The Governor Sindh said that there were many tourist spots in the province, including Gorakh Hill, which need effective publicity. He asked the caretaker minister to activate Sindh Tourism Development Cooperation (STDC) for highlighting the places of interest of Tourists.

Especially, trained guides should also be assigned Moen-Jo-Daro and Makli graveyards to inform the visitors about their historic importance, the Governor added.

Meanwhile, Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said that projects of UNICEF are helping

children of the province in getting better health and education facilities.

This he said while talking with UNICEF Professional Team Chief Prem Bahadur Chand at Governor House here Thursday.

UNICEF projects, provision of better health and education facilities to children, training of teachers and health professionals and other matters of mutual interests were discussed in detail on the occasion.

The Governor Sindh said that UNICEF cooperation in the fields of health and education is commendable and steps are being taken with the help of UNICEF to provide better facilities to children.



LAHORE: Members of Insaf Lawyer Forum (ILF) are holding protest rally for demanding General Elections after the dissolution of the National Assembly, outside Punjab Assembly in Lahore.

RDA launches grand operation against illegal housing societies

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) while conducting a grand operation against illegal constructions here on Thursday demolished encroachments and illegal constructions of 11 illegal housing societies.

According to a RDA spokesman, the RDA Task Force formed on the special directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chhatta launched a grand operation and took action in accordance with the law against the rules violators.

He informed that the

society offices, gates, billboards and other infrastructure of Rawal Enclave, Haider Residencia, Park Zameen Town, Al-Haram city, Danyal Al-Haram Block, Tameer Garden, Khan Builders, Manan City, Multi Gardens Phase-II, Faisal Town Phase-II and Capital Smart City Extension were demolished. The Task Force headed by Director General, RDA, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa conducted raids in different areas and demolished illegal constructions besides.

Female swindler held with fake currency notes

FAISALABAD (APP): Sadar Samundri police have arrested a female swindler along with huge quantity of counterfeit currency notes.

A police spokesman said on Thursday that a couple was busy in purchase of gold jewellery and other items from people in Chak No 447-GB against bogus currency notes of 1000 and 5000 denomination when the area people caught them red-handed.

The male accused managed to escape from the scene whereas the police arrested the female swindler and recovered counterfeit currency notes worth Rs 150,000.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Deputy Convener, Farooq Sattar exchanging views with Maulana Rashid Soomro, Leader Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F) during meeting held at Bahadurabad Markaz in Karachi.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman chaired 40th meeting of the Senate of the University of Engineering and Technology Lahore.

Sindh Finance Minister for expediting public welfare, rehabilitation works

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Planning and Development Muhammad Younus Dagha on Thursday directed to expedite work on public welfare projects and rehabilitation of flood affected infrastructure.

He was chairing a meeting regarding projects for the welfare of victims and the rehabilitation of infrastructure affected by the catastrophic floods of 2022 in Sindh. The projects included Sindh flood emergency rehabilitation project, the World Bank assisted Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation (SWAT) project and the Asian Development Bank supported Emergency Flood Assistance programme. The caretaker minister, on the occasion, stressed the need to take practical and result-oriented measures instead of spending more time and cost on the paper work so

that the projects could be made operational at the earliest.

The meeting was briefed that in the first phase of the rehabilitation work, the construction and repair of roads and the improvement of canals was being carried out.

It was further informed that the canal system would be improved by using modern engineering methods to prevent wastage of water.

It was told that emergency Rescue 1122 stations were being set up in the flood affected districts and the same were being handed over to the Department of Rehabilitation, which would be responsible for their operation and maintenance. The meeting was attended by Chairman P&D, Shakeel Ahmed Mangnejo, Secretary Irrigation Niaz Abbasi, Secretary agriculture Rafiq Shaikh, Secretary works and services.



KARACHI: Workers of KMC are spraying Anti Dengue spray in the streets of Sultanabad area to decrease the rising ratio of Dengue patients in Provincial Capital.

Meeting discusses measures to expedite development process in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Caretaker Provincial Minister for Merged Districts Amir Abdullah here on Thursday chaired a meeting to ponder over measures needed to expedite development initiatives and stimulate growth in merged district.

The meeting formed a working group with caretaker minister as its chairperson and members including special secretaries from Planning and Development (P&D), Health, Education, Home and Mineral.

The primary aim of the working group is to

ensure speedy execution of development projects within the merged districts, bolster investment across various sectors and address critical issues.

On the occasion, the chief secretary reiterated provincial government's commitment to develop merged districts. He underscored the importance of capitalizing on opportunities within tourism, minerals, mining, agriculture, livestock, and other sectors.

He also directed secretaries of relevant departments to brief caretaker minister regarding both ongoing and proposed projects within the merged districts.

Separately, in UC-72 Anarkali, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Adnan Rashid warned the DDH about duty delays.

Meanwhile, Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Umar Maqbool assessed anti-dengue activities in UC-115 Samanabad.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the Annual Ambassadors' Dinner, organized by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, at Aivan-e-Sadr.

Peace, equitable development inevitable to attract trade, stop brain drain: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday while calling the international responsibility for peace a foundation for trade, urged the world to ensure equitable development across the world to address the issue of brain drain from developing countries.

The president, addressing the Annual LCCI Ambassadors' Dinner 2023, exemplified Europe saying that by enhancing mutual trade, the world had moved towards peace but it required enhanced efforts to create an enabling atmosphere all around. He said Pakistan, being the fifth largest country in the world did not need any charity but the trade with the international world.

He said Pakistan desired the developed world to share its expertise in information technology with Pakistan as pursuing the ideals of "one humanity", they should spend their resources for the betterment of the people outside their borders too. President Alvi said the brain drain made the nations lose competent individuals despite having spent huge resources on their education.

The provision of equitable development would help such individuals to contribute to their own countries. Recounting Europe's journey to get rid of war, the president said women and children had always been the major casualties of conflicts, and the establishment of peace required the elimination of exploitation. Highlighting the double standards, the president said the signing of peace conventions and their violations could not go on simultaneously.

He said the world must focus on enhancing cooperation for the betterment of the next generations as all the world religions preached human service. President Alvi said that as artificial intelligence was impacting human decision-making, it required timely efforts to tackle the challenge before it got out of control.

He urged the diplomats to persuade their respective business communities to take advantage of Pakistan's renewed commitment to attract investment with a particular focus on a few sectors through a one-window facility. Calling for attention to human development, the president advised the business community to enhance employment opportunities for women and persons with disabilities. He said the information technology had eased bank account opening and financial transactions for women, it was the business community's responsibility to create a conducive atmosphere for women's physical movement. Similarly, he also asked the corporate sector to focus on the welfare of their workers as well as environmental protection to leave behind a better world for future generations.

Democracy in Pakistan owes a lot to sacrifices offered by SZAB, Benazir Bhutto: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf Thursday said that democracy had rendered itself as best form of government across the world. He said that the countries which cherished and implemented the democratic values had touched the height of prosperity and development.

The speaker said the nation would always remain indebted to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for their historic struggle and sacrifices for ensuring democracy in the country. He expressed that they firmly believed that all powers to determine the destiny of the nation rest with people and it was well documented in the annals of the history that they never compromised on it. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was the one who bestowed this nation with first democratic and unanimous Constitution.

Shaheed BB always said "Democracy is necessary to peace and to undermine the forces of terrorism." While reflecting on the theme of this year's democracy day 'Empowering the Next Generation', he said that Pakistan was blessed to have young and dynamic leaders like Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. "Bilawal is a hope of a prosperous and democratic future of the country. As his forefathers, he always advocated for peaceful, progressive, prosperous, democratic Pakistan," the speaker added.

Mushaal vows to continue to raise issue of oppressed people of IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick Thursday vowed to continue raising issues of oppressed people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) at all international forums. Addressing 'Pelchan Pakistan' conference here at a private university, she said Kashmiris were struggling for the past seven decades for their inalienable right to self-determination as promised by the United Nations. Mushaal Mullick said India had miserably failed to suppress voice of Kashmiris for freedom despite deployment of more than a million troops in IIOJK. She said nobody was safe in the occupied valley as women and children were being disgraced, and freedom lover youth and other people were being severely tortured.

The special assistant said fake and expired medicines were being supplied to continue genocide of Kashmiri people. She said there was no political, religious and social liberty in IIOJK and massive human rights violations by the occupation Indian forces were routine matter.



ISLAMABAD: Executive Director General, Information Service Academy (ISA), Dr. Tariq Mahmood Khan distributing certificates among participants of 37th MCMC Domain Specific Training.

Iranian Embassy flays terrorist attack on JUI-F leader

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran on Thursday condemned the terrorist attack on Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader in Mastung area of Balochistan province.

PPP issues show cause notice to Khosa over defense of another party

ISLAMABAD (APP): Syed Nayer Hussain Bokhari, Secretary General of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Thursday took the step of issuing a show cause notice to Sardar Latif Khan Khosa, a Member of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of PPP.

This notice was issued because Khosa had defended, pleaded for, and represented the leader of another political party in cases without obtaining prior approval from the party's leadership. The decision to issue the show cause notice received the endorsement of the party's leadership. Notably, the individual Khosa was defending had already been convicted in a case under the Official Secrets Act. During a speech delivered at a lawyers' function, Mr. Khosa also criticized the state's policy regarding classified information. Khosa has been granted a seven-day period to respond to the show cause notice, wherein he must provide a satisfactory explanation for his actions.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors keenly viewing stuff during the inaugurating ceremony of the Two Person Exhibition titled "HAQ" organized by PNCA & Nomad Gallery at PNCA.

Islamabad Police launch 'School Chalo' initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police have officially initiated the "School Chalo" campaign to address the issue of students who are frequently absent from their educational institutions and can often be found wandering in recreational areas and other public spaces. In a proactive move under the guidance of Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), the "School Chalo" campaign specifically targets students who are found absent from school or college, often seen loitering in recreational areas, markets, and other public spaces identified through the city's Safe City camera network.

CDA, Mari Petroleum join forces for 2,000 sapling plantation in D-12

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA), in collaboration with Mari Petroleum, has embarked on an ambitious endeavor to plant an impressive 2,000 saplings along the picturesque Green Belt of D-12 in Islamabad. Leading this eco-friendly charge is CDA Chairman Captain (Retd) Anwaar ul Haq, who also holds the distinguished position of Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

To kickstart this green mission, students from Saya School joined hands with the CDA in a spirited campaign. Together, they planted saplings ranging from 8 to 10 feet in height, featuring diverse tree species like pelikan, sukhi chain, and Arjun. Captain Anwaar ul Haq highlighted the importance of private-sector collaboration in driving eco-friendly initiatives, affirming that it's a warm welcome.

The ominous phenomenon of terrorism is meant to destabilize the countries and to endanger peace and stability in the countries of the region, it added.

Teachers Training Workshop 2023 kicks off at IST

ISLAMABAD (APP): A three-day Teachers Training Workshop 2023 kicked off at the Institute of Space Technology (IST) in Islamabad to build the capacity of educators from across the country in the field of Space Science and Technology. The workshop is being organized by the Space Education Research Lab of the National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA) in collaboration with the Office of Astronomy for Education, International Astronomical Union. Spanning from September 14-16, this initiative is poised to be a transformative experience for the 30 selected educators from across the country.

With a distinguished cadre of seven national and international resource persons, the workshop underscores a commitment to enhance the quality and scope of space science education in Pakistan. The Teachers Training Workshop 2023 is tailored for primary and secondary school science educators, with an ambition to immerse them in the captivating world of Space Science and Technology. The workshop not only aimed at offering innovative teaching techniques and resources but also to establish a deeper understanding of Space Science among educators. It envisions equipping teachers to relay complex space concepts effectively to students of diverse age groups, igniting a passion for space exploration.

AIOU holds training session on Organic Kitchen Gardening

ISLAMABAD (APP): A one-day hands-on training session on "Organic Kitchen Gardening" was held in Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday. Around 800 participants including students and their parents, teachers and university staff members attended the session. Chairman, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad was the resource person who shed light on the methods of natural cultivation of vegetables free from pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Dr. Sher explained how to grow healthy organic vegetables at home, how to make natural fertilizers, how to prevent pests and diseases through botanical methods, etc. This training session was organized by the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) and the Department of Agricultural Sciences. AIOU pays special attention to co-curricular activities to keep the students engaged in different healthy activities as per the vision of the Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. Additional Director ORIC, Dr. Saima Nasir and Chairperson, Department of Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Design, Prof. Dr. Hajra Ahmad also addressed the event.

how to make natural fertilizers, how to prevent pests and diseases through botanical methods, etc. This training session was organized by the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) and the Department of Agricultural Sciences. AIOU pays special attention to co-curricular activities to keep the students engaged in different healthy activities as per the vision of the Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. Additional Director ORIC, Dr. Saima Nasir and Chairperson, Department of Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Design, Prof. Dr. Hajra Ahmad also addressed the event.

CDA seals numerous unauthorised expressway structures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA), in collaboration with the local administration, sealed numerous under construction buildings along the Expressway on Thursday due to violations of building regulations. During an operation along the Expressway, it was discovered that five buildings were under construction without the approval of the CDA. As a result, these structures have been sealed, and notices have been issued to their owners. Furthermore, notices have been sent to 13 building owners in F-17.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the large size portrait of World acclaimed medical researcher, scholar and philanthropist of Pakistan Hakim Muhammad Saeed at Fatima Jinnah Park in Federal Capital.

17 outlaws held in last 24 hours

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) apprehended 17 outlaws including six professional beggars during the last 24 hours from different areas of the city and recovered liquor and weapons with ammunition from their possession. A Public Relations Officer (PRO) Thursday said, "Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city."

Following these directives, the Shalimar police team arrested an accused namely Usama Usman, and recovered one 9mm pistol with ammunition from his possession.

Exact fake degree case adjourned

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court on Thursday adjourned the hearing of Exact fake degree case due to the absence of accused Shoaib Sheikh and his lawyer. Chief Justice Amir Farooq heard the appeal of Shoaib Sheikh against his conviction in the Exact fake degree case. Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal Dogal and Special Prosecutor Ashfaq Naqvi appeared before the court on behalf of the Federation. Assistant lawyer Naila Noureen apprised the court that the appellant's lawyer Lateef Khousa could not appear before it due to his commitments in the Supreme Court. Furthermore, a request for exemption from court appearance was submitted on behalf of Shoaib Sheikh.



ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in painting the cemented flower pot at Nursery along the Park road in Federal Capital.

Police officials encouraged to demonstrate dedication and commitment

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) Malik Jameel Zafar has urged police officials to exhibit unwavering dedication to their professional responsibilities and prioritize addressing public concerns, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Operations Malik Jameel Zafar holds a meeting with administrative officers, muharrars of police stations, readers, and OSIs from the office of the Divisional Police Officers (DPOs). During the meeting, he emphasized the importance of unwavering dedication to their professional duties and highlighted that any form of negligence in fulfilling these responsibilities would not be tolerated. Furthermore, the SSP (Operations) issued directives to all senior officers to maintain seamless coordination with their subordinate staff and promptly address the issues they faced.



He also took the opportunity to outline the specific responsibilities of administrative officers within the districts and police stations. He underscored the importance of these officers in accurately compiling and verifying police station records. Administrative officers were tasked with ensuring the prudent utilization of human and financial resources, as well as the upkeep and maintenance of police station facilities. Importantly, he made it clear that administrative officers should focus solely on their designated duties.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Operations Malik Jameel Zafar holds a meeting with administrative officers, muharrars of police stations, readers, and OSIs from the office of the Divisional Police Officers (DPOs). During the meeting, he emphasized the importance of unwavering dedication to their professional duties and highlighted that any form of negligence in fulfilling these responsibilities would not be tolerated. Furthermore, the SSP (Operations) issued directives to all senior officers to maintain seamless coordination with their subordinate staff and promptly address the issues they faced.

Kemal says: Pakistan needs to embrace sustainable, inclusive growth for enduring development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiative, Ali Kemal here on Thursday said that growth was important for the country but it must be sustainable and inclusive for enduring development. He was addressing at the National People's Assembly, jointly organized by Awaz Foundation Pakistan, GCAP and Pakistan Development Alliance, a news release said.

He further expressed that this assembly provided a platform for diverse voices to unite and address the challenges and opportunities presented by the SDGs, fostering not just growth, but sustainable and equitable growth for Pakistan. The event aimed at fostering dialogue and engagement surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was also attended by representatives of Ujala Network, Child Rights Movement (CRM) and many more, including a diverse range of stakeholders. These include civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, CBOs, political party representatives, media, academia, students and advocates for marginalized groups, including women rights, sexual minorities and human rights defenders. "In the National People's Assembly, civil society will unite from every corner of the world to address the pressing needs of SDGs. SDGs 16+ are all interconnected goals from poverty alleviation to education, underscore the importance of inclusivity", said Mohammad Zia ur Rehman, CEO, Awaz Foundation.

Representatives of persons with disabilities (PWDs), women, TGs, children and young people expressed that their diversity was their strength, and their unity was their progress.

Speaking on behalf of International Action for Peace and Sustainable Development, Khan, while taking part in a general debate held under Item 2 at the 54th session of the Human Rights Council, said that people in Jammu & Kashmir were waiting for the third report by the high commissioner, according to a press release issued here on Thursday. Referring to the highly critical situation in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kash-



ISLAMABAD: Senator Hidayat Ullah, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Aviation presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.