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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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PPP reiterates demand for general elections within 90 days

Bilawal hopes ECP will hold free and fair elections within 90 days; Says PPP does people-friendly politics and governance

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday reiterated his demand to hold general elections in the country within the constitutionally mandated period of 90 days.

Bilawal repeated his party's firm stance on polls days after reports emerged in a section of mainstream media claiming that the PPP would "adjust" its position on elections in 90 days.

On March 5, the PPP chairman's statement was shared on its official handle X, formerly known as Twitter: "Chairman [of the] Pakistan Peoples Party @BBhuttoZardari has urged that the general elections should be held according to the Constitution, so that the democratic government can solve the prob-

lems of the people." Referring to the tweet, a local publication claimed that it was the first time in recent weeks that the PPP called for adhering to the Constitution, without referring to the 90-day deadline.

During an interaction with journalists in Karachi today, Bilawal said: "The PPP demands that the elections be held within 90 days."

The PPP — which had been the most vocal among all parties in calling for elections within three months — demands that elections should be held at the earliest and as per the Constitution, he added.

Bilawal says that the PPP does people-friendly politics and governance. "Our contest is with inflation, unemployment and poverty."



PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari speaks to the media in Karachi.

Pak expresses concern over availability of modern military equipment in Afghanistan

Asks India to stop human rights violations in HIOJK

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has expressed concern over availability of modern military equipment in Afghanistan saying left-over military equipment has come into the hands of terrorists.

"Pakistan and its security institutions are being attacked with this state of the art military equipment," this was said by Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in weekly press briefing here Friday.

Responding to the queries of media persons in Islamabad today regarding the recent terrorist attack on military posts in Chitral, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan has communicated its concerns about

the latest incident to the interim Afghan authorities.

The spokesperson said Pakistan and the United States have a robust dialogue on multiple areas including on security and counter terrorism matters.

She said we have been communicating with the US and other partners both inside and outside the region about Pakistan's security concerns. She hoped our friends and partners will understand the security compulsions that Pakistan has in this region including the threat of terrorism and the security situation because of the difficult and aggressive posture from our eastern neighbor. She reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to eradicate the menace of terrorism.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Finance Minister Shamsah Akhtar, Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz, Information Minister Murtaza Solangi and Power Minister Muhammad Ali addressing the joint press conference after the SIFC Apex Committee meeting.

WB report Karachi faces shortage of 1500 public buses

KARACHI (INP): Karachi—Pakistan's largest city is grappling with a severe shortage of passenger buses as just over 1,000 buses are currently operational in the port city. World Bank report showed. This startling revelation was made by officials from the Sindh government's transport department during a briefing to Caretaker Finance, Planning, and Development Minister Muhammad Younus Dagha on Karachi transport problems.

According to the report, presented before the interim transport minister, a total of 15,000 buses are needed for the comprehensive transport system of Karachi while currently only 1029 buses are

operational on city roads including 240 buses of People's Bus Service, 100 buses of BRI, and 689 old buses operated by private sector. Besides, work is in progress on route feasibility for the procurement of 500 more buses for the province.

It was informed that in the light of the report of the World Bank, around 13000 more public transport buses were needed in Karachi to meet the gap. During the briefing, the caretaker provincial minister Mohammad Younus Dagha directed authorities to encourage the private sector under public-private partnership projects to meet the huge gap in public transport for Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs the 5th Apex Committee Meeting of Special Investment Facilitation Council.

Caretaker PM asks ministries to deliver optimal results SIFC Apex Committee focuses on ways to improve business environment

Ministers brief media over steps discussed in 5th meeting of SIFC's apex committee presided over by PM Kakar; Caretaker gov continues to implement int'l agreements, Consultation with IMF underway for relief in electricity bills - Solangi; Caretaker gov adopts holistic approach to revive economy-Shamshad; -Solangi; IMF will give response on relief plan in a day or two-Power Minister.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The fifth meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council's (SIFC) Apex Committee held here on Friday with a special focus to improve the overall business and investment environment in the country being imperative for 'economic revival'.

The meeting was chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and attended by Chief of Army Staff, Federal Cabinet members, provincial chief ministers and high-level government officials.

The ministries con-

cerned presented their plans/roadmaps to overcome the macroeconomic challenges, governance related impediments and voids in regulatory mechanisms in a bid to attract both foreign and domestic investment, and stimulate economic growth.

The committee deliberated upon various measures to be taken in short, medium and long terms to reap the envisaged dividends. Various practical steps were approved by the prime minister that will be operationalized as soon as possible.

The prime minister asked the ministries to deliver optimal results irrespective of the time that was available with the caretaker government and emphasized to lay a strong foundation for the future government. Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said the caretaker government respected the international financial agreements and would continue to implement them in true letter and spirit. Addressing a news conference here after the first session of two-day meeting

of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the minister said deliberations were held on the measures which were essential for reducing the government's expenditures and circular debt.

He was flanked by Caretaker Minister for Finance Dr Shamsah Akhtar, Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali, and Minister for Industry and Production Gohar Ijaz. Solangi said discussions were also held on working out a schedule for implementing the decisions already taken to carry out privatization of some departments.

Constitutional term of President Alvi completed

ISLAMABAD (INP): The five-year constitutional term of President Dr Arif Alvi has completed.

Dr Alvi assumed the presidency on September 9, 2018.

He will not vacate the office and will continue to perform his duties until the election of a new president.

Under the 1973 Constitution, a president is elected by the National Assembly, provincial assemblies and the senate jointly. At present, the electoral college does not exist in the country as the assemblies ceased to exist after completing their constitutional term last month.

NEPRA notifies surge in electricity tariff

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Friday approved the increase in tariff for electricity consumers by Rs 1.46 per unit.

As per the issued notification, the power regulatory authority approved the increase in power tariff under fuel adjustment charges (FAC) for the month of July.

The notification stated that the surge in power tariff would be applied to the bills of September, meanwhile, the hike will not be applicable to Lifeline and K Electric customers.

Gas tariff to be increased on IMF demand

ISLAMABAD (INP): After the approval of relief to electricity consumption, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) demanded Pakistani government a significant 45-50 percent rise in gas prices. According to the details, the IMF demanded an increase in gas tariff from 45 to 50 percent in the account of 'Fuel Adjustment Charges' from July 01 while emphasizing a crackdown on electricity and gas theft to improve recovery. It is pertinent to mention here that any alteration in gas tariffs is subject to the approval of the federal cabinet.



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi exchanging views with Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan and Saad Bin Masoud Al-Harhi, Muslim World League Regional Director in Pakistan during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

'Navy Day' celebrated with traditional fervour

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Navy Friday celebrated 58th anniversary of 'Navy Day' to honour heroic achievements of Ghazis and Shuhadas who fought gallantly against a much bigger adversary with absolute courage and profound faith in Allah SWT. Navy Day is a glorious reminiscence of daring operation 'SOMNATH', when Pakistan Navy's Warships destroyed important shore installations and inflicted irreparable damage to the Indian pride, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The Naval Chief highlighted that Pakistan Navy besides ensuring own maritime defence also maintains round the clock presence in international waters and engages with regional navies to foster interoperability and promote maritime security at high seas. For this purpose, Pakistan Navy is acquiring state of the art technologies to meet the emerging security challenges at sea while enhancing indigenous capabilities. Admiral underlined that Pakistan Navy had also embarked on nation building initiatives particularly to uplift coastal communities and was making vigorous efforts to invigorate Blue Economy for economic prosperity of the country.



KARACHI: Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Muhammad Mazar-e-Quaid presents salute after laying wreath at Saleem-e-Quaid on Commemoration of 58th anniversary of 'Navy Day'.

JI councilor shot dead in Kunda mafia firing

KARACHI (Online): A JI councilor has been shot dead in firing by Kunda mafia here in Sarjani town while two others have been injured in violence against them.

The body was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed hospital. The victim has been identified Habib 60. Injured Adnan Izhar is being provided medical aid.

The incident took place over dispute on collection of money accrued from installation of illegal electricity kundas.

Rangers foil smuggling bid of Iranian diesel

KARACHI (INP): Rangers have foiled a bid to smuggle huge quantity of Iranian diesel on Sindh Balochistan border.

According to Rangers spokesperson, a grand action was taken against the smuggling mafia in the border areas of Sindh and Balochistan.

The smuggling attempt was foiled on the Band Murad Check post where four suspected trucks smuggling 9000 litres of Iranian diesel were caught.

The smugglers were arrested and the oil was recovered. On September 6, Sindh Rangers decided to launch crackdown on illegal hydrants and smuggling mafia after receiving special instructions from the military high-ups.

Dollar to gradually come down during next few day: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday said that the economic situation was improving due to the caretaker government's decisions in the country.

He said, 'The value of the dollar will gradually come down in the next few days.'

While addressing a press conference at Goernor House here, he said that efforts were being made to resolve the issues of the business community and measures were being taken to provide relief to the people.

Chief Executive of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Zubair Motiwala was also present on the occasion.

The governor said that if the confidence of the industrialists and traders was

restored, the economic activities would improve.

Karachi had been ignored for the last several decades, he said, adding that the armed forces were ready to fight economic terrorism along with border terrorism.

The governor said, 'I will stand by the business community.'

Tessori said that that PIA was in loss and keeping in view that thing preparations had been completed for its privatization.

He said that if the investment came to the country, the economy would improve.

The governor said that he had requested the Caretaker Prime Minister to focus on Karachi and he would go to Islamabad for follow-up of assurances on Monday.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tesori presents shield to Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman after Pakistan Drama Festival, at Arts Council in Provincial Capital.

Audio leaks commission case: Govt objections on bench tantamount to attack on judiciary independence: SC

Throws out PDM gov't plea challenging bench

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while rejecting PDM government objection to bench hearing audio leaks commission case has termed it an attack on independence of judiciary.

The former government had constituted a commission into the alleged audio leaks of Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial's mother in law, wife of Khawaja Tariq Rahim, son of former chief justice Saqib Nisar, Justice Mazahir Naqvi, Abid Zuberi and Parvez Elahi.

The chief justices of Balochistan and Islamabad high courts were included in this commission.

However Abid Zubairi challenged this commission.

Upon it the SC constituted a 5-member bench under the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata

Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Hasan Azhar and Justice Shahid Waheed.

SC bench held two hearings of this case and restrained the audio leaks inquiry commission from functioning. However the former government filed a miscellaneous petition for removal of three judges from this bench on the basis of clash of interests.

The government raised objections on three judges of this bench including CJP Umar Ata Bandial, justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Muneeb Akhtar. The court had reserved judgment on June 06 after hearing government petition whereby objection was raised on bench. After 3 months, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan announced this decision Friday.



KARACHI: Consul General of Russian Federation, Andrey V. Fedorov calls on Mayor Karachi, Barister Murtaza Wahab.

Pervaiz Elahi sends to Adiala jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), Islamabad, on Friday sent former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi to Adiala jail on judicial remand.

The PTI president was produced before ATC judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain's court after completion of his two-day physical remand in the judicial complex attack case. During the hearing the police sought another 10-day physical remand of former Punjab chief minister which was rejected by the ATC judge.

The court rejected the police request and sent PTI

President Elahi to Adiala jail on 14-day judicial remand. The PTI leader was arrested hours after his release from NAB custody on September 1, after the LHC had restricted the authorities from arresting him earlier that same day.

The case was registered against Pervaiz Elahi at CTD police station on September 3. According to the FIR, the former CM is accused of sending rioters to Islamabad to vandalise the Judicial Complex besides providing vehicles and batons for the same. It is pertinent to mention here that Elahi has been arrested and detained repeatedly since the May 9 riots.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Waking up

Six hundred billion rupees is not pocket change; not for a country stumbling from one crisis to another as it tries to keep ahead of a possible default.

In a responsible government's hands, such a sum could be utilised for immense public good, such as funding hospitals, establishing schools, creating roads or, simply, paying off national debt.

Yet, if our caretakers are to be believed, this is the ballpark figure for annual theft and recovery losses in the country's power sector.

Just the scale of it makes it seem like the ultimate scam: how else does one describe some groups of people being allowed for years to consume electricity worth hundreds of billions for free, while the government subsidised this theft either with public funds or by burdening honest citizens with higher costs to pay for others' misdoings.

As long as the government was picking up most of the tab, few were bothered. Now that the burden has started shifting to the public, the inflation-weary are asking difficult questions, which the authorities are struggling to answer.

The caretaker government on Wednesday blamed the "jet-black integrity" of some officers in the power distribution network, as well as the politicised management of power distribution companies, for facilitating this daylight robbery of public resources.

It was a rather incriminating statement to make. The citizenry has a right to know why nothing was ever done to bring such elements to book, especially when hundreds of billions of rupees in losses were being recorded.

The government has finally resolved to go after the parasitic elements in the power distribution network, and it is hoped that there will be no further delay in securing results.

Meanwhile, it is also promising a three-pronged strategy to minimise theft and recovery losses, which includes mobilising the police and administration to launch a crackdown in high-theft areas. All of these look good on paper, but their efficacy can only be gauged once there are results to discuss.

It must be highlighted that it will not be easy to overhaul the power sector's recoveries in a short period. The availability of 'free' electricity has likely created significant distortions in local economies where theft and refusal to pay are endemic.

The sudden imposition of high electricity bills in these areas during what is an already fraught economic climate will, therefore, cause considerable upheaval, and police alone may not be able to contain the resulting social fallout.

However, this cannot be the reason to keep putting off the exercise. Theft and recovery losses have grown to the hundreds of billions because successive governments kept kicking the can down the road.

The authorities must now ensure that bill-payers will no longer be cheated out of their hard-earned money by unscrupulous elements.

Crow and the swan



Zubeida Mustafa

In his highly readable book *Slaughtered Without A Knife*, retired chief justice of Pakistan Jawwad S. Khawaja gives an account of his oath-taking ceremony in Islamabad in August 2015. I reproduce excerpts as readers would find his own words poignant and also appreciate the author's views on austerity and ostentation:

"[My] oath-taking ceremony was held at the glaringly incongruous Presidential Palace. This was on Aug 17, 2015. A couple of days before that, a steel trunk was delivered to my chamber. It contained outlandish, ornate robes, a pair of shoes with metal buckles, a wig and other paraphernalia ... The crow trying to mimic the swan, as the Seraiki saying goes. The strange, out-of-place attire reminded me of the occasions when I had attended the oath-taking ceremonies of the two chief justices who immediately preceded me. They had worn these same robes ... I found the regalia to symbolise obsequious servility to the pre-independence British era which continues to awe us and enchants our imagination ..."

"I, therefore, had the trunk with its contents sent back ... there was a law on our statute books prescribing a dress code for judges ... It was worn by me at my oath-taking ... [What was] apparent from this incident was the unnecessary emphasis on ritual and form over substance. The pomp, show and extravagance of the whole ceremony made me think: 'can this attitude be justified when our gov-

ernments are approaching all and sundry, with begging bowl in hand?' It is a question all public officials, being trustees for the people of Pakistan, need to think about ..."

"I had gone to the Presidential Palace for the oath with my friend and driver, Sardar Ali Hasan, in my official car; very functional, though somewhat old ... For now, after the oath, when I came out of the front entrance of the Presidential Palace, I was surrounded by many fawning officials, but I did not find Sardar."

"I inquired about him and my car, and was shown a large and obviously very expensive one; a top-of-the-line bullet-proof Mercedes Benz. I was informed that this now was my official vehicle. It was to be accompanied by a convoy of vehicles ... full of security personnel, an ambulance, a vehicle fitted with equipment to detect and disable explosives and a few other vehicles. So, within the two hours or so between my arrival and my departure from the Presidential Palace, I had been transformed from a mortal into a demigod with entitlement."

"I told whoever was in charge that I did not want this car and security detail. So, Sardar came with my perfectly functional car in which I returned to the Supreme Court. It is such things as cars, convoys, security details and fawning sycophantic officials, which may help explain how, at times, a perfectly normal and sensible person starts behaving like a megalomaniac. In my view, such showy and pretentious displays at the state's expense cannot be justified. A more frugal ceremony would have been better and more dignified."

The ostentation Khawaja Sahib writes about continues to be as relevant today as it was back in 2015. Matters are worse given the magni-

tude of the economic crisis. Egalitarianism remains utopian for those who dream of equal distribution of wealth in society. While the underprivileged starve, their rulers travel with large entourages at state expense in a show of wealth to impress their patrons. But all they manage to do is demonstrate their insensitivity.

Today, when inflation stands at an astounding high of about 30pc, oil is the biggest chunk of Pakistan's imports. Were this to be regulated it would make a profound impact. Are the huge cavalcades as described by the author really necessary? Are the lavish perks (bribe, should we say) that include petrol allowances running into hundreds of litres for senior civil servants essential? My activist friend Naem Sadiq calculates that the petrol perks to our administrators cost Rs216 billion annually. Is so much petrol needed to transport the high and mighty from one office to another? Obviously this allowance is grossly misused.

More than three decades ago, a prime minister who doesn't figure much in our current political discourse addressed the issue of austerity in official transport. He was Mohammad Khan Junejo who is credited with the words "Mein generals ko bhi Suzuki mein bitha doon ga" ("I'll also seat the generals in Suzukis"). He didn't succeed in his mission and lost his job.

Times have changed and we face an existential crisis today. There must be people in our administration who are equally concerned. They must show the moral courage and integrity to emulate Khawaja Sahib. He rejected the luxury offered to him and continued to perform his duties efficiently and honestly, without losing the respect and affection of the people of Pakistan. --

Courtesy Dawn

Why caretakers?



Syed Saadat

When the PTI government was ousted through a vote of no-confidence, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari exclaimed: "Welcome to purana Pakistan." Little did we know that the clock would be turned back a little more than desired and we would end up in a very purana Pakistan that closely resembled the Gen Zia era when basic rights were constantly under threat, general elections remained elusive and the will of one man became the law.

Caretaker set-ups are a brainchild of the same era. Gen Zia introduced the idea, which was later endorsed by political governments and passed into law. The reason given then was that a sitting government could manipulate elections in its favour, and therefore, a caretaker government should conduct the elections.

This argument is faulty because a caretaker set-up can be used to engineer elections even more as it is much easier to manipulate hand-picked individuals than elected ones. The fact that by-elections take place without any such set-up further highlights the redundancy of caretaker governments.

Ironically, it seems redundant in either case, ie, when an electoral body is fully empowered and independent and when it is not. When the electoral body tasked with conducting the elections is fully empowered, the constitution of the land guarantees enough powers for it to go about its business independently, and when it is not fully empowered — which is often the case

in Pakistan — then a caretaker set-up would naturally be under the influence of the same power centre that controls the election commission.

Some might argue that if the concept was so useless, why did no elected government get rid of it through appropriate legislation? On the contrary, the recent PDM government enhanced the powers of the caretaker set-up. One can only comment that everything legal is not legitimate and that everything legitimate is not necessarily legal. Also, there is a built-in conflict of interest in politicians empowering the caretaker government, as these set-ups usually allow their lesser politically active relatives to enjoy the perks of being in government if they are hand in glove with the powers that be. Now let us come to the caretaker alternative, keeping in mind the ground realities of the country. To explore that, we must consider the following questions: who are the people with hands-on experience in running the government? The civil servants obviously. They say bureaucracy is the steel frame of government and composed of unglamorous, boringly dressed individuals who do not have guns or golf courses under their sway — but who do make important decisions and keep things from going haywire. Imagine if an empowered bureaucracy had been in place at the time of the IPP agreements; we would not have been crying foul over the botched deals today.

The secretary of a ministry who happens to be a bureaucrat is the person that advises the politically appointed minister in running the ministry. The secretary in turn is advised by his whole team comprising seasoned individuals who have spent a lot of time dealing with government affairs in their ca-

reer. Most of this consultation is written and very well recorded, because that is how the bureaucracy works.

So, in the absence of a political government, like at the end of the term of an elected one, the powers of the minister's office should be delegated to the secretary. Since the individual has a career spanning decades and a reputation to protect, he will not comply with illegal orders. He remains accountable even after his stint is over as he would still be part of the civil service, unlike the selected caretaker ministers who are answerable neither to the public nor to any institution.

Similarly, the powers of the chief minister should be delegated to the provincial chief secretary. The highest political offices should remain vacant till the elected representatives of the people occupy them. This arrangement would also ensure the sanctity of the highest office of the government. Just like the army chief or the chief justice of the Supreme Court cannot be selected from a pool of absolutely random individuals, the highest political offices in the country should stay vacant till the representatives of the people are elected. One can argue that any outgoing political government will appoint civil servants of their choice in such positions but since the Election Commission is fully empowered to make transfers and postings, this can be easily reversed.

Lastly, a question for all readers. Who is more likely to make better caregivers, those who actually are selected, trained and groomed for such a role over the course of their careers, or any Tom, Dick and Harry selected on the basis of individual loyalties and sycophancy? I rest my case. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Collective efforts vital to put country in right direction: Aneeq

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmad, during a visit to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), said here on Friday that as a nation, collective efforts were required to put the country in the right direction.

He said, "Pakistanis are peace-loving people and we welcome people with open heart." He said all segments of society felt pain of the Jananwala incident. He said the Pakistan flag was incomplete if white part was missing in it.

Aneeq Ahmad said, "Our religious scholars open doors of mosques for their Christian brothers Ahmad, during a visit to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), said here on Friday that as a nation, collective efforts were required to put the country in the right direction.

The caretaker minister said that the country was passing through difficult times, and added that nations did face crises and challenges in their lives. There was need to help people get rid of distress, the minister said adding that strategies were being evolved which would yield good results. He said

that sincerity and capability were present in society, and just a little bit patience was required to overcome challenges.

To a question, he said that people should love each other, which was a message of Pakistan for India and its people.

To another query, he said that strengthening of religious tourism would yield positive impact on country's economy.

He said at present there were 901 Hajj operators in Pakistan, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wanted to reduce the number to 200 for proper management.

Pak, Egypt reiterate resolve to boost bilateral coop. in diverse sectors

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Egypt have reiterated their resolve for further expanding trade ties and boosting cooperation in various sectors between the two countries.

The speakers expressed the resolve at a conference organized by Embassy of Pakistan in Egypt, in collaboration with Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Cairo.

Addressing the conference as chief guest, Minister for Public Business Sector of Egypt, Mahmoud Esmat expressed desire to boost cooperation in various sectors including agriculture, energy, housing, tourism, textile and food. He also stressed the need to create new avenues for investments. Ambassador of Pakistan to Egypt Sajid Bilal highlighted the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to attract foreign investment especially from the brotherly countries through the formation of Special Investment Facilitation Council.



LAHORE Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmad posing for group photo along with others after visits Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) in Provincial Capital.

Tarar, Donald discuss matters of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications, Railways and Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar and United States (US) Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Friday discussed matters of mutual interest.

In a meeting, the minister said that Pak-US bilateral relations had evolved from security to other fields such as trade and investment, science and technology, climate change and sustainable

development, health and education. He expressed his profound desire to strengthen the relations based on development cooperation. He affirmed that the Pakistan Railways had been benefiting from General Electric locomotives provided by the US, and based on their vitality, another order had been placed recently.

Similarly, Tarar mentioned, Tarela and Mangla dams were also symbols of Pakistan-US cooperation.

He further stated that the Karachi-Peshawar railway line had been affected by floods at certain vulnerable points and the US could cooperate with the Pakistan Railways to reclaim the tracks and secure them from future devastation.

He further apprised that Pakistan had entered into successful international agreements in Gwadar and the country was attracting foreign investments from global partners.

Over the years of our joint work, much has been done, including thanks to your deep understanding of the specifics of Russian-Pakistani cooperation. We look forward to a further productive energy dialogue between Russia and Pakistan," Nikolai Shulginov was quoted as saying. The two sides also discussed key issues of the current bilateral energy cooperation. In particular, the Russian minister noted that it was necessary to accelerate the creation of a working group for the preparation and further implementation of a comprehensive.

Russia seeks more productive energy talks with Pakistan

MOSCOW (INP): Russia has expressed its keen interest in strengthening cooperation with Pakistan in the energy sector.

The Russian Energy Minister Nikolai Shulginov held a meeting with Pakistan's outgoing envoy Shafiqat Ali Khan in connection with his completion of tenure in Russia. The Russian minister thanked Shafiqat Ali Khan for fruitful cooperation in the field of energy, as well as for the work carried out within the framework of the Russian-Pakistani Intergovernmental Commission, co-chaired by Nikolai Shulginov.

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APO's role in driving inclusive, innovation-led productivity growth lauded

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Faad Waheed here on Friday praised the Asian Productivity Organization's (APO) role in Asia-Pacific's development while emphasising the need to renew our commitment to inclusive, innovation-led productivity growth.

He said while addressing the closing ceremony of a five-day training program on "Assessor of the Productivity Specialist Certification Program",

and international delegates and expressed gratitude to APO and the National Productivity Organization (NPO) for addressing this crucial topic.

The National Productivity Organization (NPO), in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), in Tokyo, Japan has organized the training program. Faad Waheed highlighted the potential of working together with APO to find solutions to long-standing productivity challenges in Pakistan.

He said, "Pakistanis are peace-loving people and we welcome people with open heart." He said all segments of society felt pain of the Jananwala incident. He said the Pakistan flag was incomplete if white part was missing in it.

The caretaker minister said that the country was passing through difficult times, and added that nations did face crises and challenges in their lives. There was need to help people get rid of distress, the minister said adding that strategies were being evolved which would yield good results. He said

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Addressing the conference as chief guest, Minister for Public Business Sector of Egypt, Mahmoud Esmat expressed desire to boost cooperation in various sectors including agriculture, energy, housing, tourism, textile and food. He also stressed the need to create new avenues for investments. Ambassador of Pakistan to Egypt Sajid Bilal highlighted the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to attract foreign investment especially from the brotherly countries through the formation of Special Investment Facilitation Council.

Over the years of our joint work, much has been done, including thanks to your deep understanding of the specifics of Russian-Pakistani cooperation. We look forward to a further productive energy dialogue between Russia and Pakistan," Nikolai Shulginov was quoted as saying. The two sides also discussed key issues of the current bilateral energy cooperation. In particular, the Russian minister noted that it was necessary to accelerate the creation of a working group for the preparation and further implementation of a comprehensive.

Russia seeks more productive energy talks with Pakistan

MOSCOW (INP): Russia has expressed its keen interest in strengthening cooperation with Pakistan in the energy sector.

The Russian Energy Minister Nikolai Shulginov held a meeting with Pakistan's outgoing envoy Shafiqat Ali Khan in connection with his completion of tenure in Russia. The Russian minister thanked Shafiqat Ali Khan for fruitful cooperation in the field of energy, as well as for the work carried out within the framework of the Russian-Pakistani Intergovernmental Commission, co-chaired by Nikolai Shulginov.

and international delegates and expressed gratitude to APO and the National Productivity Organization (NPO) for addressing this crucial topic.

The National Productivity Organization (NPO), in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), in Tokyo, Japan has organized the training program. Faad Waheed highlighted the potential of working together with APO to find solutions to long-standing productivity challenges in Pakistan.

He said, "Pakistanis are peace-loving people and we welcome people with open heart." He said all segments of society felt pain of the Jananwala incident. He said the Pakistan flag was incomplete if white part was missing in it.

The caretaker minister said that the country was passing through difficult times, and added that nations did face crises and challenges in their lives. There was need to help people get rid of distress, the minister said adding that strategies were being evolved which would yield good results. He said

that sincerity and capability were present in society, and just a little bit patience was required to overcome challenges.

To a question, he said that people should love each other, which was a message of Pakistan for India and its people.

To another query, he said that strengthening of religious tourism would yield positive impact on country's economy.

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Rezhan Kistafin addressing during the conference entitled "Political and Economic Transformation" at local hotel on 07-08-2023 in Federal Capital.

Indonesian productivity experts appreciate Pak productivity drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indonesian productivity experts on Friday declared the industrial and economic productivity drive in Pakistan as important for good and economic sustainable development.

The potential of industrial and economic development in Pakistan is high, in which industrial productivity is extremely important, and Pakistan can become economically

strong through this, senior official from Ministry of Manpower from Indonesia and Productivity master trainer Abdul Hafid told APP here.

Productivity master trainers Abdul Hafid, Arif Fianto and Yohan Petmata, who came to Pakistan on the invitation of the National Productivity Organization said that Productivity training in Pakistan was a good step which should be continued.



SIALKOT: Chairman PGMEA Muhammad Ejaz Ch. presenting a shield to Jeremy Wang, Country Manager Pakistan Alibaba.com from China.

PCJCCI proposes growing disease-free varieties of Chinese potatoes

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) has proposed to grow Chinese varieties of potatoes to enhance disease free production.

PCJCCI leaders - during a think-tank session at the PCJCCI Secretariat -Lahore mentioned that Chinese potato varieties were known for their resistance to pests and diseases, making them a valuable resource for Pakistan to enhance its potato germ plasma.

They suggested the establishment and promotion of Tissue Culture Laboratories,

highlighting that Pakistan is a significant potato exporter and self-sufficient in domestic potato consumption, Gwadar Pro reported.

Moazzam Ghurki, President of the joint chamber, noted that recent floods had caused extensive damage to various crops in Pakistan, but potato production had risen to 7.937 million tonnes in the fiscal year 2022-23, a 35 per cent increase from 5.873 million tonnes in the previous fiscal year.

This growth was attributed to the fact that Punjab, a major potato-producing region, was unaffected by the floods.

Universities must allocate 5pc income for scholarships: Baligh

Urges teachers to play their role in developing students abilities as well as making best human beings

Independent Report
FAISALABAD: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that universities must allocate 5 percent of their income for scholarships, exclusively for the deserving students in order to utilize their talent for the expeditious growth of Pakistan. He expressed these views while presiding over the 50th meeting of the Senate of University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). In the meeting, the budget of UAF for the financial year 2023-24 worth Rs 20 billion was approved.

Addressing the UAF Senate meeting, the Governor said the youth are valuable assets who have to take up the rein of the future of the country. He said the government was taking all possible steps for ensuring quality education and knowledge-based economy. He said that atmosphere of intolerance in society was increasing for which "we have to promote an environment of tolerance, love and respect for differences of opinion."

He said that in 2008, the then government allocated a budget of Rs13 billion for education, which was increased to Rs120

billion by 2018. However, in 2019, it was reduced to only Rs61 billion. He said that the Technology Transfer Fund had been established in 2013-14 to provide indigenous solutions to the industry as well as promote innovation, which was essential towards knowledge-based economy. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that the university was providing scholarships to more than 7,000 students while teaching assistants, on-hour working and other facilities are also available for those students who were facing financial difficulties.



FAISALABAD: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman presiding over the 50th meeting of the Senate of University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

CM praises arrangements for urs, chehlum events

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi extended his commendation to the provincial ministers, administration, police and associated departments for their exceptional arrangements concerning the chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), urs of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) and cricket matches. He specifically lauded Provincial Minister Azfar Ali Nasir and his team for their remarkable efforts in

facilitating devotees during Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh urs. Acknowledging the relentless commitment of Inspector General of Police and his force in ensuring foolproof security, the chief minister also praised the commendable performance of the Cabinet Committee for Law and Order, Commissioner of Lahore Division, CCPO, DIG Operations, Deputy Commissioner of Lahore, and the dedicated staff involved.

13 drug peddlers, bootleggers arrested

RAWALPINDI (INP): Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers here on Friday arrested 13 accused besides recovering 1620 grams heroin, over eight kg charras, 30 bottles of liquor, a pistol and other items from their possession.

According to a police spokesperson, during the crackdown launched against drug peddlers and bootleggers, Rawalpindi district police arrested 246 accused and recovered over 200 kg charras, 788 liters liquor, 470 grams heroin.

Caretaker CM distributes financial assistance in tribesmen

PESHAWAR (APP): The caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on Friday distributed financial assistance from his special funds amongst the deserving people of the newly merged districts. It is pertinent to mention here that certain deserving people had requested the Chief Minister for financial assistance during his weekly meetings with the people of tribal districts, and he had decided to assist the needy people from special funds on compassionate grounds. Talking on the occasion, the chief minister said that he was fully

aware of the issues and difficulties being faced by the people of newly merged districts, and the caretaker provincial government was taking all possible steps to resolve their problems on priority. He maintained that progress is being made on resolving the issues pointed out during the weekly meetings adding that all the genuine problems and issues would be resolved one by one. The tribal people have faced a lot of hardships and multiple challenges for a long time, he remarked and assured that the provincial government is going all out to address the issues of merged areas.



KARACHI: View of newly inaugurated Mobile Bus Science Laboratory organized by Virtual University, at Karachi press club.

Govt making efforts to facilitate tourists: Feroze Jamal

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting of Galiyat Development Authority (GDA) was held under the chairmanship of Caretaker Provincial Minister for Tourism, Culture, Archaeology and Information & Public Relations Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel here on Friday. During the meeting, the Director General (DG) GDA Wasif Saeed briefed the minister about the performance of the authority and its functions. Speaking on this occasion, the minister said

that the tourism department was making all-out efforts to provide the best facilities to the tourists. He said that the department should provide various opportunities to the public so that tourists could enjoy the facilities of the northern region. He said that good governance should be followed and proper sanitation campaigns should be made a priority for a clean and green Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He directed the elimination of the culture of nepotism.



HYDERABAD: A large number of Hindu community members are joyfully celebrating the Ramakrishna festival on the banks of the Indus River.

Health minister reveals successful completion of prisoners' screening

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr Jamal Nasir has revealed that the department had successfully completed the critical task of blood screening for AIDS, hepatitis, and other diseases for a substantial cohort of 52,000 inmates in 43 prisons throughout the province. In an address during the inaugural ceremony of a seven-day training camp

at the Health Services Academy here on Friday, he shared the remarkable achievement by the Punjab Health Department. This ambitious initiative reflected the commitment of the department to enhancing healthcare services being provided to incarcerated individuals and to curbing the spread of infectious diseases within correctional institutions.

AC approves physical remand of Bhatti

LAHORE (Online): Accountability Court approved the physical remand of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi's right-hand man Mohammad Khan Bhatti till September 13 in Rs100 billion corruption scandal. Court has also sought investigation report of accused on next hearing. Judge Naseem Ahmed Virk, Admin of Lahore Accountability Court heard the application of NAB for physical remand of Mohammad Khan Bhatti. NAB Lahore had requested for physical remand of Mohammad Khan Bhatti. Court approved physical remand of Mohammad Khan Bhatti till 13th September.

The court ordered accused to appear before court again on September 13 and also called investigation report of the accused. While talking to journalists informally in courtroom Mohammad Khan Bhatti said that I am innocent. I have told all facts to investigating officers and honorable court will also do justice to me.

LHC directs CS Punjab to decide within 15 days the application seeking constitution of JC

LAHORE (Online): On the plea seeking constitution of Judicial Commission (JC) to inquire into Jaranwala incident, Lahore High Court (LHC) has directed chief secretary Punjab to take decision within 15 days.

The petition came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Sajid Mehmood Sethi here Friday.

The learned judge inquired from the state counsel has any JC been constituted on the incident so far.

The state counsel replied no commission has been constituted so far.

The petitioner has taken plea in the court basic constitutional rights of the Christians were affected in Jaranwala incident.

The procedure adopted for investigation in this incident is slow paced. Christian community does not expect justice from the procedure in place.

It is requested that court should order to constitute JC for the sake of justice.

Sadiqabad police arrest two robbers, street criminals

RAWALPINDI (INP): In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police have busted a gang and arrested two robbers and street criminals besides recovering Rs 520,000 cash, a motorcycle, and other items from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, Sadiqabad Police arrested two accused namely Hamdan and Aqib Rasheed, who were allegedly involved in various robberies, and street crime cases.

International News

G20 gathers in India with China's President Xi absent

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: G20 leaders descended on New Delhi on Friday, with deep divisions between heavyweight members and Chinese President Xi Jinping's no-show calling the bloc's relevance into question.

The G20 was conceived in the throes of the 2008 financial crisis as a way of managing the global economy. However, finding consensus among members has been increasingly difficult in recent years. With several leaders already in New Delhi — sprung up and partly expected of people for the occasion — hosts India were scrambling for agreement on pressing issues like the Ukraine war, climate and global governance.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has painted the summit as his country's diplomatic coming of age — evidence of New Delhi's clout and prestige on the global stage. But that notion was called into question by rival leader Xi, who pointedly decided to skip the meeting and send his number two, Premier Li Qiang, instead.

No official reason was given for the absence, but Xi has chastised Modi about a deadly China-India border dispute and been open about making US-led groupings like the G20 more amenable to Beijing's interests. As the summit takes place, Xi will host the leaders of Venezuela and Zambia in Beijing. Modi — sensing an

opportunity to burnish his credentials as a statesman ahead of a re-election tilt early next year — has thrust himself front and centre of proceedings. His image adorns countless G20 billboards and posters plastered around Delhi.

A failure of G20 leaders to agree on a joint summit statement, a usually routine diplomatic affair, could be seen as an embarrassment for India and for Modi's claim of uniting developing and richer members. Modi looks set to secure at least one concrete step in that direction — with several leaders expressing support for expanding the bloc into the "G21" and including the African Union as a permanent member.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends what state media report was a launching ceremony for a new tactical nuclear attack submarine in North Korea, in this picture released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

G20 leaders can stop climate breakdown, but rules must change, U.N. chief says

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said G20 leaders have the power to reset a climate crisis that is "spinning out of control" and urged them to reshape global financial rules which he described as outdated and unfair.

"The climate crisis is worsening dramatically — but the collective response is lacking in ambition, credibility, and urgency," Guterres said in a

speech in the Indian capital New Delhi, which is chairing the G20 this weekend.

Guterres asked the G20 to commit to keeping the "1.5 degree goal alive" — referring to the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of limiting the global average temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and aiming for 1.5°C.

"I have put forward a Climate Solidarity Pact — in which big emitters make extra efforts to cut emis-

sions; and wealthier countries support emerging economies to achieve this," Guterres said.

The plan urges developed countries to reach net-zero as close as possible to 2040, and emerging economies as close as possible to 2050, proposing a phase out of coal by 2030 in OECD countries and 2040 in all others.

"The climate crisis is spiralling out of control. But G20 countries are in control," he said.

Russian attack on Ukrainian port damages grain storage

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia carried out its fourth drone attack in five days on Ukrainian port facilities on the Danube River on Thursday, damaging grain silos and other infrastructure on a vital export route for Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said.

The attack on Izmail district in southern Odesa region lasted three hours, governor Oleh Kiper said on Telegram messenger. Two truck drivers were hurt and a blast wave damaged several people's homes, the general prosecutor's office said.

Agricultural companies were also damaged, the military said, without specifying which.

The Ukrainian mili-

tary reported shooting down 25 of 33 drones it said were launched by Russia overnight. Most were aimed at the Odesa region but some targeted the northern city of Sumy, it added.

One drone hit a residential area in Sumy, damaging a private house, 20 apartments in a high-rise building and two shops, the regional administration said on Telegram. It reported no casualties.

Russia has stepped up its attacks on Ukraine's grain export infrastructure on the Danube and on the Black Sea port hub of Odesa since July 17, when it quit the UN-brokered deal that had allowed safe exports of Ukrainian grain via the Black Sea.



Republican presidential candidate and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley speaks during a campaign town hall meeting in Claremont, New Hampshire, U.S.

Hong Kong flooded by heaviest rainfall in 140 years

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Hong Kong was flooded by the heaviest rainfall in nearly 140 years on Friday, leaving the city's streets and some subway stations underwater and forcing its schools to close.

Just across the border, authorities in China's tech hub Shenzhen recorded the heaviest rains since records began in 1952.

Climate change has increased the intensity of tropical storms, experts

say, with more rain and stronger gusts leading to flash floods and coastal damage. The heavy rainfall in Hong Kong started on Thursday and in the hour leading up to midnight, the city's weather observatory recorded hourly rainfall of 158.1 millimetres at its headquarters, the highest since records began in 1884.

"It's absolutely shocking," said Jacky, 52, who lives in the Wong Tai Sin district with his elderly parents.



People walk on a flooded road in Hong Kong.

North Korea says new sub has nuclear attack capabilities

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea launched its first "tactical nuclear attack submarine" Friday, according to state media.

The diesel-powered submarine, dubbed "Hero Kim Kun Ok" and based on the Soviet Romeo class, can carry nuclear-tipped missiles, crucial to counter the U.S. Navy in the region, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said.

"The submarine-launching ceremony heralded the beginning of a new chapter for bolstering up the naval force of the DPRK," state media said Friday. It is believed to have

10 missile tubes, four larger than the others, which North Korean media said are capable of firing missiles from underwater.

Defense analysts shared doubts that the new submarine would significantly bolster North Korea's naval threat, saying the Soviet design the submarine is based on is poor and outdated.

"This submarine, though heavily modified, is based on 1950s Soviet-origin technology and will have inherent limitations. Nevertheless, in terms of complicating the targeting challenges that the U.S. and its allies will face.

White House to Reduce Aviation Close Calls

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The White House will announce on Friday \$26 million in new funding to improve U.S. aviation safety after a series of potentially catastrophic near-miss incidents this year, officials told Reuters. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will spend \$10 million to improve controller situational awareness and reduce runway close-calls by deploying surface surveillance systems to additional airports.

Last month, there was a near collision in August between a Southwest Airlines (LUV.N) Boeing 737 and a Cessna Citation 560X business jet in San Diego. The National Transportation Safety Board has been investigating seven runway incursion events since January. Officials said the FAA will also spend \$8 million to expand its terminal automation system to prevent incorrect runway landings.

UNICEF says: A record numbers of children are on the move through Latin America and the Caribbean

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Record numbers of children are making perilous journeys through Latin America and the Caribbean, often alone, and from countries as far away as Asia and Africa, the U.N. children's agency said Thursday. UNICEF said in a Child Alert that in the past three years the proportion of children moving along the major migration routes in Latin America and the Car-

ibbean has climbed to a record high of 25%, up from 19% in 2019. Globally, children make up 13% of people on the move and the numbers in Latin America and the Caribbean, and rivaled only by Sub-Saharan Africa where children also account for 25% of the migrant population, it said.

"The driving forces behind child migration are numerous and complex, encompassing factors such as rampant gang violence.

Ukraine's Zelenskiy says Putin killed mercenary boss Prigozhin

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Friday Russian leader Vladimir Putin was behind the death of mercenary boss Yevgeny Prigozhin, who died in a plane crash with his top lieutenants last month. Zelenskiy, who provided no evidence to back up his assertion, made the comment in passing at a conference in Kyiv as he was asked a question about the Russian president.

Energy Minister stresses oil & gas exploration to reduce import bill

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali on Friday stressed the need of exploring oil and gas reserves in order to reduce the import bill. Addressing a news conference along with Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Minister for Commerce and Industry Dr Gohar Ejaz and Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatization Dr Shamshad Akhtar, he said matters related to power generation and petroleum were also discussed in the meeting of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). The minister said since 2013 work on the exploration of gas and oil had been lessened while annual import bill to meet their shortage persistently increased with rising circular debt. "We have to focus on exploration of oil and gas so that we can reduce our dependence on the imported fuel," he added. Muhammad Ali said the SIFC discussed ways and means to control the cost of electricity generation and it theft, and save capacity charges payment (to independent power producers) in the winter. "We want to give industries such a tariff in incremental supply so that we don't face losses in capacity charges payment even if they use more electricity as compared to previous years," the minister added.

He said matters related to governance and functioning of distribution companies (discos) and their privatization also came under discussion in the meeting. "We have to strengthen their governing boards and management, which will in turn help stop power theft and start recoveries," he said. The SIFC reviewed the possibility of evolving a mechanism under which the power plants could supply electricity directly to the industry after paying the wheeling charges, he added. The minister said the gas sector was also facing alarmingly high losses. "We have to improve the gas pricing structure in order to save the government from losses."



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori addresses to media persons during press conference, at Governor House in Karachi.

It is responsibility of govt to respect guarantees given to minorities in constitution: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has remarked it is responsibility of state to respect the guarantees given in the constitution to minorities. A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan took up for hearing the incident of torching church in Jaranwala here Friday. The petition was filed by minority leader Samuel PYARE requesting the court to take notice of Jaranwala incident. Sardar Bushna Singh chairman Baba Gurunanak welfare society appeared in

the court. The court inquired one issue of target killing was raised in your application. The OTHER issue you raised that decoration work and repair work in Gurudwaras are not being done. Bushna Singh said Qabza group sees nothing may it be mosque, temple or Gurdwar. Auqaf department should construct four walls of Gurudwaras and save them from illegal occupations. The court remarked we are seeking report from all departments. You should give us list of affected gurudwaras. The court issued notice to secretary religious affairs, chairman Auqaf, attorney and advocate generals. The court remarked the state needs to take practical steps to ensure security of Sikh community. The court sought detailed report from IG KP on recent incidents of target killings. The court summoned report from advocate general and IG Punjab regarding Jaranwala incident besides seeking report from home department Punjab on the steps taken after the incident.



KARACHI: Municipal Commissioner Sayed Afzal Zaidi and Executive Director SICHN, Syed Jamal Raza sign MoU with Sobhraj Maternity Hospital regarding child health care in presence of Mayor Karachi, Barister Murtaza Wahab.

Rabbani accuses outgoing president of unconstitutional actions

ISLAMABAD (INP): Mian Raza Rabbani, the former Chairman of the Senate, on Friday issued a scathing press statement, highlighting a series of alleged unconstitutional actions taken by President Dr Arif Alvi as his term comes to an end. In his press release, Rabbani accused the outgoing president of failing to uphold the Constitution, 1973, and violating its provisions on multiple occasions. Rabbani's statement outlined the following key allegations against President Arif Alvi: The former Senate chairman accused the president of promulgating ordi-

Chairman Senate commends PRA election process

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, along with the members of the Senate visited the polling area setup at Parliament House to observe the election process being held to elect the office bearers of Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA). During his visit, Chairman Senate was impressed by the organized and efficient manner in which the PRA elections were conducted. He commended the democratic values and principles upheld during the election, affirming his belief in the importance of fair and open processes in all aspects. Furthermore, Chairman Senate acknowledged the invaluable role played by the PRA in providing comprehensive and accurate coverage of Parliamentary proceedings. He praised their commitment to keeping the public informed and promoting transparency in government affairs.

PTI demands President Alvi to announce election date

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) core committee has demanded President Dr Arif Alvi to announce election date without a delay and unanimously passed a resolution during a session. The PTI core committee members said that the country is facing constitutional, political, democratic, administrative and economic crises as the state infrastructure was shaken after the 'unconstitutional move' of April 2022. The committee said that the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) assemblies had been dissolved on January 14 and 18 respectively but the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government did not fulfil its constitutional duty to organise polls in 90 days besides violating the Supreme Court's April 4 order. The political party urged for concrete steps to establish a democratic government to resolve the crisis.

President pays tribute to martyrs of Bannu terrorist attack

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr. Arif Alvi has paid rich tribute to the martyrs of Bannu terrorist attack who laid down their lives for the sake of the motherland. The President on Friday telephoned the heirs of Naib Subedar Sanoobar Ali, Havaldar Aftab Ahmed, Havaldar Muhammad Arif, Havaldar Muhammad Imran, Sepoy Ahmed Ali, Sepoy Muhammad Haseeb Akbar.

PML-N ready to enter in Sindh politics

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N is ready to enter in politics. Many important personalities of Sindh can also join PML-N. According to media reports, PML-N vice President and Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz Sharif also expected to visit Sindh this month. The schedule of visit to Karachi and Hyderabad is also being prepared. According to PML-N, the announcement of new officials of PML-N Sindh is expected during visit of Maryam Nawaz while PML-N Sindh has started to activate workers before expected visit of Maryam Nawaz. According to sources, The PML-N leadership is also communicating with like-minded political parties regarding Sindh. Maryam Nawaz is likely to visit Karachi before leaving for London. Maryam Nawaz will also hold important political meetings during visit to Sindh. On the other hand, it is being told that PML-N supreme and former Prime Minister (PM) Mian Nawaz Sharif will reach Pakistan on October 15 from London by normal flight and he will land at Lahore Airport. According to PML-N sources, supreme Mian Nawaz Sharif has decided to reach Lahore from London by normal flight and his daughter and Chief Organizer of party Maryam Nawaz is busy in preparations to welcome him. Party sources said that Nawaz Sharif has decided to come to Lahore instead of Islamabad, and his return home will be on a normal flight.



ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood presents a souvenir to Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi on "Literacy Day".

Pakistan and China sign MoU for addressing climate change

BEIJING (INP): In a major step to jointly work towards environment protection, Pakistan and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) titled "Provision of Goods Under South-South Cooperation for Addressing Climate Change". Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Mo'in-ul-Haque, and Zhao Yingmin, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China signed the MoU at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFITS) recently. Under the MoU, according to Gwadar Pro on Friday, China would support Pakistan through the provision of 5,000 sets of Solar Home Systems; a set of Integrated Meteorological Observation Station; and a set of Integrated Cloud-based Early Warning Systems. In addition, China would offer capacity-building programs for the officials of the Government of Pakistan. The MoU would complement Pakistan's efforts to promote renewable energy and enhance its disaster management capabilities, especially in the areas of early warning, forecasting, monitoring, and disaster preparedness response systems.

Resolving masses problems at their doorstep govt's top priority: AJK PM

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that resolving people's problems at their doorstep was the top priority of the incumbent government. While talking to a public delegation led by noted social and business personality Haji Mohammad Arshad Ghazi from Bimbar at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Friday, the PM said that the doors of the Prime Minister's House were open to everyone. The basic aim of the government, he said, was to provide basic amenities of life for the people across the state. The PM said that he was fully aware of the problems being faced by the people, said a press release. He said that such policies were being formulated by which ordinary citizens would be benefited. He said that the state machinery also needs to work with similar passion and dedication. He said that the state provides resources so that the average person gets all the facilities. During the meeting, the visiting delegation briefed the Prime Minister on various problems being faced by the people of their area. Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq assured the delegation that the government would spare no efforts in resolving their problems. The delegation also praised the PM for presenting the Kashmiris' case effectively at every forum.



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman addresses during the funeral prayer of Mohammad Habib, Union Councilor of JI, who was shot dead during a brawl over Kunda (illegal electricity connections) in Sector 4C of Surjani Town, in Karachi.

Tax, electricity, gas thieves be declared 'terrorists': Khawaja

SIALKOT (INP): Former Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has stated that the country is under debt and bankrupt, and demanded that tax, electricity and gas thieves should be declared terrorists. Taking to X (formerly known as Twitter), the Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader said currently only tax cases worth of Rs2.670 billion were pending with courts. Every year billions of rupees tax evasion and theft of electricity and gas was being committed and the common man bore the brunt of this theft. He said Pakistan was under debt and bankrupt and theft of all types of state resources should be considered economic terrorism. Tax evaders and thieves of electricity and gas should be declared terrorists, however, such pilferers were now part of the privileged class.

NAB summons Gandapur in £190m corruption probe against Imran Khan

RAWALPINDI (INP): The National Accountability Bureau on Friday summoned former federal minister Ali Amin Gandapur to be involved in the investigation of corruption of 190 million pounds against former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan. Through the office of Dera Ismail Khan DPO, the Rawalpindi NAB sent a call-up notice to Gandapur to appear before the bureau's Central Investigation Team on September 13. The notice states that in the federal cabinet meeting held on December 3, 2019, former prime minister Imran Khan sought the approval of the cabinet to spend £190 million in personal interest instead of depositing it in the national treasury through a secret agreement in a sealed envelope. The notice further states that since Gandapur was also present in the cabinet meeting, therefore, he should join the investigation and record his statement in this matter.



HYDERABAD: Members of All Thar Labors Workers Ittehad are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Hyderabad press club.

UN condemns school occupations amid violence in Palestine camp

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Thousands of children have been put at risk amid a resurgence of violence at a Palestine refugee camp in Lebanon, the UN's top humanitarian official in the country said Friday. Clashes between rival factions in the Ein el Hilweh camp, the largest in Lebanon, have also displaced thousands of refugees, according to reports. Armed groups have taken over eight schools run by UNRWA, the UN agency providing support to Palestine refugees, preventing around 6,000 children from accessing the classroom as a new school year gets underway. "Education institutions must be safe and neutral spaces, critical for children's learning, well-being, and growth," Imran Riza, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon, said in a statement. He underscored that use of schools by armed groups are not only a serious violation of international humanitarian and human rights laws but also jeopardize the future of the entire community.

I came back to Pakistan to be a part of politics, Rehman

KARACHI (Online): EX wife of Former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan and British journalist of Pakistani origin Rehman Khan said that I have come to Karachi with the intention of becoming a part of politics because there is politics in everything. Women have been given very limited opportunities within the major political parties in Pakistan, she said this in an interview here. Rehman Khan said that "if I feel in a political party that it provides ample opportunities to women then I will definitely think of joining it. That's why we have come to Karachi. On question about forming a political party she said that I have no lobby and no means to form a political party but I think existing political parties should have an option to give women a chance which is not there.

Terror attack on DI Khan police station repulsed

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): Police repulsed a terrorist attack on a police station in Dera Ismail (DI) Khan, reported on Friday. According to police, the terrorists attacked with hand grenades and rocket launchers on Daraban police station. Police fired back in retaliation, and an intense exchange of fire took place between police and the terrorists for half an hour. A fierce retaliatory attack by police made the terrorists flee away. Police launched a search operation in the area.



KARACHI: Commander JNB Cdre Misnah UI Amin interact with students of Bahria College during their visit to Jinanah Naval Base Omara on Commemoration of 58th anniversary of "Navy Day".

Jirga of notables, elders in Chitral vows to fight along Pakistan security forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Jirga of notables and elders of Chitral and Swat held on Friday at Darosh fort vowed that the people of Chitral particularly youth were ready to fight along the Pakistan army and security forces. They condemned the terrorism of Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan and expressed solidarity with Pakistan army. The participants paid tribute to the Shuhada of Chitral Scouts. They assured that the local community will stand by security forces. They also assured zero tolerance against the social media activists floating negative sentiments. The local population of Chitral had come out in support of Pakistan army and was helping in transporting weapons, ammunition and food to the forward posts of the army.

Who cares about peoples' miseries, Sheikh Rashid questions key politicians

RAWALPINDI (INP): The people of Pakistan are paying the price of inefficiencies of all of them [political leaders], he said in his latest post on X (formerly known as Twitter). He said real challenges the masses were facing were poverty and unemployment which were not a priority for political leaders. Taking jibe at the PML-N president, the seasoned politician said Shehbaz Sharif.



KARACHI: A view of traffic jam at Hasan square.