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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Task force to determine sizes of federal, provincial govts: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Sunday said a task force headed by the finance minister would determine the sizes of federal and provincial governments, look at options to better manage pension funds, besides making efforts to rationalize public expenditure and increase revenue.

In an interview with a private television, he said, "We are convinced that there is a need to rationalise expenditure and increase the revenue

of the government to create a viable state and lessen existential threats due to economic vulnerability."

He said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was attempting to help achieve appropriate governance and address the reasons for ill governance in the past.

The civil institutions were laxed in their working in the past but now the army leadership with its organizational strength had increased the level of confidence of civil society

which had renewed energy to implement policies and achieve goals, he added.

The prime minister said the government was optimistic about investment from Saudi Arabia in the backdrop of talks between Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Bin Salman and Pakistan's chief of army staff.

The government was planning for a visit of the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, adding the visit would be aimed at fully exploiting economic opportunities in the country.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing a press conference in Islamabad.

Allies may be running away from elections: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (Online): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhatto-Zardari said on Sunday it may be the case that his party's allies in the erstwhile Pakistan Democratic Movement-led ruling coalition were "scared" and "running away from elections."

"I have been telling my allies for the past 18 months that if you get scared, you die [in politics]."

"Unfortunately, the rest of our political allies have been scared. They are afraid. They run away from by-elections and local government elections, and maybe, they now want to run away from general elections," he said while addressing the public at the inauguration ceremony of Hussainabad Water Filtration Plant in Hyderabad.

His statement appeared to be a criticism of the PPP's allies for prioritising delimitation over holding elections within the constitutionally mandated 90-day period following the dissolution of

assemblies.

The PPP was one of the major allies in the coalition, which also included the PML-N and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (Fazl), that came to power after ousting former prime minister Imran Khan through a no-confidence motion in April last year.

The coalition's term in the government ended on August 9 with the premature dissolution of the National Assembly, three days ahead of its constitutionally mandated period.

According to Article 224 of the Constitution, elections should be held within 90 days — by November 9 in this case — of the premature dissolution of the NA.

However, the Election Commission of Pakistan has ruled out elections being held this year, citing the need to conduct fresh delimitation of constituencies after the notification of new 2023 digital census results. The ECP refers to Section 17(2) of the Elections Act

on the matter, which states: "The commission shall delimit constituencies after every census is officially published."

For its part, the PPP has taken a tough stance for elections within three months, standing against its former allies who seem to be favouring polls after the completion of the delimitation process, which could stretch them beyond the constitutionally mandated limit of 90 days.

However, PPP Co-Chairperson and Bilawal's father, Asif Ali Zardari, said in a statement yesterday that "completing the delimitation exercise was necessary before holding polls". But, when Bilawal was queried on the statement that seemed a deviation from the PPP's stance, he stated his preference to stick by decisions made by the party leadership, i.e. elections within 90 days, instead of his father's stance, saying he was only "bound to follow his father in family matters".



HYDERABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party addressing the inauguration ceremony of 10 MGD Water Filter Plant Hussainabad.

No action being taken against any politician in Sindh: Home minister

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Home Minister Brigadier (ret'd) Harris Nawaz Sunday denied allegations of political victimisation in the province, asserting that no action is being taken against any politician.

The minister's statement comes amidst heightened political tensions in the province after a series of alleged reports began surfacing regarding politicians, particularly from the Pakistan People's Party, being placed on a stop list and their homes being raided in a bid to uncover corrupt practices.

Last month, sources said that a PPP politician and former provincial minister, Mukesh Chawla, has been placed on the interim stop list following National Accountability Bureau's

(NAB) inquiry pertaining to misuse of authority and corruption in a vehicle registration scam.

However, the anti-corruption authority was restrained from arresting him after he approached the Sindh High Court against his possible arrest. Chawla's plea stated that his residence was raided, although there had been no call-up notice issued to him in connection with any NAB inquiry.

The sources added that the names of more than 60 government officials close to the PPP have also been included in the stop list.

Additionally, the inquiries were expected to be opened in the anti-graft body's office in Karachi against government officers close to PPP, the sources added.

Seven terrorists killed, six critically injured in Chitral fire exchange

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as seven terrorists were killed while another six got critically injured during an intense fire exchange that took place between the security forces and terrorists in the general area Ursoon, Chitral District on Sunday.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Army troops effectively engaged terrorists' location.

The sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

The locals of the area appreciated the operation by the security forces and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country, the ISPR said.

PTI claims Dar kidnapped from Karachi, forcibly disappeared

KARACHI (Online): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has alleged that its party leader Usman Dar has been abducted and forcibly disappeared from Karachi. In the statement issued by PTI, it is said that Usman Dar was abducted by unknown persons from Malir area of Karachi. The statement demanded that a new series of enforced disappearances of PTI leaders had begun, Usman Dar should be recovered and produced before a concerned court.

Tehreek-e-Insaf said that first Aun Abbas Bhatti, then Sadaqat Abbasi and now Usman Dar were kidnapped, this new strategy to crush the party and this will also fail like the previous tactics.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy Ali Muhammad Chairing a meeting with officers of K electric.

Implementing principles of Quaid-e-Azam will lead Pak on path of development: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): While paying heartfelt and rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his 75th death Anniversary, Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said, "following the principles outlined by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in letter and spirit will lead Pakistan on the path of development and progress."

He also said every Pakistani needs to follow the principles of tolerance and forbearance for peaceful co-existence of a pluralist society.

He also said that Quaid-e-Azam always followed principles of democracy and his struggle was constitutional.

PPP supports elections in 90 days, Shazia Marri

MANANWALA (Online): Former Federal Minister Shazia Marri has said that Pakistan People's Party is in favor of elections in 90 days.

Benazir Income Support Program is nothing less than a blessing for the poor people of Pakistan, from which the women of the country are benefiting, she added. She also mentioned the propaganda regarding him of the export of 97 billion dollars on social media is condemnable, which has nothing to do with reality.

These views were expressed by former federal minister Shazia Marri while talking to the delegation from Mananwala led by the provincial candidate PP 141 Sheikhupura Rana Rizwan Ali Raffaqat of Mananwala. She said that the workers of Pakistan People's

passing these challenges required implementing the Quaid's teaching in their true spirit.

Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah never compromised on his principles.

He also said every Pakistani needs to follow the principles of tolerance and forbearance for peaceful co-existence of a pluralist society.

He also said that Quaid-e-Azam always followed principles of democracy and his struggle was constitutional.

Pak-Saudi joint naval exercise continue in Arabian Gulf

RIYADH (Online): Joint naval exercises of Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Navy are going on in the deep sea of Arabian Gulf in Saudi Arabia. According to the details, Pakistan and Saudi navies are continuing joint military exercises in the ongoing naval exercises called Al-Bahr 14 in the Persian Gulf of Al-Jubail region of Saudi Arabia.

These exercise includes the stages of combat in the war zone on land including guarding the maritime borders. On Monday, September 11, a ceremony will be held on PNS Saif, in which the Commanding Officer Commodore Atiqur Rehman will give a briefing regarding the Pak-Saudi naval exercises.

20 injured in Zhob bus, truck collision

ZHOB (INP): At least 20 people including women and children were injured in collision between passenger bus and a truck at D.I Khan National Highway on Sunday.

According to details, a Zhob bound passenger bus coming from Peshawar got out of control of driver due to failure of brakes and rammed into an onion laden truck near Sarah Khawara area of Zhob.

As a result of accident, 20 people including four women and eight children were injured. The injured were shifted to hospital where condition of some wounded people was stated to be critical.

Bugti says No mercy for smugglers, vows to eliminate terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti said on Sunday that the government has adopted zero tolerance policy to curb smuggling of US dollars, sugar, fertiliser and petroleum products.

"The federal government has started action by registering cases against the elements involved in illegal activities," said Bugti while addressing a press conference here.

The interior minister said law will take its course if anyone found guilty in crimes like, Hundi, Hawala, Smuggling of sugar, wheat, fertilizers and other illegal activities.

It is prime responsibility of the people to keep a vigilant eye in their surroundings, said Bugti urging the masses to report such activities for timely action.

He stated that the government has taken a tough stance on terrorism, adding all resources were being utilized to purge the menace of the country.

Regarding the Chitral attack, Bugti commended the Pakistan Army's swift response and the people's resilience against terrorism.

He stressed that the government would not allow anyone to impose their agenda through force and will defend every inch of the territory.

Interior Minister expressed hope that the Afghan government would uphold its Doha agreement, ensuring that Afghan soil was not used against anyone.

Furthermore, Bugti mentioned ongoing efforts to address illegal immigration, with plans to repatriate illegal immigrants in the near future.



Moroccan Royal Armed Forces search through the rubble of houses after an earthquake in the mountain village of Tafeghaghte, southwest of the city of Marrakesh.

Hawala Hundi, Iranian oil smuggling: Details of officials, politicians and dealers submitted to PM House

ISLAMABAD (Online): Details of officers, politicians and dealers involved in hundi business and Iranian oil smuggling have been provided to Prime Minister House.

Sources said that this report has been submitted by the government agency, according to the report, 722 currency dealers in Pakistan are involved in hundi business.

The highest number of hawala hundi dealers are 205 in Punjab, 183 dealers in KP and 176 dealers in Sindh doing hundi business, 104 dealers in Baluchistan and 37 dealers in Azad Kashmir involved in hundi, 17 dealers doing hundi business in Federal Capital Islamabad.

According to the report, more than 2 billion 81 million liters of oil is smuggled from Iran to Pakistan annually.

The earning from Iranian oil smuggling are used by terrorists, 76 dealers are involved in oil smuggling in the areas adjacent to the border.

995 pumps sell Iranian oil across the country, 90 government officials are involved in Iranian oil smuggling, 29 politicians are also involved in Iranian oil business, PSO vehicles are also involved in the transportation of Iranian oil from Iran.

Oil comes to Pakistan smuggled in Iranian vehicles, Iranian oil smuggling vehicles are called Zam Yad.



KARACHI: Caretaker Balochistan Minister for Information and Public Relations Jan Achakzai addresses a press conference at Press Club.

Massive crackdown launched to combat power theft

ISLAMABAD (APP): A massive crackdown has been launched by the Caretaker Government to combat the alarming surge in power theft and to take stern actions against the culprits involved.

On the directives of the government, the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has expedited the drive against power pilferage and caught 105 meters and imposed fine of Rs 7.567 million for stealing electricity in various areas of the company in the current month.

IESCO chief Dr Muhammad Amjad said that during the current crackdown against electricity thieves, the field formations checked 5,743 meters and found 105 meters of the electricity consumers involved in power theft through various means.

As many as 73 meters

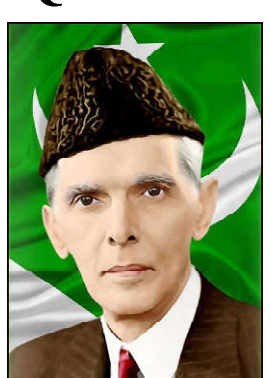
were found tampered while 22 were getting direct power supply, he said and added that a fine of Rs 7.567 million was imposed on the power pilferers while charging over 177,000 units.

He said on the directives of the Federal Minister for Energy, the IESCO launched the crackdown against electricity thieves and their facilitators in all circles including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal circles.

All operation circles, including In-charge Executives and SDOs, were rigorously inspecting industrial, commercial, domestic and other tariff categories within their respective areas, the IESCO chief said.

He said that the local administration and police were also assisting the Company to carry out the operations.

Nation observes death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam today



Various organizations will hold ceremonies to pay tribute to the father of nation and political and social leaders will address these ceremonies.

Newspapers will publish additional additions and PTV and other national and regional channels will broadcast special programs to honor the founder of nation. Quaid-e-Azam was born on Dec 25, 1876 in Wazir Mention Karachi. He was great leader. His leadership skill brought a separate country to Muslims of the subcontinent.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah became the first governor general of Pakistan.



KARACHI: Members of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat are holding Azmat-e-Sahaba and Ahlebait rally, at Shahrah-e-Quaideen in Karachi.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Lack of clarity

The chaos and confusion within the ranks of those hoping for the Constitution to be upheld has weakened their hand. Consider the PTL, which has recently demanded that President Arif Alvi exercise his constitutional power and announce a date for the general elections forthwith.

According to a press release, the party's core committee passed a unanimous resolution to this effect during a recent meeting. Interestingly, there was no mention of who actually attended the meeting or where it was held.

With most of the party's senior leadership currently in prison or on the lam, the PTL is trying to put up a brave face. However, it clearly is in no position to be making demands.

Then there is the PPP, which seems rather confused about its commitment to constitutional principles. Just days ago, the party's central executive committee said it would push the Election Commission — legally, if need be — to ensure elections were held within the stipulated time frame.

Publicly, however, top PPP leaders have seemed a lot more flexible on election dates. It is, therefore, unsurprising that many believe the party's sudden remembrance of democratic values is little more than a bargaining chip.

Meanwhile, the legal fraternity, too, has entered the fray. But while the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Pakistan Bar Council both seem to be in agreement that elections must not be delayed, they stand divided on other matters. The former recently hosted the All Pakistan Lawyers Convention to put forth the legal community's demands from a single platform, but the PBC chose not to attend.

President Alvi stands at the centre of the crisis, but he, too, seems to be having second thoughts after a tentative attempt to assert his position. With the pressure building on him to announce a date, rumours have been circulating that a recent visit from two high-profile officers might be the reason why he has been keeping a low profile.

Whatever the separate challenges being faced by each of these stakeholders, they need to demonstrate some unity of purpose if they are truly committed to upholding the Constitution. There are some in this country who view the law as an inconvenience in the way of their grand plans. Much damage has already been done thus far because the resistance to their unlawful actions has been weak and unorganised. Now, the only hope for those who wish to see the constitutional order restored is to refocus their energies on the core demand — free and fair elections within 90 days. The ongoing assault on the Constitution must be resisted if the nation is to continue hoping for a democratic future. It may yet be an attainable goal. The mistake made in allowing the KP and Punjab elections to be delayed must not be repeated.

Sleepless in Karachi



Muna Khan

When I moved to Hanoi in 2008 to work at a newspaper as a copy editor, my toughest challenge was readjusting my meal timings. Our shifts began at 2pm, ended at 9pm and we received a half-hour break to grab dinner around 6pm, so we could only really go in the neighbourhood to eat. Vietnam is a diner's delight especially when it comes to street food and affordable cafés all over cities, towns, villages. You're never starved for options.

Hanoi awoke by sunrise and was dead by 9pm. So of course, I adjusted. I ate breakfast by 8am, lunch at noon and dinner at 6pm, even on my days off. Everyone did. I have continued this habit, with exceptions and only in Pakistan where I'm convinced we're all owls. Whenever I have struggled with sleep, I have modified my routine to accommodate it — sometimes with supplements, tweaking diet, exercise, not watching television news past 8pm, etc. But for the last year or so, I am struggling to sleep again and am sicker, slower, unhappy.

I suspect I am not alone. I am consumed with thoughts about the economy, the country's security, the speed at which we seem to be moving towards martial rule and how this impacts my family's future. I do not know what else to disconnect from without living in a world oblivious to one's surroundings.

There is a saying how sleep is a luxury few can afford; I think the same is true for living in

delusion, a disconnect or unawareness to what is happening in Pakistan.

But we know sleep is essential to health — it impacts our heart, hormones and overall immune system. The sleep industry continues to witness incredible growth. A BCC report estimates "the sleep aids market is projected to grow from \$84.6 billion in 2021 to \$125.3bn in 2027, at a compound annual growth rate of 6.9 per cent during the forecast period". However, very few of us can now afford fancy gadgets like white noise machines, or cooling pads for your bed, or therapeutic weighted blankets or \$15 a month subscription plans to apps.

Before technology truly took over our lives, it was possible to sleep without aids. My parents, who grew up on farms pre-Partition, had a routine which involved waking, schooling, napping, playing and bedtime — outdoors in the summer, indoors in the winter. Their village was their community. They both experienced wars but never talked about anxiety. The global anxiety treatment market size is expected to grow from \$10.89bn in 2020 to \$13.03bn in 2027 according to Fortune. A good friend once called a commonly used muscle relaxant a recreational drug here.

My doctor recently reminded me how modern humans have been around for 200,000 years but we've migrated to cities over the last several centuries. He believes we're not really equipped for this modern lifestyle — overly processed food, less time in nature, strenuous exercise at gyms versus walking for miles on end, which is what our ancestors did. Their lives revolved around nature's rules: up at sunrise, asleep after sunset. There is a lot of debate

about what homo sapiens ate but there are new studies to show our ancestors ate grains and carbs and gluten — things that cause fear today.

We can return to practising our ancestors' habits but can we break our reliance on our devices which play a major role in disrupting our sleep environment and behaviour? It's not about X hours of sleep a night but consistent hours of sleep.

Light majorly impacts the circadian rhythm which is why the neuroscientist podcaster Andrew Huberman (must watch) recommends spending 20 minutes in natural light within an hour of waking to regulate mood and energy levels. Most of our internal clocks follow the sun's pattern. The more exposure you have to artificial light post sunset, the more disrupted your circadian rhythm and sleep.

I have avoided all doctors' following advice because I know it will be my next toughest challenge: switch off screens at least two hours before bedtime. The device's blue light disrupts the sleep cycle as it suppresses the production of melatonin, a natural hormone which helps us feel sleepy. I admit whenever I read a book in bed, I fall asleep quicker but I'm struggling to break the Netflix habit. While it will be hard, it is also the only advice I can truly afford to do along with drinking three litres of water (12 glasses a day), most of it in the day, the last glass being two hours before I sleep. And eating my last meal four hours before I sleep if it is meat and two hours if it is plant based. However, hearing my doctor's number one advice had a profound impact on me and inspired this column: practice happiness. It is key to good sleep. — Courtesy Dawn

Redefining defence



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Every Sept 6, Pakistan marks Defence Day to celebrate the determination of the nation and its armed forces to defend the country against India's aggression in 1965. The war lasted only 17 days, and peace was restored by the Tashkent Agreement of 1966. As happens in most wars, there were no real winners. India was unable to penetrate Pakistan's defences. Pakistan could not liberate Jammu and Kashmir illegally occupied by India.

Regrettably, the experience of 1965 war did not prevent the two countries from fighting another war in 1971, leading to the separation of East Pakistan. In 1999, another limited war took place on the Kargil heights. However, in this century, the two neighbours have never fought a major war though they came close to it during the military stand-off of 2001-02. One reason is the nuclear deterrence that both countries established in May 1998. The other main reason is that the nature of war has changed. We are living in the age of hybrid wars, where kinetic action is the last resort, and much of the battle is waged in the information, economic and other domains to break the will of the enemy. This is sometimes referred to as the fifth-generation of war. With the advent of artificial intelligence, robotics, we are witnessing the onset of sixth-generation warfare.

Defence Day should be an occasion to prepare the nation to guard against today's complex wars that blend conven-

tional, unconventional, economic, cyber, and psychological warfare, media manipulation, cultural invasions, and relentless propaganda to create confusion about the core values that hold a nation together. On most occasions, the target may not even know it is under attack.

An argument is often made that much of what Pakistan is facing is because of its own doing; we should, therefore, not blame others, and instead, address our own vulnerabilities. Others, however, believe we cannot disregard the possibility of hybrid war imposed by our detractors, manifested vividly in concerted disinformation campaigns, economic coercion, lawfare, and even cyberattacks. The National Security Policy, that was announced last year, advised a comprehensive approach to national security, comprising not just traditional defence but also economic and human security.

Hence we must be reminded that Pakistan needs a robust defence strategy that employs all elements of national power. Fortunately, our diplomacy is resilient and can serve as the first line of defence. Our armed forces are disciplined and organised. Our nuclear capability deters possible aggression. The entire nation got together against the menace of terrorism. We have a young intelligent human resource, which if educated and trained can serve the nation well. We are also blessed with agricultural and mineral wealth. And our diaspora is dynamic and ready to serve the motherland.

These are notable strengths. However, we need a strategy that integrates all these elements of national power. First and foremost, we need a whole-of-the-nation approach on matters of national security. No decisions should be taken by any institution

in isolation, nor by any leader on a whim. The chain is only as strong as its weakest link. To that end, forging broad political consensus on national security imperatives is an absolute must.

Secondly, most of our vulnerabilities stem from our weak economy. We spend more than we earn, obliging us to depend on foreign donors. Internal and external debts are mounting. Exports are stagnant. Doing business in Pakistan is not easy. Corruption is pervasive, and the inflation rate so high that the life of the common man has become miserable. The need of the hour is to give the highest priority to reviving our economy and building a national political consensus on economic policies. Unless we are economically resilient, modern warfare against us will remain a serious threat to national stability.

Thirdly, in a hybrid warfare environment, image is as important as reality. Since 9/11, Pakistan's image has been associated with terrorism and extremism. Hostile lobbies ensure that this image remains, despite the fact that Pakistan has fought against terrorism like no other nation has. Creative cultural diplomacy can help change the way the world looks at Pakistan, building on our strengths: glorious civilisational heritage, mighty mountains, and multiple faiths. Our film industry, academia, and diaspora can also help project our true image to millions of people around the world.

Addressing our vulnerabilities and inculcating good governance is the best way to defend our country in the years ahead. Our problems are monumental and may appear insurmountable, but failure is not an option. As Nelson Mandela said: "It always seems impossible until it's done." — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Railways Minister charts plan for revenue boost, safety enhancement

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Railways Minister Shahid Afridi is actively pursuing measures to enhance railway revenue, as revealed during his recent visit to the PR headquarters here on Sunday.

During the visit, he reviewed the performance of various railway departments, emphasizing the importance of efficient resource utilization and the completion of projects in the public interest.

The minister also stressed the need to prevent track material theft and secure redundant tracks while directing the

ministry to compile a progress report on transitioning the railway network to solar energy. In a bid to boost freight revenue, he has instructed measures to be taken.

Furthermore, Minister Afridi ordered improvements to the signal system for enhanced safety and called for a plan for the disposal of unusable coaches and locomotives. He expressed his commitment to revitalizing the dignity of the railways and personally ensuring timely payment of salaries and pensions to employees.

In a significant move, it was decided to upgrade

the post of Railway Police Constable to Grade 7, underscoring the importance of safety during travel. The minister pledged swift action in case of train accidents.

During his visit to the Mughalpura Workshop in Lahore, Minister Afridi received a detailed briefing on its functioning and performance. He also sought recommendations or a business model to increase revenue from the workshop's output. The Chairman of Railways, CEO Railways, IGP Railway Police, and principal officers were present during this important review.



LAHORE: People purchase used items due to price hiking, at makeshift weekly market near Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore.

IESCO detects 105 meters, imposes Rs 7.567 mln fine on power pilferers

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the directives of the government, the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has expedite drive against power pilferage and caught 105 meters and imposed fine of Rs 7.567 million for stealing electricity in various areas of the company in the current month.

IESCO Chief Dr Muhammad Amjad in a statement said that during the current crackdown against electricity thieves, the field formations checked 5,743

meters and found 105 meters were involved in electricity theft through various means. As many as 73 meters were found tampered while 22 were getting direct power supply, he said. He said fine of Rs 7.567 million has imposed on the power pilferers while charging over 177,000 units. He said on directives of the Federal Minister for Energy, the IESCO launched crackdown against electricity thieves and their facilitators in all circles including Islamabad-Rawalpindi.

IMF urges pact to boost its resource quota, strengthen world economy

NEW DELHI: It is vital to increase quota resources for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before year-end, its chief, Kristalina Georgieva, said on Sunday, while urging members of the G20 bloc to deliver on a promise of \$100 billion a year in climate funds.

In a declaration at its summit in New Delhi this weekend, the grouping vowed to tackle debt vulnerabilities in low and middle-income countries "in an effective, comprehensive and systematic manner", but offered no fresh plan of action.

"G20 members must lead by example in delivering on the promises of \$100 billion per year for climate finance, supported by strengthening the multilateral development banks," Georgieva said in the two-day summit.



KARACHI: A delegation of World Bank meeting with Provincial Finance Minister Muhammad Younis Dhaga.

Implementing structural reforms key to stimulate sustainable growth: BMP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Businessmen Panel (BMP) of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) has stressed the need for implementing structural reforms for good governance, curbing unproductive state expenditures, expanding the tax base, fostering public-private partnerships, and reallocating resources to critical sectors to stimulate sustainable growth, as the country is facing with daunting economic challenges, posing a serious threat to the viability of the industry.

Chairman BMP and former president FPCCI Mian Anjum Nisar observed that it was imperative to understand that fiscal discipline cannot be achieved and sustained without initiating structural reforms. He said that the government in the 2023 budget extended substantial subsidies and grants to loss-making entities, which, in turn, were not only failing to make positive contribution but were also incurring significant losses. We must maintain fiscal discipline and establish controls to create fiscal space to extend relief to the masses.

Quoting the reports, the business leader said that the budget deficit continues to grow, entangling Pakistan in an unrelenting cycle of debt. Even if we exclude the impact of debt servicing, our revenues fall short of covering other expenses, implying that all these were met from borrowed funds. At the close of the fiscal year (FY) 2022-23, Pakistan recorded a budget deficit of Rs 6.52 trillion, equivalent to 7.7% of the GDP, a slight decrease from the previous year's 7.9% of GDP. However, in absolute figures, the budget deficit surged by a substantial 24%, or Rs 1.26 trillion, within just one year.

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Naqvi, CCIs presidents discuss industrial promotion

LAHORE (APP): Presidents of the chambers of commerce & industry (CCIs) met Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi to discuss proposals for promotion of industries here at the CM Office on Sunday.

Six major CCIs will submit their recommendations for one-window operation of industries.

"We would provide all possible facilities and resources for the promotion of industries in Punjab," the caretaker CM said adding that no problem would be faced in setting up a new industry and running the old industry.

It was agreed that six main chambers would submit their comprehensive proposals, which would be considered for making functional one-window operation.

Matters and issues of industries relating to the provincial departments would be resolved at a single place. All NOCs for the establishment of new industrial units and the old industries would be also get various NOCs through one-window.

The federal government departments would be allowed to set up their desks at one window on matters relating to electricity and gas.



QUETTA: Vendor sells apples to earn his livelihood for support of his family, at a roadside located on Joint road in Quetta.

Five-days training workshop on productivity assessment concludes

ISLAMABAD (APP): A 5-day international training workshop for assessors of the productivity specialist's certification programme concluded here, the other day. National Productivity Organization (NPO) in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), in Japan organized the training workshop. Seventeen from APO member countries and five local participants attended the training while resource speakers from Singapore, Malaysia, and Mongolia delivered the lectures.

The workshop was aimed at developing qualified assessors in national productivity organizations that can serve as APO-

accredited certification bodies and explain the methods, criteria, and competencies required to conduct assessments for the certification of productivity specialists. The speakers addressing the closing ceremony of the event were of the viewpoint that the programme would help in promoting the cause of producing certified productivity professionals to support the agenda of creating a productivity improvement culture in Pakistan.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

Asia Cup 2023: Pakistan, India rain-hit match to resume today

Batting first India were 147/2 in 24.1 overs when rain paused game

Sports Desk

COLOMBO: Amid incessant rain, umpires on Sunday decided to call off the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4 clash between arch-rivals Pakistan and India for today and the game will continue from the same point from tomorrow (Monday) with no overs lost.

Pakistan won the toss and decided to bowl first against India in the high-voltage clash. When the match was stopped due to rain, India were 147/2 in 24.1 overs.

At one stage it seemed that a 34-over match would

be possible but rain once again returned to dash the hopes of cricket fans.

According to the playing conditions, the game will continue from this point tomorrow with no overs lost. Pakistan have fielded an unchanged playing XI for this high-voltage clash. Meanwhile, India have made two changes with one of them being forced after Shreyas Iyer picked up a spasm in the back moments before the toss and will be replaced by KL Rahul. Jasprit Bumrah has also replaced Mohammad Shami in India's lineup.

After beating Bangladesh by seven wickets in their first Super Four match, the Men in Green will look forward to continuing their excellent form in the Asia Cup.

"We will bowl first. I think there is a bit of moisture, we need to use that. Always, India-Pakistan is high intensity, but we will take it match to match. As a team, we are playing well, we are focused on this one," Pakistan captain Babar Azam said at the toss.

Pakistan have fielded an unchanged playing XI for this high-voltage clash.



MULTAN: Members of Punjab Teachers Union are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Multan press club.

111 Cases registered against drivers involved in serious traffic violations

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police has decided to intensify the crackdown on drivers violating traffic rules and 111 cases have been registered against drivers involved in serious violations in different police stations jurisdictions during the last three days, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special direction of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police started registering the cases against traffic rules violators

involved in serious traffic violations. The police teams also issued 11,708 challan tickets and impounded 201 vehicles and 565 motorcycles during the last three days. During the last 24 hours the police teams issued 32 challan tickets on overcharging traveling fares and 79 on overloading and impound 75 vehicles and 97 motorcycles at different police stations.

In addition to the traffic congestion unit, special squads have also been deployed at various highways and important boulevards of the federal capital.

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16 outlaws arrested: drug, liquor and weapons recovered

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 16 outlaws during the last 24 hours from different areas of the city and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, 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 Kohsar police team arrested an accused

namely Marcus Masih involved in drug peddling and recovered 175 gram heroin from his possession. The Golra police team arrested an accused namely Asad Mehmoed involved in illegally refilling gas cylinders.

Likewise, the Sumbal police team arrested an accused namely Zeeshan involved in liquor selling and recovered 30 liters of liquor from his possession. The Tarnol police team arrested an accused namely Juman involved in illegally selling diesel.

Similarly, the Sangiani police team arrested an accused namely Hamza Ahmed involved in illegally selling petrol.



PESHAWAR: Safety wall of Faqirabad Bridge seen broken that may cause any accident and also inviting authorities to draw their attention towards issue, in Peshawar.

IESCO detects 105 meters, imposes Rs 7.567 mln fine on power pilferers

ISLAMABAD (APP):

On the directives of the government, the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has expedite drive against power pilferage and caught 105 meters and imposed fine of Rs 7.567 million for stealing electricity in various areas of the company in the current month.

IESCO Chief Dr Muhammad Amjad in a statement said that during the current crackdown against electricity thieves, the field formations checked 5,743 meters and found 105 meters were involved in electricity theft through various means.

As many as 73 meters were found tampered while 22 were getting direct power supply, he said.

He said fine of Rs 7.567 million has imposed on the power pilferers while charging over 177,000 units.

He said on directives of the Federal Minister for Energy, the IESCO launched crackdown against electricity thieves and their facilitators in the all circles including Islamabad-Rawalpindi-Attock-Jhelum and Chakwal circles.



MUZAFFARABAD: Deserving women showing their Roshan cards as stands in a queue for collecting free food package distributing from Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Global Initiatives.

Fakhar wins hearts after helping out ground staff in Pak, India clash

Sports Desk

COLOMBO: Netizens took to social media to praise Pakistan's top order batsman Fakhar Zaman as he helped ground staff put on covers as the rain interrupted the Super 4 match between arch-rivals India and Pakistan being played in Colombo.

PR spends Rs.1862m for rehabilitation of track between Kotri-Khanpur

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is spending Rs. 1862.84 million for the rehabilitation of 518 kilometers of track between Kotri-Khanpur under the project of Immediate Track Safety Works (ITSW-I).

Despite financial constraints, the management of Pakistan Railways is putting maximum effort into improving infrastructure including tracks, bridges, and stations, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Under the project of rehabilitation of Karachi

Port tracks, 24-kilometre tracks, 17 level crossings, and seven bridges have been rehabilitated, along with the replacement of turnouts.

The official said that Railway Dry Ports at Lahore (Mughalpura), Badami Bagh, and Azakhel have been upgraded.

He said under the Immediate Track Safety Works (ITS W-II & IMTS W-III), the railway track between Tando Adam-Khanpur covering 456 kilometers would be rehabilitated at a cost of Rs. 4830.437 million and

Rs.4875.461 million, respectively, by replacing the US components of the track and ensuring the safety of train operation.

A PC-I amounting to Rs.4930.22 million for the rehabilitation of track machinery has been approved, which would ensure the quality of track maintenance work.

Meanwhile, 11 stations have been upgraded, including Peshawar, Hassan Abdal, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Narawal, Nankana Sahib, Raiwind, Okara, Sahiwal,

and Bahawalpur, under PSDP projects.

The project of up-gradation of Main Line-I at a cost of \$6.683 billion has been negotiated with the Chinese side for completing the ML-I in two phases consisting of four packages, he added.

The assets of Pakistan Railways are mainly related to the track (11881 kilometers), and rolling stock (15699), and most of these assets have lived their useful life.

Therefore, he said the department has taken

several measures for efficient maintenance of these assets, which include an increase in fiscal space for maintenance through the transfer of pensions, reduced utility bills through solarization, improved procurement management through prioritized procurement, and an efficient fuel management system.

He said the department is gradually shifting from a manual to a mechanized track maintenance regime for enhanced productivity and quality.

International News

G20 summit wraps up in New Delhi; Macron says it confirms isolation of Russia

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: The G20 summit in New Delhi ended on Sunday as India handed over the bloc presidency to Brazil, while both the US and Russia praised a consensus that did not condemn Moscow for the war in Ukraine but called on members to shun the use of force.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the group's leaders to hold a virtual meeting in November to review progress on policy suggestions and goals announced at the weekend.

"It is our responsibility to look at the suggestions that have been made to see how progress can be accelerated," he said in a statement.

On Saturday, the group adopted a Leaders' Declaration that avoided condemning Russia for the war but highlighted the human suffering the conflict had caused and called on all states not to use force to grab territory.

The consensus came as a surprise. In the weeks leading to the summit, sharply differing views on the war had threatened to derail the meeting, with Western nations demanding members call out Moscow for the invasion and Russia saying it would block any resolution that did not reflect its position.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, the head of the Russian delegation, said the summit was a success for India as well as the Glo-

bal South, the world's developing countries.

The Global South's position in the talks helped prevent the G20 agenda from being overshadowed by Ukraine, he told a press conference. "India has truly consolidated G20 members from the Global South."

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters the summit declaration "does a very good job of standing up for the principle that states cannot use force to seek territorial acquisition or to violate the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other states".

Germany and Britain have also praised the resolution, but Ukraine said "it was nothing to be proud of".



U.N. special envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen meets with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad, in Damascus, Syria.

Zelensky dismisses compromise with Putin, pointing to Prigozhin's death

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has said the death of Yevgeny Prigozhin - the Russian mercenary leader whose plane crashed weeks after he led a mutiny against Moscow's military leadership - shows what happens when people make deals with Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

As Ukraine's counter-offensive moves into a fourth month, with only

modest gains to show so far, Zelensky told CNN's Fared Zakaria he rejected suggestions it was time to negotiate peace with the Kremlin.

"When you want to have a compromise or a dialogue with somebody, you cannot do it with a liar," Volodymyr Zelensky said.

He said when Putin understood that a big part of society supported Prigozhin, "he killed him.

Scientist shocks peers by 'tailoring' climate study

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: In a controversial bid to expose supposed bias in a top journal, a US climate expert shocked fellow scientists by revealing he tailored a wildfire study to emphasise global warming.

Climate activists block Dutch motorway in major protest

Monitoring Desk

THE HAGUE: Climate change activists blocked a major motorway in The Hague on Saturday in a protest against Dutch fossil fuel subsidies, the latest high-profile action by the Extinction Rebellion group that attracted several thousand demonstrators. Police deployed water cannon against some of the activists, who have threatened a permanent blockade of the motorway, vowing to "stay or come back every day" until fossil fuel subsidies are dropped.



Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, U.S. President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pay their tributes at the Rajghat, a Mahatma Gandhi memorial, in New Delhi, India.

Biden says Vietnam deal is about global stability, not containing China

Monitoring Desk

HANOI: President Joe Biden insisted Sunday that he is not trying to start a "cold war" with China as he made his first visit to Vietnam, saying his goal is to provide stability around the world by building U.S. ties with Vietnam and other Asian countries.

"We have an opportunity to strengthen alliances around the world to maintain stability. That's what this trip is all about," Biden said at a news conference. "It's not about containing China. It's about having a

stable base." The U.S. president came to Hanoi as Vietnam is elevating the United States to its highest diplomatic status as a comprehensive strategic partner, evidence of how far the relationship has evolved from what Biden referred to as the "bitter past" of the Vietnam War.

The expanded partnership reflected a broader effort across Asia to counter China's influence as Biden has said Vietnam wants to show its independence and U.S. companies want an alternative to Chi-

nese factories. But Biden is pursuing these agreements while simultaneously trying to cool any tensions with China.

Biden, meeting earlier Sunday with Vietnam's leaders, welcomed the two countries' new partnership and said he hoped progress could be made on climate, the economy and other issues during his 24-hour visit to Hanoi. "We can trace a 50-year arc of progress between our nations from conflict to normalization to this new elevated status."

Russian, Chinese officials attend North Korea anniversary parade

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea marked its founding anniversary with a parade attended by leader Kim Jong Un as well as Russian diplomats and a high-ranking Chinese delegation, state media said on Saturday, as Pyongyang deepens ties with Moscow and Beijing.

Kim met with the visiting Chinese delegation led by Liu Guozhong, vice-premier of the State Council, the second such

visit by top officials from Beijing in six weeks. The two sides announced their aims of "further intensifying the multi-faceted coordination and cooperation" between the two countries, according to a separate KCNA report. Russian diplomats also attended the event, as well as a Russian military song-and-dance ensemble which had arrived in Pyongyang to mark the occasion, KCNA reported.

Putin discusses Niger crisis with Malian leader-Kremlin

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday held a phone call with the interim leader of Mali, Assimi Goita, and discussed topics including anti-terrorism efforts and the crisis in Mali's neighbour Niger, the Kremlin said in a statement. According to the statement, the two leaders agreed that the crisis in Niger, where a July coup ousted President Mohammed Bazoum, could only be resolved by diplomatic means.

Excluding Russia from grain deal talks will not be sustainable, Erdogan says

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Any initiative to revive the Black Sea grain deal that isolates Russia is not likely to be sustainable, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said in a press briefing after the conclusion of the G20 summit in New Delhi on Sunday.

Russia quit the deal in July, a year after it was brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, complaining that its own food and fertiliser exports faced obstacles and insufficient Ukrainian grain was going to countries in need.

Russia, Ukraine and Turkey are going to con-

tinue to discuss the grain deal, Erdogan added.

Russia is willing to send free grain to poorer countries, which Turkey favours, he told reporters, adding that Qatar had also agreed.

Erdogan said he was not "hopeless" about reviving the grain deal.

The Turkish president also held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the sidelines of the G20 summit regarding efforts to revive the deal, two sources with knowledge of the matter said, without giving further details.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends a celebration event marking the 75th anniversary of the founding of the country.

Russia carries out overnight drone attack on Ukrainian capital

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Russia fired nearly three dozen drones at Kyiv early on Sunday, with blasts ringing out across the Ukrainian capital and the surrounding region for around two hours and debris falling across several city districts, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukraine's air force said the military destroyed 26 out of 33 drones launched by Russia, all of which targeted Kyiv and the region around it.

Reuters witnesses heard at least five explosions across Kyiv, where the nighttime sky was illuminated by blasts from air defences engaging the tar-

gets. A plume of smoke rose from in between buildings.

Kyiv resident Liudmyla said she heard the buzzing of the Iranian-made drones before a blast wave shattered windows in her building and the jars on her windmill. "It was a very frightening experience - I can't even put it into words."

Fragments from downed drones fell on five different districts, said Mayor Vitali Klitschko and the city's military administration. Klitschko said one person had been injured.

The state emergency service later reported that debris had fallen in three districts but that there was no serious damage.

Mushaal asks G20 to focus on ending HR abuses in IIOJK

Demands to press India to settle Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick has urged the G20 countries to use the opportunity to force the worst human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and ensure a lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute.

Mushaal, the wife of incarcerated Hurriyat Leader Yasin Malik, in a statement on Sunday pressed the G20 member countries, including US, UK, EU, China, France, Russia, Canada, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Türkiye to play their proactive role to resolve the Kashmir dispute because regional peace could not possible without settlement of the issue.

She stressed that the international community should look at the ongoing human rights violations and massacres of innocent

people instead of looking at their trade interests with India.

Mushaal demanded that the G-20 countries should make all political and social relations with India subject to the end of ongoing human rights violations in the occupied valley.

"Let's say you had no G-20 statement, headlines would say G-20 is finished, G-20 could be replaced by blocs like BRICS and G-7. So in a way by having a statement we keep the platform and the organisation alive," she said.

The SAPM said the Indian fascist government crossed all limits of barbarism and state terrorism and the world powers were well-aware of the fact that the occupied valley was turned into a largest open prisoner and torture cell.

She said many of the political figures, human rights defenders and journalists, including Yasin Malik, the Chairman

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), prominent political figures Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Farooq Dar and Khurram Parvez, the Program Coordinator of the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) and the Chairperson of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) and Irfan Meraj (journalist/human rights activist) were illegally detained in frivolous, bogus and politically motivated cases.

Mushaal said the notorious occupation authorities unleashed a reign of terror and used the rapes of women as the weapon of war, besides committing the worst war crimes.

The SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment said that the people of Kashmir had been facing these inhuman treatments for over seven decades due to their struggle for the right to self-determination.



HYDERABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with Kashif Ali Shoro, Mayor Hyderabad offering Dua after unveiling the plaque during the inauguration ceremony of 6 MGD Water Filter Plant, at Hussainabad in Hyderabad.

Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan to collaborate in healthcare sector: Dr Zhumaliev

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr Zhumaliev, Member Kyrgyz Republic Parliament and leader of the delegation currently visiting Pakistan on Sunday said that his visit signified demonstrating the highest degree of mutual interest between both countries in further strengthening bilateral trade relations, particularly in the healthcare sector.

Speaking at a reception hosted in his honour by Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis, he said the promotion of trade and industry between the two countries holds significant potential, said a news

release issued here.

"By identifying areas of common interest and fostering partnerships, we can pave the way for increased economic cooperation and growth", he added.

He said it was a significant and promising development in the realm of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

"The possibilities for collaboration are vast and promising in the field of medical education, both countries can benefit from knowledge exchange, joint research projects, and student exchanges", he remarked.

Another petroleum bombs ready for the public again

ISLAMABAD (Online): Next week petroleum products are likely to be expensive up to 15 rupees per liter. Crude oil has become expensive by 5 dollars per barrel in the world market during one week.

According to a private TV, crude oil prices increased in the global market and this has created the fears of a new inflationary storm in Pakistan.

If the value of the dollar does not decrease further, the prices of petroleum products may increase further from September 16.

According to the report, the price of crude oil in the Gulf market increased from 88 dollars per barrel to 93 dollars.

No country has recognized Kashmir as part of India: Jilil Abbas

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs Jilil Abbas Jilani has said that Kashmir is a disputed territory and no country of the world has recognized it as a part of India. Jilil Abbas Jilani in a media interview said Pakistan wants a peaceful neighbourhood and peaceful relations with all its neighbours, including India.

He said for peaceful relations, India must create a conducive atmosphere, including withdrawing August 5 2019 actions in the occupied territory.

Pakistan Cricket Board issues NOC to Sindh Premier League

PCB Chairman Chaudhry Zaka Ashraf hopes successful hosting of SPL to contribute to a new chapter in sports history of Sindh; SPL President Arif Malik considers NOC a crucial milestone; Nasir Shah emphasizes SPL embodies vision of Chairman Bilawal

Independent Report

KARACHI: In a remarkable development regarding cricket in Sindh, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has issued No-Objection Certificate (NOC) for the Sindh Premier League (SPL) the other day.

NOC was officially granted by PCB in a crucial meeting of SPL President Arif Malik and former provincial minister Nasir Hussain Shah with PCB Chairman Chaudhry Zaka Ashraf at the PCB headquarters.

Also present at the meeting were PCB Director Domestic Nadeem Khan and other high-ranking PCB officials.

The decision regarding grant of NOC for SPL has sparked jubilation among players, team owners, and officials in Sindh.

The SPL, which is being aligned with the vision of People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, promised to mark a new chapter in sports history, according to Chairman PCB Zaka Ashraf.

Speaking on the occasion, Nasir Hussain Shah emphasized that the SPL embodies the vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The league's goal is not only to nurture cricket talent in Sindh but also to showcase the rich culture of the region to the world. He expressed his delight at the PCB's issuance of the NOC for SPL, crediting former Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and his cabinet for their tireless efforts in transforming the league from an idea into reality.



HYDERABAD: Liaquat University of Medical and Health Science (LUMHS) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Iqbal Din Ujjan visit during the entry test for admission held at LUMHS in Jamshoro.

Afghanistan ready to resolve all issues with Pak through dialogue: Officials

KABUL (Online): The detailed statement of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the continuous closure of the Torkham border has come out.

The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that all issues with Pakistan are ready to be resolved through dialogue.

Our security team reconstructing an old outpost at Torkham was fired upon.

He said that border closure is not only bilateral but also detrimental to regional trade, our export containers are waiting for clearance at Karachi port.

Earlier, the Special Representative for Afghanistan Asif Durrani informed Pakistan's concerns and said that Afghanistan has tried to build a checkpoint inside Pakistan's border at Torkham border.

China, Pakistan to establish 'Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences' in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): China and Pakistan will establish a joint research center in October to promote the study of Earth sciences and sci-tech exchanges, an official in charge of the center's preparatory work said during the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services.

Hong Tianhua said, "China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences will be established in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, in October as a high-level scientific and technological innovation platform between the two countries to promote sci-

tech cooperation and talent cultivation."

"The center is being initiated by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and supported by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment under the CAS and Quaid-i-Azam University in Pakistan," Xinhua reported.

Its establishment also involves CAS-affiliated institutes and other Chinese research institutions, as well as universities in Pakistan, such as the University of Peshawar.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naqem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference held at Idara-e-Noorul-Haq in Karachi.

JKSDMI will continue to expose ugly, cruel face of India to world

MIRPUR (INP): The Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International (JKSDMI), Raja Najabat Hussain, has said that his organisation will continue to expose the ugly and cruel face of India to the whole world.

Raja Najabat Hussain expressed these views while addressing a dinner given in his honour by the former Director General of Mangla Dam Housing Authority Chaudhry Zulfiqar Azam.

He said the international community, instead of looking at their trade interests with India, should look at the ongoing human

rights violations and massacres of innocent people and make all political and social relations with India subject to the end of ongoing human rights violations in India.

He said the dangerous way in which India has started the massacre of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the minorities living in India can prove to be very dangerous not only for this region but also for the whole world. He will continue to fight the cause of Kashmiris until the entire Jammu and Kashmir becomes fully independent and joins Pakistan.



WASHINGTON: Ambassador Masood Khan & Senator Chris Van Hollen attending the Annual Meeting & Gala Dinner of the DMV chapter of APPNA as Chief Guests.

Pak-UAE to sign free trade agreement by September end

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries, and Production Dr Gohar Ejaz said that the South Asian country was expected to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during the upcoming visit of an Emirati delegation in the last week of September.

It is worth mentioning here that the UAE is Pakistan's third-largest trade partner after China and the United States. It is also viewed as an ideal export destination by policymakers in the South Asian country due to its geographical proximity to Pakistan which reduces transportation and freight costs. The Gulf country is also home to an estimated 1.8 million Pakistani expatriates and after Saudi Arabia, the second-largest

source of remittances for the South Asian nation of more than 240 million.

"Emirates delegation is planned for end September to finalize the FTA between Pakistan and UAE," Ejaz said, adding the visit would be focused on trade, investment, and economy, Arab News reported.

Pakistan's ambassador to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, said both nations were optimistic about signing the agreement, officially known as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), during the upcoming visit. "There are some issues which are being negotiated and we would like to finalize the deal when they come," Tirmizi said. The UAE had already signed FTAs with around nine countries and was working with Pakistan on it, according to the ambassador.

Only two dams country wastes \$10bln worth water

ISLAMABAD (Online): Due to the presence of only two dams in the country, water worth 10 billion dollars has been wasted in the country.

According to sources of water resources, since April 1 this year, 1 crore 32 lakh acre feet of water has been carried to the sea.

The total capacity of water storage in the country is 1 crore 33 lakh acre feet, still the total inflow of water in the rivers is 1 lakh 88 thousand cusecs, 93 thousand cusecs of water is being carried to the sea from Kotri Barrage.

Up to 1.4 million acre feet of water is likely to be lost in the sea by October 1. From October 1 to April 1, 2024, the provinces will face water shortfall in Rabi season. In the Rabi season, there is a possibility of 15% water shortfall in the province of Punjab and Sindh.

According to the World Bank, the sea needs 5 thousand cusecs of water per day, the water storage in Tarbela Dam is 58 lakh and Mangla Dam is 73 lakh acre feet.

Bugti expresses deep grief over martyrdom of Police Constable Adeel Zafar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed his deepest grief over the martyrdom of police constable Adeel Zafar, who was martyred in an encounter with robbers in Rawat on Sunday.

He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the two injured constables, Asher and Adil and also appreciated their bravery for putting their lives in the line of duty.

The home minister said that the police personnel fought the robbers with utmost bravery and killed three of them.

He also said that all personnel who risk their lives to protect the public are our heroes.

"No stone should be left unturned in the pursuit of criminal elements," the home minister said and added, we will not rest until all those responsible for the killing of Constable Adeel Zafar are brought to justice.

Biden administration not interfering in Pak politics: US senator

WASHINGTON (Online): Democratic Party Senator Chris Van Hollen said that the Biden administration is not interfering in Pakistani politics. The US was instrumental in getting the IMF to come forward with emergency economic relief in the case of Pakistan.

According to the details, the DMV chapter of the Pakistan Doctors' Organization was held in Washington in which US Senator Chris Van Hollen participated as the chief guest. Talking to the Pakistani media on this occasion, he said that he has been in contact

with the Biden administration for a long time. I can say with full of my believe that US has not made any attempt to engineer anything in Pakistan's politics.

United States, other democracies and people of Pakistan are interested in ensuring that elections are free and fair. The Democratic Party senator said that it is up to the people of Pakistan to decide their leaders, to ensure that the will of the people of Pakistan is heard and reflected, elections must be absolutely free and fair.



KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Energy, Muhammad Ali in a group photo after the meeting with Pakistan Petroleum Dealer's Association, Abdus Sami Khan, Chairman of the Association, and other members are also in presence.

Rescuers hunt for survivors of Morocco quake with over 2,000 dead

MARRAKECH: Rescuers searched on Sunday for survivors of Morocco's deadliest earthquake in more than six decades, with more than 2,000 people killed by the disaster that has laid waste to villages in the mountains outside Marrakech.

Many people spent a second night in the open after the 6.8 magnitude quake hit late on Friday. Relief workers face the challenge of reaching the most badly affected villages in the High Atlas, a rugged mountain range where settlements are often remote and where many houses crumbled.

Large chunks of a cliff had broken off and fallen on to the road near the small town of Moulay Brahim, partly blocking a winding road connecting Marrakech to the Atlas Mountains.

The latest Interior Ministry figures put the death toll at 2,012, with 2,059 people injured, including 1,404 in critical condition.

Morocco has declared three days of mourning and King Mohammed VI called for prayers for the dead to be held at mosques across the country on Sunday.

The World Health Organization said more than 300,000 people have been affected by the disaster.

"The next 24 to 48 hours will be critical in terms of saving lives," Caroline Holt, global director of operations for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said in a statement.

Search and rescue efforts would be prioritised alongside making sure survivors were taken care of, she said, noting the importance of providing safe drinking water.



LARKANA: Activists of Awami Workers Party (AWP) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.