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Hearing of SC Practice and Procedure Act Transferring suo motu powers to three-member committee not an attack on CJP rights: Justice Isa

In historic first, the case proceedings were broadcast live; Do not want absolute powers, says CJP; Hearing on law clipping CJP powers adjourned till Oct 3; Seeks replies from all parties by September 25

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Monday observed that parliament's SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 was not an attempt to clip the top judge's rights by devolving the suo motu powers to a three-member committee.

The new CJP passed the remarks during a full court hearing on the petitions challenging the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023.

The historic hearing, which was held almost throughout the day, has been adjourned till October 3.

The hearing was seen

as historic because, for the first time in the country's judicial history, the Supreme Court allowed live telecast of proceedings on the petitions challenging the contentious law seeking to regulate suo motu powers of the country's top judge.

During the hearing, CJP Isa said arguments in the case will begin afresh because the new bench has been formed.

There were three applications to make a full court, which had been approved, CJP Isa observed.

Ahead of the hearing today, the Attorney Gen-

eral for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan submitted the federal government's response in the matter, requesting the court to reject the petitions against the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act.

"Petitions against acts of parliament are inadmissible. [Therefore,] the petitions against the Practice and Procedure Act should be dismissed," the response submitted by the government contended.

Sources confirmed to Geo News that the decision was made in the full court meeting ahead of the proceedings.



OKARA: Chairman Peoples Party Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons after visiting the party workers house in City.

Judge official secret act court seeks explanation from Attock jail Supdt

ISLAMABAD (Online): Judge official secret act court has sought explanation from Attock jail superintendent for not arranging PTV Chairman Imran Khan talks to his sons on telephone and whatsapp.

The contempt of court petition against superintendent Attock Jail for not arranging PTV chairman Imran Khan talks on telephone and whatsapp to his sons came up for hearing in official secret act court Monday.

Shiraz Ahmad Ranjha, counsel for PTV chairman appeared in the court.

He took the plea PTV

chairman is not convicted in cipher case. He is in Attock jail on judicial remand. Secret act or Punjab jail law apply to the criminals.

The counsel for the petitioner said Chairman PTV is not criminal in cipher case so far. Punjab prisoners laws apply to convicted criminals. Facility of telephonic meeting in Attock jail is available to all accused.

Counsel for PTV said facility of telephonic talks have been provided to all prisoners since two to three years. But not arranging telephonic talks of chairman PTV to his sons is injustice.

Reports of selling arms to Ukraine for IMF bailout package baseless: FO

Baloch says Islamabad maintains a policy of strict neutrality in the dispute between Ukraine and Russia

ISLAMABAD (INP): The foreign office on Monday vehemently rejected claims that Pakistan agreed to supply weapons to Ukraine in return for securing an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout in July, saying the country maintained a "policy of strict neutrality."

The rebuttal from the foreign office came after The Intercept, a US publication, claimed in its latest report that Pakistan supplied weapons to Ukraine

via the United States in order to secure the IMF deal.

The publication backed its claims by two sources with knowledge of the arrangement, saying that internal documents from both the Pakistani and American governments confirm the development.

"These arms sales were intended to supply the Ukrainian military, hence, forcing Pakistan to take a side in the Russia-Ukraine conflict," it claimed.

Solangi felicitates PTV News for live broadcast of SC proceedings

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday congratulated a team of PTV News which ensured live broadcast of a day-long proceedings of the apex court on a case related to the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023.

"The team of PTV News deserves appreciation for bringing a day-long live broadcast of a very important case (Practice and Procedure Act) of the Supreme Court to the public for the first time in the history of Pakistan," the minister said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

CJP refuses to receive guard of honor

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa reached Supreme Court and refused to receive guard of Honor. Justice Qazi Faez Isa has directed the police to fulfill their duties wholeheartedly and refused to receive guard of honor.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa was welcomed by staff on his arrival at Supreme Court. Speaking to staff on this occasion Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) said that today I have many meetings and there is full court. I need your cooperation. A guard of honor was to be presented to the Chief Justice by the Islamabad Police.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa presides over the hearing of petitions challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023, held at Supreme Court of Pakistan Building in Islamabad.

PM says: Excited to represent Pakistan in UN meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that he is excited to represent Pakistan in 78th session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

In a statement released on social media website X, Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar said that I am on 5-day important visit to America. I will discuss global environmental challenges and en-

gage with world leaders during visit. I will discuss with international media and top think tanks.

It is pertinent to say that caretaker PM Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar had left for 5-day visit to America yesterday. Caretaker PM will participate in global climate change conference held in America and will meet world leaders. Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar will also meet representatives of international media.

Govt requests SC to reject petitions against SC Practice and procedure act

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has requested the Supreme Court (SC) to reject the petitions against Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act.

Attorney General has filed federal government written reply in the court in this regard.

Through the reply, the court has been requested the petitions against the law of parliament are non-maintainable. The petitions against practice and procedure act be dismissed.

The federal government has said in the reply that parliament can legislate under article 191 of the constitution. Article 191 of the constitution does not stop the parliament from legislating. The independence of the judiciary is not affected by practice and procedure act.

The reply said no power of SC has been returned under practice and procedure act.

Caretaker Minister Rana Hussain visits Dar-ul-Aman Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Women Development and Education Sindh Rana Hussain paid a surprise visit to Dar-ul-Aman in Hyderabad.

During the visit, Provincial Minister Rana Hussain inspected various parts of Dar-ul-Aman, got details regarding the arrangements, and expressed her satisfaction with the facilities provided to women in terms of security, food, and sanitation. On this occasion, Khalida Soomro, the in-charge director of Dar-ul-Aman, briefed the provincial minister about the arrangements for Dar-ul-Aman and also informed her that there are currently 13 women seeking refuge in Dar-ul-Aman and all the women seeking refuge have been placed in accordance with court orders. Besides taking care of the daily needs of women in Hyderabad Dar-ul-Aman, they are also provided opportunities for technical and artistic education, she added.



KARACHI: Amir Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman enquiring about health of Hafiz Hamdullah who was injured in Mastung blast.

LHC issues non-bailable arrest warrants for IGP Islamabad

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for inspector general of police (IGP) Islamabad on his non-appearance despite issuance of bailable arrest warrants, in a contempt proceedings over defiance of an order for production of former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi.

The court also issued show cause notice to the superintendent police concerned for not executing bailable arrest warrants of the IG Islamabad.

Justice Mirza Viqas Rauf passed the orders while hearing a contempt petition filed by Qaisara Elahi, wife of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi.

During the proceedings, in response to a court query, a law officer apprised the court that a reply had been received on behalf of the IGP Islamabad but he could not attend the proceedings due to his other engagements.

At this, the court took serious exception to IGP Islamabad's absence despite the issuance of his bailable arrest warrants for ensuring his presence on Monday (September 18).

Bilawal says PPP to consider political alliances once election schedule announced

OKARA (INP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday said the PPP would deliberate on forming political alliances once the election date is announced.

With elections potentially just a few months away, Bilawal has been engaging in public gatherings and organising party meetings as part of the party's electoral preparations of late.

Responding to a question while addressing a press conference in Okara, Bilawal said: "Ask me what alliance I'm going for or not [with any other party] when the election schedule is announced."

The PPP chairman reiterated his request to the ECP to announce the date for the upcoming

polls and their schedule. He added that such a move would address any concern of the PPP or any other party.

Bilawal also talked about the party's recent request to co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari to raise their complaints regarding an "uneven playing field" with all quarters concerned, and requested him to pull through with the responsibility he was given. "Otherwise, I request Zardari sahib to not tie my hands," he added.

The PPP chairman also expressed his well wishes for new Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and said he hoped that the judge would improve the Supreme Court's affairs.

PPP rules out PTI alliance as PDM parties drift Bilawal's comments came after the PPP rejected even the possibility of such an alliance with the PTI while the member parties of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) drift apart.

When Bilawal was questioned about political dialogue with the PTI on Friday, he had said that before May 9, the PPP was trying to have a dialogue with every political force for elections but the PTI had decided to attack the Lahore corps commander house, GHQ and other army installations.

"We can have a dialogue with those not involved in the attacks of May 9. Our doors are open for negotiations with non-militant entities," Bilawal had said.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed meets with delegation of World Bank led by its country Director Njay Benhassine at the Planning Ministry.

Bilawal Bhutto's 35th birthday to be marked on Sept 21

KARACHI (INP): The 35th birthday of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto will be marked at all district headquarters across the Sindh province on September 21 (Thursday).

Senior leader PPP Nisar Khuhro said on Monday that festivities for Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's birthday would include the cutting of cakes. The occasion would also serve as an opportunity to pay tribute to Bilawal Bhutto for his contributions to the strengthening of democracy, he added.

While addressing the planned celebration of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's birthday across all district headquarters in Sindh, Khuhro highlighted the significant role played by the PPP chairman in the nation's progress.

Two extortionists held in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Karachi Police arrested two extortionists posing as Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) officials and blackmailing a factory owner.

According to details, accused Ahmad and Khalid pretending as SSGC officials were collecting extortion money from owner of a garments factory located in New Karachi since long.

The factory owner frustrated over repeated demands of money lodged a complaint with New Karachi Industrial Area police station.

Mayor Karachi inaugurates Hydari Sports Football Ground in Malir

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Monday said that the journey of improvement in Karachi will "In sha Allah" continue under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto and Asif Zardari.

He said this while addressing a ceremony held on the inauguration of the Hydari Sports Football Ground in Malir, Ibrahim Hydari on Monday.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Mayor Karachi's Representative for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, former member of Sindh Assembly Mahmood Alam Jamot, former member of National Assembly Syed Agha Rafiullah and other officials and workers of PPP were also present.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that for the first time in the history of Karachi, after assuming the charge of local bodies, he and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad decided to respond to criticism with our work.

He said that Bilawal Bhutto took steps for its rehabilitation and construction under the Karachi neighbourhood improvement projects so that the people of the area could be provided with quality sports and entertainment facilities.

He said that a pavilion for spectators, toilets, pedestrian paths, offices, rooms for players, a light tower, car parking and footpaths in the outer part, and complete boundary walls have also been constructed with water supply to the ground from the existing pumping station.

He said that this ground and park is a beautiful gift from Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to the people of Malir district and he requests the people of the area to help them maintain this ground and park.



MOHENJO DARO: A delegation of Russian tourists are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.



KARACHI: Consul General of Turkey Cemal Sangu posing for a group photo graph along with the Representative of Pakistan Boys Scouts Association and others after the inauguration ceremony of Search and Rescue Training, in Provincial Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

ECP's 'bias'

The pressure is mounting on the ECP, with another major party expressing serious concerns over the political environment. Over the course of last week, several senior PPP leaders issued strong statements against the "absence of a level playing field" in the run-up to the polls.

The party's chairman publicly stated that he does not think political parties are free to function or campaign independently, and, on Thursday, the party's information secretary told the press that the PPP is concerned over the appointment of several PML-N 'loyalists' in the interim set-up.

"The concern among party members is that the PML-N is getting a kind of favour in the current caretaker set-ups in the federal and Punjab governments. And it's no more secret," she said.

The PTI, too, shared similar objections over the appointment in the caretaker government of several bureaucrats seen as being close to the Sharifs.

The two parties' concerns reflect rather poorly on the ECP: it is, after all, the commission's constitutional responsibility to ensure that elections are held in an environment which does not favour or jeopardise any political stakeholder's interests.

Interestingly, the commission seems to be tacitly acknowledging that the playing field is no longer level. It has written to the caretaker prime minister's secretary, advising him against inducting "persons of known political allegiance".

If the caretaker set-up has been infiltrated by politically inclined persons, which the ECP concedes, the fairness of any election conducted by it will invariably be brought into question.

It may be recalled that one of the excuses given by the ECP for not conducting the KP and Punjab elections earlier this year was that future elections held under the governments formed by political parties in these provinces would not be free or fair. The same logic ought to apply to party loyalists.

Not too long ago, it was only the PTI which seemed to have a problem with the manner in which the ECP was conducting itself.

But while the PTI and Mr Khan's criticism of the commission, its chief commissioner and their alleged 'bias' may initially have been a ploy to push them off the various legal actions they were pursuing, it has lately started seeming somewhat justified.

It may be recalled that in failing to challenge the state's attempts to thwart the PTI, which had wanted early elections in KP, the ECP has already violated the Constitution by failing to adhere to the prescribed 90-day timeline.

It is not only about to repeat that violation again, but it also does not seem committed to the positions it had taken earlier. This is morally and legally indefensible.

The commission must adhere to its constitutional responsibility and immediately address the concerns that are being raised.

No easy solution



Huma Yusuf

Magic wand. Silver bullet. Miracle cure. Pick your idiom, and then forget about it. If there's one thing Pakistanis should learn from the turmoil of recent months it is that there is no quick fix for Pakistan's myriad, complex and increasingly insurmountable problems.

The dysfunctional dance of our institutions has highlighted that while we may cling to the idea of saviours — whether populist politicians or non-nonsense generals — it is not that easy. Checks and challenge are inherent in our system, and when our institutions do not work cooperatively they thwart each other. In the absence of a long-term strategic vision, recent developments, however dramatic, amount to sound and fury, signifying little.

The president and the ECP, the courts and the establishment, the people and their political representatives — even fathers and sons, if we tune into the mixed messaging from Sindh: they would all like to deliver the antidote to Pakistan's problems. Instead, they stumble over each other, criticise and contradict each other, emphasise each other's failings.

One topic seems to generate more consensus than others, and that is the need for economic stability. All the powers that be recognise that the size of the pie must increase so that all can feed off it. But as the era of 'get a bailout, chug along' ends, views on how the economy should be resuscitated also diverge. Some are banking on the top-down foreign-investor-

saviour, others are backing the bottom-up boost exports approach.

And that, frankly, is how it should be.

There is no silver bullet, no cure-all; not internally to clean our political mess, not externally to buy us out of our economic woes. Pakistanis must accept that our preoccupation with power games and saviour seeking has endured at the expense of policymaking, and we have argued amongst ourselves while problems have mounted. Any meaningful solutions now require time, strategising and holistic handling.

Let's consider an example from our critical textiles and IT sectors. A recent report from Cornell University's Global Labour Institute argues that garment manufacturing in the key markets of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam can expect collective losses of \$65 billion in exports by 2030. This represents a 22 per cent slowdown, and the loss of one million new jobs in these economies. The forecast for 2050 is worse: a collective loss of 68.8pc of exports, and 8.64 million fewer jobs across the four countries.

The report attributes these losses to climate change-linked events, including high heat and flooding, that will disrupt production and supply chains and endanger workers' health, jeopardising productivity. The authors argue that while there is growing awareness in the garment sector around the need to cut emissions and reduce water wastage, countries and companies are not doing enough to implement climate adaptation strategies.

Turning to IT, while we are grounding PIA planes, India has landed a rover on the south pole of the moon. This is a reflection of India's science and technology ecosystem — the country accounts for

32pc of the world's STEM graduates (43pc of them women). It is currently adding over 2.5m software developers to its workforce each year, and will next year overtake the US in terms of its developer population. Not surprisingly, technology exports make up more than half of India's total services exports.

By contrast, a State Bank report published in May estimated that Pakistan adds 20,000 to 25,000 engineering and IT graduates to the workforce annually, but only 10pc are employable due to their lack of technical and soft skills such as critical thinking and English-language proficiency. These are hardly the indicators of a competitive IT-driven economy.

These examples are meant to illustrate the intractability of Pakistan's problems. Our desire to attract investment and revamp our export economy can only be met with a multifaceted policy push: overhaul of the education system, launch of integrated climate adaptation strategies, updating labour protection provisions, launching progressive data protection legislation, currency stabilisation, making the workforce more inclusive, etc. This is the work of government departments at both federal and provincial levels along with experts, academia, private sector and civil society. It will take time, determination, and a clear vision for the way forward. As I said, no magic wand, no silver bullet. For all their failings, democratic governments (when they are not plagued by paralysis) are well set up to handle complexity, build consensus and mobilise holistic approaches, which are needed urgently. Let's have timely elections, and then enable elected representatives to get on with addressing our real problems. — Courtesy Dawn

Policy perspective



Naseer Memon

After vacillating for five years, Sindh has finally nailed a water policy. The document needs some editorial brushwork but is otherwise fairly comprehensive. The policy has tried to encapsulate the issues of irrigation, drinking water, the municipal uses of water, and sustainability of the natural ecosystem and water quality.

Due to the presence of multiple departments, the management of water resources has remained fragmented. The Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), the Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), water and sanitation agencies, the Local Government Department, the Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation (formerly KWSB), the Public Health Engineering Department, the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency and the Sindh Agriculture Department are the prominent bodies involved in water management in different domains.

The policy envisages the amalgamation of SID and SIDA to create a unified 'Sindh Water Resources Management Department'. Interestingly, SIDA was carved out of SID under institutional reforms introduced through the National Drainage Programme in 1998. SIDA was assigned the ambitious agenda of farmers-led participatory management of the canal systems, including the recovery of water cess and the judicious distribution of water. However, the experiment had little impact in terms of overhauling the irrigation system.

One is unsure how

the new entity will improve the efficiency and management of water resources. Its most critical challenge will be to address poor water governance. Today's faltering water governance system is their own fault and new inventions aren't needed to identify the causes and cure of the malaise.

Non-transparent and unfair water distribution, water theft, tampering with outlets, direct outlets from main canals to favour privileged landlords, artificial breaches and shoddy maintenance of channels are only a few among a long list of distortions that have blighted irrigation in Sindh. These problems are not just because of operational bottlenecks; they also emerge from politics in the province which is controlled by the feudal aristocracy. The irrigation bureaucracy has been installed mostly on the whims of the landed oligarchy. Both safeguard each other's interests. Hence the entire water distribution system has been ring-fenced, with both benefiting from its malfunctioning.

Inefficiency is another factor that has plagued Sindh's water-scape. The more than 60 per cent conveyance losses not only result in wastage but also reduce the soil's productivity due to waterlogging and salinity. Resultantly, the crop-er-drop ratio continues to plunge.

According to the water policy, 61pc of the cultivable area in Sindh is saline or sodic. The Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates irrigation water productivity in Pakistan at \$0.3 per cubic metre, much lower than the figure for other irrigation systems of comparable size. The acreage of water-thirsty crops rice and sugarcane is another major cause of imprudent water usage. These two crops consume about a third of the irrigation wa-

ter in Sindh.

The water requirement of these crops is three to five times higher than that of oilseeds and pulses. The policy alludes to the need to reduce water-intensive crops yet concedes, ironically, that over the last decade, the acreage of these two crops has increased by 30pc. Shifts in the cropping pattern is treacherous territory as this can lead to a collision with the troika of agriculturalists, industrialists and politicians. Most of the 32 sugar mills in Sindh are owned by political families, who also possess large parcels of cropland. Shifting the cropping pattern is desirable yet one cannot expect much from a spineless administration in the absence of political will.

Domestic water requirements are a snowballing challenge as the urban population grows rapidly. According to the latest census, 53.7pc of Sindh's population is urban. Unfortunately, the water and sanitation infrastructure and services are in a state of disarray in urban centres. The WASH [water, sanitation and hygiene] Sector Development Plan, 2016-26, estimated an annual investment of Rs100 billion till 2030 for the universal coverage of WASH services in the province. The policy prescribes making WASH management bodies autonomous entities that can efficiently generate resources and operate on the basis of competence. This prescription was tested by creating the North Sindh Urban Services Corporation in 2010 that, however, miserably failed due to persistent political intrusion. The policy stipulates several remedies to problems that have sapped the water sector for decades. A fundamental challenge will be its effective implementation through a structured approach that is not confined to perfunctory meetings and reports. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SBP says: Banking sector showed steady performance and resilience during H1CY23

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued today the Mid-Year Performance Review (The Review) of the Banking Sector for 2023.

The review covers the performance and soundness of Pakistan's banking sector for the period January to June 2023 (H1CY23). It also briefly covers the performance of financial markets as well as the results of Systemic Risk Survey (which represents views of independent experts about key potential risks to financial stability).

The Review highlights that the macroeconomic environment continued to remain challenging during the first half of CY23. Domestic financial conditions tightened while the operating environment remained under stress due to elevated inflation and prolonged uncertainty.

Nonetheless, banking sector's balance sheet expanded by 14.0 percent during H1CY23. The expansion in asset base was mainly driven by investments in government securities. Besides strong inflow of deposits, banks'

reliance on borrowings remained noticeable during the period. The Review also notes that advances of banking sector recorded a muted growth during H1CY23; private sector advances contracted while public sector availed additional financing mainly for commodity finance operations.

Encouragingly, asset quality indicators improved: net non-performing loans (NPLs) to loans ratio lowered to 0.45 percent at end June-23 (0.68 percent in Jun-22) as banks set aside higher amount of provisioning from steady earnings.

PFC to take part in Dusseldorf, Germany expo

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in the 4-day Dusseldorf-Germany Expo starting from November 13 to discover business opportunities and explore new market access for Pakistani products.

In a press statement, Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that PFC along with Chenone will be participating in this mega event.

He said Chenone will also exhibit its high-quality international standards products to capture their share in the global market.

He said it's an excellent opportunity to showcase Pak products and develop business deals with international buyers.

He said PFC and Chenone have already attended several other international fairs in the US, China, Italy, Sri Lanka etc. and introduced their products which are in great demand. He hoped to get orders from foreign buyers. TDAP is facilitating the manufacturers of export products.



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Neil Hawkins called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. The meeting served as a platform for fruitful discussion on bilateral relations, economic cooperation and regional issues of mutual interest.

China's high-tech materials company to help renovate textile industry in Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): A Chinese leading manufacturer specialize in textiles auxiliaries and organic silicone products has joint hands with local partners to bring technological innovation support to the textile printing and dyeing industry in Pakistan.

"As the pillar industry of Pakistan, textile industry is currently facing two major constraints, namely energy and cotton yarn shortage.

Cutlery exports increase 1.55% in 2 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The country's cutlery exports witnessed an increase of 1.55 per cent during the first two months of the financial year 2023-24 as compared to the corresponding months of last year.

The country exported cutlery worth US \$9.485 million during July-August (2023-24) against the exports of US \$9.340 million during July-August (2022-23), showing growth of 1.55

per cent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the cutlery exports also rose by 11.73 per cent during the month of August 2023 as compared to the same month of last year.

The PBS data revealed that the cutlery exports in August 2023 were recorded at \$5.161 million against the exports of \$4.619 million in August 2022.

of Pakistan's textile companies are concentrated in Punjab Province, and Faisalabad as the core textile industrial city here, with nearly 300 dyeing factories of all sizes. According to Xing, recently, his company joined hands with Pakistani agent FairChem International to hold a textile seminar in Faisalabad, in which China and Pakistan partners jointly discussed the future direction of local textile printing.

Global oil price surge raises concerns of soaring inflation worldwide

LONDON (INP): The rapid surge in oil prices in the global market triggered fear of an impending inflation crisis across the world.

The recent inflation wave has gripped nations worldwide with concerns mounting that further price increases may be on the horizon due to a surge in oil costs in the global market.

Exports increase by 22.45% to Rs.1.27trln in two months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 22.45 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July-August (2023-24) were recorded at Rs.1,276,238 million as against Rs.1,042,226 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 22.45 percent, according to provisional data released by PBS. On a year-on-year basis, the exports during

August 2023 increased by 26.75 percent and were recorded at Rs.695,136 million compared to the exports of Rs. 548,440 million in August 2022. On a month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 19.62 percent when compared to the exports of Rs. 581,102 million in July 2023.

The main commodities of exports during August 2023 were Knitwear (Rs. 117,892 million), readymade garments (Rs. 83,447 million), bedwear (Rs. 74,081 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 47,002 million), cotton yarn (Rs. 30,793 million), towels (Rs. 25,567 million).



FAISALABAD: Workers spreading the rice crop for drying at a rice warehouse.

ICCI calls for ecosystem to promote entrepreneurs & startups

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the government should take policy measures to create an ecosystem for entrepreneurship and startups that would help promote businesses and revive the economy. He said that Pakistan is a country of young population with over 60 percent share of youth in our total population.

Therefore, every possible effort should be

made to develop this huge pool of human capital by providing them business education so that they could be equipped with the right knowledge for business-startups and be enabled to play a more effective role in the economic development of the country. He said this while addressing as keynote speaker at Business Summit 23 organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with The Career Class in its auditorium.



MULTAN: Roadside vendor displaying colorful fancy dresses to attract customers.

3.93m cotton bales production a good omen for Pakistan economy

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's cotton industry has experienced a remarkable surge in cotton bales production till September 15, 2023, as with the fresh arrival, Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has released yield figures, indicating a robust performance in the sector. The PCGA official sources told APP with figures that till September 15, 2023, cotton arrivals soared to 3.933 million bales, which is signifying a remarkable 79.87 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase, compared to the same time period last

year when arrivals stood at 2.187 million bales.

The substantial growth in cotton arrivals is a promising sign for Pakistan's cotton industry, which plays a pivotal role in the nation's economy. Cotton and textile exports have remained pillars of Pakistan's economy, the sources said. It is worth mentioning here that cotton arrivals from Sindh have increased by a staggering 2.15 times YoY, reaching 2.389 million bales. This surge reflects a growing focus on enhancing cotton production in the province, they said.

Naqvi enhances Sino-Pak ties at 3rd Ningxia Friendship Forum

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi Monday actively participated in the 3rd Ningxia International Friendship Cities Forum, held at the Yuehai Convention Center in Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia Province, China.

Upon his arrival at the Yuehai Convention Center, he was warmly welcomed by Ningxia Communist Party Chairman/Governor, Zhang Yupu, and Secretary General/Chief Minister Liang Yanshun, along with the government delegation. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi held the distinguished position of being the chief guest at the 3rd Ningxia International Friendship Cities Forum.

In honor of his presence, a welcoming lunch was graciously hosted by the International Friendship Cities Forum.

Addressing the gathering, Mohsin Naqvi expressed his deep sense of honor for the people of Punjab in being part of the Ningxia International Friendship Cities Forum.

He highlighted the enduring and amiable nature of China's relationship with Pakistan, underscoring President Xi Jinping's genuine fondness for Pakistan and its people.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized Punjab's vast potential, housing a population of 140 million, and described it as a province teeming with countless opportunities for development. He also envisioned new avenues of collaboration and growth blossoming in Ningxia.

The chief minister underscored that the primary objective of Punjab's official delegation visit to China was to engage with experts from diverse fields, and he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to tap into collective wisdom through the International Friendship Cities Forum.

Zhang Yupu, the Ningxia Communist Party Chairman/Governor, extended a warm and open-hearted welcome to Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the Punjab delegation.

Likewise, Ningxia Communist Party Secretary General/Chief Minister Liang Yanshun extended a warm welcome, emphasizing their duty to cooperate for the development and prosperity of the people of Punjab.

In a gesture of hospitality, a dinner was hosted in honor of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the official delegation of Punjab. The occasion was graced by the presence of Provincial Ministers SM Tanveer, Ibrahim Hassan Murad, Chief Secretary Zahid Zaman Akhtar, and senior officials from the Ningxia Communist Party of China.



LAHORE: Participants of Foreign Diplomatic Course from ASEAN member states led by Director General of Foreign Service Academy, Muhammad Mazhar Javed in a group photo with Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

HESCO's anti-power theft drive, 122 transformers removed for non-payment

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has continued its crackdown against electricity theft and non-payment of dues in the region on Monday.

According to the HESCO spokesperson, fines of more than Rs. 87.08 million were imposed since the commencement of these actions in the entire region, while 122 transformers were removed due to non-payment of dues. During these operations, 39 transformers were removed in Circle Hyderabad, with outstanding dues of more than Rs. 30.7 million, 47 transformers were removed in

Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with ASEAN member states

Independent Report
LAHORE: The participants of Foreign Diplomatic Course from ASEAN member states led by Director General of Foreign Service Academy, Muhammad Mazhar Javed called on Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman today here at Governor House Lahore. The delegation comprised 22 diplomats from eight ASEAN member countries. On this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman welcomed the foreign diplomats from various

ASEAN countries to the Governor House. He said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with ASEAN member states.

He said that people to people connections play an important role in improving relations between countries. Governor Punjab said that there are vast opportunities to promote trade relations with ASEAN countries. He further stated that Pakistan exports high-quality textile products to international markets, adding that ASEAN

Governor expressed hope that this course at Foreign Service Academy would immensely help them to hone their diplomatic skills.

He said that people to people connections play an important role in improving relations between countries. Governor Punjab said that there are vast opportunities to promote trade relations with ASEAN countries. He further stated that Pakistan exports high-quality textile products to international markets, adding that ASEAN



LAHORE: Interim State Minister of Tourism/Chairman PTDC, Poet, Syed Wasi Shah addressing a press conference at College of Tourism and Hotel Management (COTHM).

KU, Japanese Plus W Inc. signs MoU to provide IT training to computer science students

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi and Plus W Inc., the global recruiting company based in Japan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide training to the students of the KU computer science department so that they could be prepared for the Japanese IT market. KU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and the Executive Vice President and the Chief Operating Officer of Plus W Takashi Horiuchi inked the

MoU documents at the VC Secretariat here on Monday.

Head of Global Business and Pakistan Business Hiroyuki Shiono, the Deputy Head of Global Business and Pakistan Business Hafiz Muhammad Umair Mumir, and the Associate of Global Business Division Muhammad Talha Mumir participated in the meeting while the KU Registrar Professor Dr Abdul Waheed, faculty of computer science department and the Director of Office of Re-

search, Innovation and Commercialization were present on this occasion. As per the MoU, Plus W would give three months of short-course certification in Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Blockchain, Deep Learning, Machine Learning, and other technologies. Besides, offering the latest IT course the Plus W would also engage KU students in business Japanese language classes so that they could easily communicate with the Japanese business community.



KARACHI: Construction works of new development projects for extending road is underway under the supervision of local government department, as slow pace of construction work is creating problems for commuters due to traffic jam and they demand to concerned department to complete work as soon as possible, located on Shahrah-e-Faisal road in Karachi.

International News

US-Iran ties remain adversarial but door for nuclear diplomacy remains open, US says

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: A detainee swap that secured the release of five Americans held in Iran on Monday does not change Washington's adversarial relationship with Tehran, although the door remains open for diplomacy over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, a senior administration official said.

The United States and Iran, after months of Qatar-mediated talks, have struck a deal in which Tehran released five U.S. dual nationals who were imprisoned in Iran in exchange for five Ira-

nians held in the United States.

Speaking to reporters late on Sunday, senior Biden administration officials said Washington would keep up the pressure on Tehran by imposing fresh sanctions on Iran's ministry of intelligence and former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for their involvement in the detention of U.S. citizens. The U.S. had also increased its interdiction posture in the region to deter Iranian arms shipments into Yemen. Even so, they said the door for diplomacy over Iran's nuclear program was not entirely

shut. "If we see an opportunity, we will explore it but right now, I've really nothing to talk about," the senior administration official said on condition of anonymity.

Asked if there would be any indirect talks with the Iranians this week in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the official said: "You asked if there's any talks planned this week, absolutely not."

It was unclear if the official meant to deny any indirect talks, or if he was deliberately leaving the door open for them.



Siamak Namazi, Morad Tahbaz and Emad Shargi, who were released during a prisoner swap deal between U.S. and Iran, arrive at Doha International Airport, Qatar.

Russia lashes Ukraine at top UN court in 'genocide' case

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia hit out at Ukraine at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Monday, as the two warring countries squared off in a legal case over Moscow's claim that "genocide" in eastern Ukraine was a pretext for last year's invasion.

Moscow's representative, Gennady Kuzmin, said Ukraine's case that Russia "abused" the United Nations Genocide Convention as a reason to launch its war against its neighbour in February 2022 "couldn't be further from the truth".

When Russian Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion on February 24 last year, part of his reasoning was that pro-Russian people in eastern Ukraine had been "subjected to bullying and genocide by the Kyiv regime".

Two days into the invasion, Ukraine filed a suit at the ICJ, "emphatically denying" this and arguing that Russia's use of "genocide" as a pretext went against the 1948 UN Genocide Convention.

Mere "statements" about genocide are not admissible under international law including the Genocide Convention.

Ukraine hits Moscow, Crimea with drones

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia said it had thwarted a coordinated Ukrainian attack on Crimea early on Sunday, while drones also targeted Moscow, disrupting air traffic in the capital, and caused a fire at an oil depot in the southwest of the country.

Attacks deep inside Russia, far from the front lines, have also increased, with Moscow's mayor saying at least two drones were shot down in the region of the capital early on Sunday.

In an opinion piece late on Saturday, Olexsiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's Security Council, urged Kyiv's allies to speed up the delivery of weapons, saying this was the only way to end the war.

"For example, the complete or partial elimination of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, which is a doable task, should significantly accelerate the process of Russia's search for a way out of the ongoing war," Danilov wrote on the Ukrainska Pravda news site.

Poland, Hungary, Slovakia to introduce bans on Ukraine grains

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Poland, Slovakia and Hungary announced their own restrictions on Ukrainian grain imports after the European Commission decided not to extend its ban on imports into Ukraine's five EU neighbours.

Ukraine was one of the world's top grain exporters before Russia's 2022 invasion reduced its ability to ship agricultural produce to global markets. Ukrainian farmers have relied on grain exports through neighbouring countries since the conflict began as it has been unable to use the favoured routes through Black Sea ports.

Ukraine says it will sue Poland, Hungary and Slovakia over food import bans

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine plans to sue Poland, Hungary and Slovakia in the World Trade Organization over bans on Ukrainian agricultural products, Ukrainian officials said on Monday. The appeal could be sent "in the near future", a senior official said and followed a decision by the three countries bordering Ukraine to ban imports of the country's key export commodities. Politico had earlier on Monday quoted Ukrainian Trade Representative Taras Kachka as saying in an interview that Kyiv planned to sue the three countries.



People stand looking at the site where an Embraer EMB-110 aircraft of the Manaus Aerotaxi airline crashed, causing the deaths of 14 people during the plane's landing the previous day at Barcelos airport, about 400 km from Manaus, Amazonas state, Brazil.



Members of the World Court listen as Russia begins presenting its objections against the jurisdiction of the World Court in a genocide case brought by Ukraine which claims Moscow falsely applied genocide law to justify its February 24, 2022 invasion, in The Hague, Netherlands.

US national security adviser meets Chinese FM

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Malta this weekend, Beijing and Washington said on Sunday, as the world's two largest economies seek to stabilise troubled relations.

Both sides held "candid, substantive and constructive" talks during multiple meetings held Sept 16-17, according to separate statements from the White House and the Chinese foreign ministry published on Sunday.

Sullivan's meeting with Wang was the latest in a series of high-level discussions between US and Chinese officials that could lay the groundwork for a meeting of US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year. Sullivan last met Wang in Vienna in May. China's foreign ministry said both sides agreed to maintain high-level exchanges and hold bilateral consultations on Asia-Pacific affairs, maritime affairs and foreign policy.

Canada to give C\$33 million to help buy air defenses for Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
OTTAWA: Canada will contribute C\$33 million (\$24.5 million) to a British-led partnership that is buying air defense equipment for Ukraine to help it fend off Russian missile and drone attacks, Defence Minister Bill Blair said on Sunday. In a statement, Blair said the contribution was part of the C\$500 million worth of military aid for Kyiv that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in June.

China flies 103 military planes toward Taiwan in new high in activity island calls harassment

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: China's military sent 103 warplanes toward Taiwan in a 24-hour period in what the island's defense ministry called a recent new high.

The planes were detected between 6 a.m. on Sunday and 6 a.m. on Monday, the ministry said. As is customary, they turned back before reaching Taiwan. Chinese warplanes fly toward the self-governing island on a near-daily basis but typically in smaller numbers. The Taiwan ministry didn't explain what time period it meant by a "recent" high.

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around Taiwan as tensions have grown between the two and with the United States. The U.S. is Taiwan's main supplier of arms and opposes any attempt to change Taiwan's status by force.

The Chinese government would prefer that Taiwan come under its control voluntarily and last week unveiled a plan for an integrated development demonstration zone in Fujian province, trying to entice Taiwanese even as it threatens the island militarily in what experts say is China's long-running carrot.

Govt. committed to putting national economy on sustainable growth trajectory: Sami tells WB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami on Monday said the government was committed to putting the national economy on a path of sustainable growth.

He expressed these views during a meeting with World Bank's Country Director to Pakistan Njay Benhassine, who called on him here, a news release said.

The WB country director was accompanied by his team including Gailius J. Draugelis (Operations Manager) for Pakistan at WB and Kamran Akbar, (Senior Social Development Specialist). While, the Planning Ministry officials including Chief Executive Officer CEO, P3A Board, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Member (Infrastructure & Regional Connectivity) at Planning Commission, Dr Waqas Anwar and Member (Social Sector & Devolution) Rafiullah Kakar were also present at

the meeting. The minister appreciated the role of the WB as one of the major development partners of Pakistan. Sami Saeed acknowledged the WB's decades-long assistance, which had been playing a vital role in the socioeconomic uplift of Pakistan. Also appreciated the WB's continued support and commitment to the ongoing development projects in the country particularly for the flood-affected areas.

"The Planning Ministry is committed to playing its constructive role in facilitating the WB for the implementation of development projects to make Pakistan climate resilient," Sami Saeed said, reiterating the government's resolve for the country's economic revival.

It is to be noted that last year, Pakistan faced unprecedented devastation due to torrential rains and flooding in most parts of the country, which affected 33 million people and caused economic losses

worth \$30 billion. The situation led the government to prepare the 4RF framework (Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF)).

The 4RF document suggested effective coordination and participation arrangements among the federal and provincial governments, development partners, donors, international and national NGOs, academia and private sectors. The majority of the projects for the flood-affected areas are being executed by the provinces which have been already approved by the Central Development Working Party and ECNEC (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council).

On the occasion, the WB Country Director WB appreciated the facilitation and proactive role of the Planning Ministry which established a green channel for the quick approval of PC-1s of the various projects.



Federal Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Bugti received by Mayor Lianyungang on his arrival to attend 2023 Conference of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum.

India, violator of global laws in Kashmir, waging propaganda against Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): India in violation of all international laws and conventions, is using chemical weapons along with its latest war technology during violent cordon and search operations to suppress the Kashmiris' demand for resolution of the Kashmir dispute in line with the UN-acknowledged right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, India is using its army, paramilitary and police, shielded under draconian law Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) to kill Kashmiri youth in fake encounters and arrest them under Pub-

lic Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in the territory.

The Hindutva-inspired BJP government revoked Kashmir's special status in flagrant violation of international laws in August 2019 and settled non-Kashmiris in the territory against the United Nations resolutions.

As part of snatching the Kashmiris' identity, India granted tens of thousands of domicile status to non-Kashmiris. Experts believe the ongoing struggle in occupied Jammu and Kashmir is indigenous, and India is waywardly waging pro-

paganda against Pakistan. The fact is, India has no justification for its state-sponsored terrorism in IIOJK, where its huge armed forces terrorize, torment, extra-judicially kill and torture innocent Kashmiris with impunity.

They said, the presence of over 900,000 Indian security personnel to terrorize innocent Kashmiris is ample proof of who is actual terrorist in the occupied territory. The world is well aware of the "saffron terror" orchestrated and unleashed by the BJP-RSS zealots against Muslims and other minorities in India and in Kashmir.

MoCCC joins forces with UAE's Blue Carbon for sustainable forestry growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCCC) and UAE's Blue Carbon collaborated to unlock economic potential in forestry, aligned with global climate goals, with a focus on carbon reduction projects and their community benefits.

The Ministry of Climate Change recently hosted a four-day technical workshop with UAE's Blue Carbon, attended by representatives from the provincial forestry departments, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan, a news release said on Monday.

The workshop's main goal was to explore how Pakistan's Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector can generate carbon credits known as Internationally Transferable Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Throughout the workshop, the primary focus was on exploring potential projects to reduce carbon emissions within Pakistan's AFOLU sector, with a specific emphasis on its forests. The in-depth conversations that occurred during these sessions illuminated Pakistan's forest resources and their readiness for Article 6 mechanisms, thereby highlighting potential areas of cooperation with Blue Carbon.

Under the guidelines of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, Pakistan's environmental assets were emphasized as valuable tools to tackle both environmental and economic challenges within the emerging compliance market.

Blue Carbon, headquartered in the UAE, was founded with the esteemed support of Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoook Al Maktoum, a member of the UAE royal family.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Jamal Shah presenting books to Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov.

DC Tando Allahyar pay visit to DHQ

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Tando Allahyar, Altaf Gohar Memon on Monday paid a surprise visit to District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ), Tando Allahyar and inspected medication records and various wards and got information about the facilities provided to patients there.

During this visit, MS hospital Dr. Sabir Qaimkhani gave him a detailed briefing. The DC checked attendance registers and expressed strong dissatisfaction with absence of technical staff.

He directed employees to fulfill their duties and warned strict action against those found negligence in fulfilling their responsibilities.

He directed them to focus on improving hygiene and cleanliness at the hospital. On this occasion, the DC also visited the NICVD and reviewed information about the facilities available over there.

He instructed the doctors on duty to ensure best treatment to the patients.

IGP changes investigation officer in Fatima Furriri murder case

SUKKUR (APP): Sindh IGP Rifat Mukhtiar has changed another investigation officer in the case of housemaid Fatima Furriri who was brutally tortured and killed in the mansion of a Pir of Ranipur. The Sindh IGP issued a notification to appoint CTD Sukkur DSP Abdul Qudous Kalwar as an investigation officer in the case of the murder of Fatima Furriri case.

Earlier, DSP Saffullah Solangi was appointed as an investigation officer who had replaced IO Muhammad Bachal Kazi. DIG Sukkur, Abdul Hameed Khoso had written a letter to the Sindh IGP to transfer the investigation of the case from Khairpur to CTD Sukkur DSP Abdul Qudous Kalwar.

Sukkur DIG Abdul Hameed Khoso on Monday, along with the Khairpur SSP reached the house of the victim girl Fatima Furriri in village Khan Wahani in district Naushahroferoze and condoled with her parents and relatives. Shamim Furriri, mother of the deceased Fatima, told the Sukkur DIG that even a month after the murder of her daughter, the police had failed to arrest Hina Shah and her father Fayyaz Shah, which raised questions mark over the performance of the police.



SUKKUR: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against unrest law and order situation in city, held in Sukkur.

Best arrangements will be made for 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal: Arslan

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Monday said that the best possible arrangements will be made in consultation with all stakeholders to observe 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal with religious fervor.

He said that a focal person has been appointed for the arrangements of Rabi-ul-Awwal in the district. The Mayor will fully cooperate with the organizers of Rabi-ul-Awwal processions regarding Rabi-ul-Awwal and emphasized the need for immediate resolution of various issues. Most of the problems raised were related to sanitation, road, encroachment, street lights, load-shedding of electricity, and security.

Muhammad Ali Shaikh Deputy Mayor Dr Arshad Mughal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Liaqat Ali Kalhor, SSP Sukkur Irfan Samo, department heads of Sukkur Municipal Corporation (SMC), scholars, religious leaders, and a large number of organizers of the procession were also present.

During the meeting, scholars and the organizers of Rabi-ul-Awwal processions presented suggestions regarding Rabi-ul-Awwal and emphasized the need for immediate resolution of various issues. Most of the problems raised were related to sanitation, road, encroachment, street lights, load-shedding of electricity, and security.



PESHAWAR: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq along with other leaders joint hand with other leaders to express their solidarity during protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held near Governor House building in Peshawar.

Pakistan can play an important role on UN platform, Munir Akram

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan permanent representative to United Nations Munir Akram said that Pakistan can play an important role on United Nations (UN) platform.

The peace of South Asia is linked Kashmir issue. We want solution for Kashmir issue according to resolutions of United Nations (UN).

In a statement Munir Akram said that world is currently facing many serious challenges such as food insecurity due to wars, increase in global warming, global pandemics and recessions.

He said that United Nations platform can provide best solution to tackle all the challenges. Investment is very important for social development and improvement of economy.

He said that caretaker Prime Minister (PM) will address United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He has scheduled meetings with world leaders and various investment companies.

Pakistan's Permanent representative to United Nations said that Pakistan is the country most affected by climate change. Share of Pakistan in carbon emissions is negligible.

He said that UN meeting can play an important role in achieving the goals of sustainable development.

Munir Akram said regarding Afghanistan that we want good relations with Afghanistan. The terrorist's elements in Afghanistan that are disrupting the regional peace should be eradicated.



LARKANA: Members of Larkana Social Ittehad are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

ATC remands suspects in murder of Jan Muhammad Mahar in police custody

SUKKUR (INP): The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Monday remanded the alleged suspects in murder of Journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar in police custody.

According to details, the suspects in case relating murder of Jan Muhammad Mahar were produced before an Anti Terrorism Court in Sukkur. During the proceedings, the police requested the court to grant a 14-day physical remand for the arrested accused, emphasizing the need for further investigation into the case.

The court granted the request of the police and handed over the arrested suspects to 14-day remand to the police.

Earlier to this, the Sindh Home Department has handed over the responsibility of probe into senior journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar's murder case to the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Sukkur.

The Sindh Home Department issued a notification to withdraw the responsibility of probe into the journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar's murder case from the Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) City and handed it over to the CTD's DSP Abdul Qudous.

The department ordered the authorities to expedite the investigation for the arrest of the culprits and provide foolproof security to the slain journalist's family.

'Culprits hiding in katcha area'

The police department has so far failed to arrest the murderers of journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar. The police have so far arrested three facilitators booked in the murder case and got their physical remand for six days from court.

Audio Leaks case: Court questions recording of phone calls

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Islamabad High Court on Monday heard petitions of Bushra Bibi and former CJP's son Najam Saqib in video leaks case.

Justice Babar Sattar while hearing the case said that questions have been raised that which agencies of the country are recording phone calls, who made recording of the Prime Minister's Office.

"The court wants answer to the questions asked," the judge remarked.

Operations against electricity thieves continues across Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): Sukkur Electric Power Supply Company's Executive Engineer Manzoor Hussain Soomro on Monday said the anti-power theft operations will continue and action is being taken against all those involved in meter tampering and power theft.

He said that SEPCO has also taken strict administrative action against its officials who were found to be complicit in the power theft.

Police arrest man

HYDERABAD (APP): A man accused for subjecting an 11 years old girl to rape has been arrested by the police on Monday.

The accused Israel Qureshi raped the girl when she had left her residence in Pinyari area to fetch water.

The police registered a case and started investigation.

JI stages sit-in outside KP Governor House against electricity, petrol tariffs hike

PESHAWAR (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Monday staged a sit-in outside the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor House in Peshawar against the increase in electricity and petroleum prices, as well as rising inflation.

The JI workers have also placed containers near a museum located near the Governor House for the party's three-day sit-in. JI's Amir, Sirajul Haq, has also arrived in Peshawar for the sit-in. "Our protest movement is peaceful and not aimed at causing chaos; instead, it intends to compel the government to roll back the unjust increase in prices of electricity and petrol," a JI spokesperson said.

He also said that JI will also approach the Supreme Court against the excessive increases in electricity and petrol prices.

It is noteworthy that JI has also announced protests in Lahore on September 21, in Quetta on September 24, and in Karachi on October 6, all in front of governor houses, to continue their anti-inflation campaign.



HYDERABAD: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Spokesman, Sardar Abdul Rahim along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, held at Hyderabad press club.

No compromise on quality of work: DC Ghotki

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: Bills of contractors using substandard and poor materials in ongoing development schemes will not be accepted, I will review all the schemes, there will be no compromise on the quality of work, RO plants should be made operational. A fabricated report will not be accepted.

Deputy Commissioner Ghotki issued strict instructions to the engineers of the district. According to the details, a meeting was held regarding the ongoing development schemes in Ghotki district under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Agha Sher Zaman. In which the Provincial Highway Engineers including the Department of Public Health, Education Works, Roads, Building,

Works and Services participated. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the work of the ongoing development schemes across the district should be completed as soon as possible, in this regard, there will be no compromise on the quality of work, after the review of the schemes and the certificate, the bills of the contractors will be passed.

While non-standard and poor work will not get the bill, so the concerned engineers should ensure the quality of work. He said that the schemes for which tender, work order and NIT etc. have been done a year ago, but if the contractors have not started the work, then the work order should be canceled by giving notice to such contractors and in this regard all the engineers should report on their respective schemes.



KARACHI: Needy people gather for collecting relief goods during food aids distribution organized by local NGO due to price hiking in country, in Karachi.