

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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Election Commission to decide polls date: PM

We have no intention to prolong tenure of the caretaker government; Action against smuggling would continue and the writ of the state would be established

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday said Election Commission would decide about the date for the upcoming elections.

In an interview with a private television, he said Parliament had passed a law according to which Election Commission had the power to announce the date for new elections.

Speculation regarding the elections should end as these would be held according to the prevalent law, he said adding, "We have no intention to prolong tenure of the caretaker government."

He said as a student of

history of Pakistan, he would express gratitude to Quaid-e-Azam for protecting rights of the Muslim minority and saving it from the domination of majority.

After seeing the attitude of bigger states against the minorities, he said he could see that it would have been difficult to protect the religious and cultural identity of Muslims if Quaid had not secured an independent state for Muslims.

He said he admired Quaid-e-Azam for his constitutionalism, all-inclusiveness and for protection of rights of minorities.

The prime minister assured that action against

smuggling would continue and the writ of the state would be established.

"We are taking these actions so that the new government with its mandate can easily continue our work for public interest."

He said the apex committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) included current military leadership, thus making the council a strong constitutional and legal body which was taking firm actions and implementing decisions.

The caretaker federal and provincial governments

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ISLAMABAD: Balochistan's Caretaker Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination, Mr. Asif-ur-Rehman called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar today. Former Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan was also present.

SC tested several times over constitutional matters in Feb 2023, says CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaking for the last time at a ceremony marking the commencement of the new judicial year on Monday, Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial said that the court was tested several times in February 2023 with matters pertaining to the Constitution of Pakistan.

He added that he did not want to repeat all that has happened but it is reflected in part in the decision for the audio leaks case.

Commenting on his differences with incoming CJP Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Bandial maintained that the latter was an admirable man.

The media is the eyes and ears of society, said the CJP, but, he added, incorrect reports were published about him. He referred to the use of his phrases "good to see you" and "short and sweet" and said they were taken out of context. He doesn't hold this against the media, he added.

The outgoing CJP said that this might be his last address as the chief justice, and mentioned that the ongoing political situation has also affected judicial performance. Commenting on the performance of the apex court, CJP Bandial said that the SC disposed of 23,000 cases in the past year, breaking a previous record of disposing of 18,000 cases in one year. He added that he had wished to reduce the number of pending cases by 50,000 but managed to address only 2,000 cases from the backlog.

Justice Bandial took office as CJP in February 2022 and is due to retire on September 16, 2023. The Supreme Court has been marred with controversies this year against the backdrop of a political crisis which has garnered the attention of international media and much uncertainty surrounding the next general elections.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti and Caretaker Federal Minister for Water Resources, Ahmad Irfan Aslam chairing a meeting regarding the restoration of Kachi Canal, in Islamabad.

Khurram Agha directs Work on Pinjra Bridge to be completed within stipulated time

Independent Report

QUETTA: Secretary Communications and Chairman NHA Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Khurram Agha paid a detailed visit to Balochistan in order to inspect and review the progress of various ongoing development projects and the restoration works on flood-affected road infrastructure.

Acting on directions of the Hon'ble Caretaker Prime Minister Mr. Anwar ul Haq Kakar, Secretary Communications along with Member West Zone Mr. Shahid Ihsanullah and his team, made a comprehensive visit to various sites in Balochistan.

Secretary Communica-

tions reviewed the developments on already issued instructions regarding expediting progress on PSDP projects and maintenance schemes including Pinjra Bridge (N-65), Quetta Western Bypass (N-25), Khuzdar-Kuchlak Dualization (N-25), and Zhob-Kuchlak Dualization projects (N-50). During his visit to Quetta Western Bypass, he acknowledged the efforts of the contractor and NHA's workforce for the quality and efficiency of work.

Similarly, he pointed that restoration work on Pinjra Bridge N-65 shall be completed within the stipulated time of four months.

PM hails WB's role in dev. of backward, especially remote areas of Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has recognized the role of the World Bank in playing a role for the development of the backward areas, especially, the remote areas of Balochistan.

This was stated by him while talking to Country Director of World Bank Najay Benhassaine who called on him in Islamabad on Monday.

Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar said that putting backward areas of the country on the

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QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar presiding over meeting of Senate of Balochistan University

Balochistan Caretaker Minister calls on PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Asif-ur-Rehman on Monday was called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Former chief minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan was also present during the meeting. PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Deputy Chairman NAB resigns

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy chairman NAB Zahir Shah has resigned from his office.

After chairman NAB Aftab Sultan, Prosecutor General Asghar Haider, Deputy chairman NAB too has resigned.

Deputy chairman NAB has filed his resignation with chairman NAB. It has been said in the resignation that he does not want to continue his job due to personal reasons. Therefore, his resignation be accepted.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Communication and Chairman NHA Captain (Retd) Muhammad Khurram Agha paid a detailed visit to Balochistan to review the ongoing development projects and progress of flood-affected road infrastructure restoration work



Commander 12 Corps Lt. General Asif Ghafoor being briefed about operation against narcotics in Gulistan

Senate of University of Balochistan meets: Kakar emphasizes on reducing unnecessary expenditures of public sector universities

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has categorically emphasized upon reducing the unnecessary expenditures of the public sector universities at every level, which is necessary to put them at the path of real development.

He also called for taking solid measures for increasing sources of income of the universities.

The Governor was chairing meeting of the senate of University of Balochistan here on Monday. Also present in the meeting were the caretaker Provincial Minister for Education, Qadir Bakhsh Baloch, senior judge of Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Hashim Khan Kakar, Vice Chancellor, UoB, Professor Dr. Shafiqur Rehman, adminis-

trative secretaries, Abdul Saboor Khan Kakar, Zahid Saleem, Dr. Hafeez Jamali, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai, representative of Higher Education Commission, Dr. Zahoor Bazia.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor stressed that implementation of the rules and regulations of HEC is very important to run affairs of the University. He also stressed the need to make conscious efforts for bringing universities and industries together. Moreover, he directed to strictly follow rules and regulations in new recruitments and promotions in the University.

Meanwhile, certain important decisions were made on recommendations and proposals made by the participants in the senate's meeting.

President, law minister hold consultation on general elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim Federal Minister for Law and Justice Ahmed Irfan Aslam on Monday called on President Dr Arif Alvi here.

In the meeting, they held a consultation on the general elections in the country, a President House statement said. The meeting between the government and the president is part of the ongoing consultation regarding the general polls.

"The continuation of the consultation process with good intentions will prove to be productive for the democracy in the country," the president remarked.

Pakistan will not allow Afghan Transit trade agreement to be misused: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan while expressing concern over Afghan authorities statement has said we wonder on giving such statement despite knowing the facts.

"Construction of any structure within our territory is not acceptable. Construction of structure in our territory is against our sovereignty" this was said by Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch here Monday.

She went on to say Afghan forces resorted to firing instead of peaceful

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One soldier martyred in IED attack on forces in Warsak

RAWALPINDI (Online): On 11 September 23, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded on a vehicle of Security Forces in general area Warsak, Peshawar District.

Consequently, Lance Naik Abdul Rehman, 29 years, resident of District Bannu embraced Shahadat, while three soldiers got injured. This cowardly terrorist act also resulted in injury of three innocent civilians.

Establishing law and order topmost responsibility, says caretaker CM

Mir Ali Mardan Domki says office of Chief Executive has basic importance in resolving public issues; exhorts Chief Minister's secretariat to work hard with dedication and sincerity

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that it is topmost responsibility of the interim government to establish law and order in the province. It is mandate of the caretaker government to conduct free and fair elections in the peaceful manner.

This was stated by the caretaker Chief Minister while presiding over a meeting of the officers of CM secretariat here on Monday.

Basically it was an introductory meeting of the CM secretariat officers with the caretaker Chief

Minister Balochistan.

Mr. Domki was briefed about the affairs of CM secretariat by the Principal Secretary, Lal Jan Jaffar.

He said that it is responsibility of the officers to perform the professional duties well.

He said that the responsibility which has been given to us requires we work hard and with sincerity. He said that the officers of CM secretariat are his team, and adding he expected that they would strengthen his hands.

The caretaker Chief Minister stressed that service of the province and masses should be our first priority.



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik as Caretaker Federal Minister during oath taking ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

Corps Commander visits Gulistan; appreciates operation against narcotics by forces

Lt. General says it is our national obligation to save our children and drug addicts from menace of narcotics

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Corps Commander 12 Corps, Lt. General Asif Ghafoor visited Gulistan area of Killa Abdullah on Monday.

During the visit, the Corps Commander reviewed the operation launched by the security forces against narcotics in Gulistan. Also present on the occasion was Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat.

The Corps Commander highly appreciated the performance of forces

against narcotics and termed it a great service of the society. He said that it is our national responsibility to save our children and drug addicts from the curse of narcotics, and this obligation would be fulfilled too.

Lt. General Asif Ghafoor said that action is also being taken against the distributors as well as the cultivators and producers of the narcotics.

He also hailed the support of local population for launching operation against narcotics in the area.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Nawabzada Zafarullah Khan Zehri meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

BHC dismisses constitution petition filed against appointment of some members of interim cabinet

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) dismissed the constitution petition in which the appointment of three members of provincial caretaker cabinet and an Advisor to caretaker Chief Minister were challenged.

The division bench of High Court, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan disposed of the CP No. 1308/2023 wherein the petition had challenged the appointment of Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch, Jan Achakzai and Captain (Retd) Zubair Jamali as members of the cabinet and appointment of Ms. Shania Khan as Advisor to caretaker CM was challenged on the grounds that they are

suffering from disqualification under Article 63 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 having affiliation with political parties; Mr. Jan Achakzai is a British national and he remained affiliated with different political parties in different years, Capt (Retd) Zubair Jamali is a close relative of Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly; Ms. Shania Khan was previously appointed as coordinator to then Chief Minister and she ceased to hold the office in pursuance of judgment dated 26.07.2023 passed by this court in CP No. 282/2023; Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch is permanent resident of Taunsa/

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Pakistan snipers clinch gold, silver medal in European Long Range C'ship

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Pakistan team of long-range snipers have clinched two silvers and a gold medal in the European Long Range Championship that had commenced on September 5 at Bisley, UK in its maiden appearance at one of the world's leading shooting competitions. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, after World Championship, the European platform is considered to be the second biggest event in this category. The Pakistan Team made its maiden appearance in the European Championship to compete with over 80 international shooters from 12 nations in individual matches and 12 teams in team matches.

Caretaker PM for necessary arrangements ahead of Hajj 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and the secretary to finalize arrangements ahead of the coming season of Hajj, under their supervision. The prime minister chaired a preparatory meeting regarding the Hajj 2024. The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed, secretary and other relevant authorities, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. He also asked for setting up a committee

to review the Hajj arrangements and opined that there should be no compromise over the arrangements for the pilgrims. The prime minister directed for submission of a comprehensive report over complaints of the pilgrims related to the Hajj 2023. A directive was also issued to the relevant ministry and the Ministry of Information Technology for the launch of a mobile application and website for offering facilitation and registration of complaints for the intending pilgrims in the upcoming season through their joint collaboration.

PM Kakar also directed for constitution of a reforms committee to submit a report regarding complaints about the private Hajj companies with suggestions. There was need to keep a vigil on the private Hajj companies so that the pilgrims sent by them should not face any difficulties, he added. During the meeting, the caretaker prime minister also asked the minister and the secretary to personally visit Saudi Arabia, supervise the arrangements for the upcoming Hajj 2024 and submit a comprehensive report in that regard.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a preparatory meeting regarding Hajj 2024, in Islamabad.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Muhammad Ali addressing the press conference at governor house Karachi. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori also present on the occasion.

Sugar price & availability normalizing after countrywide crackdown against smuggling, hoarding

ISLAMABAD (APP): With the caretaker government launching a massive crackdown and showing "zero-tolerance" towards smuggling and hoarding of essential commodities, the price and availability of sugar were gradually becoming stable and normal. In line with its strategy, the government has also planned prize money (cash reward) for those citizens who would provide information leading to the identification of elements involved in the smuggling and hoarding.

For this purpose, a toll-free number has been set up at the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the Ministry of Interior to call and share the required information against the elements involved in illegal activi-

ties, causing a dent in the national economy. To stop hoarding the federal and provincial governments have launched operations in different cities, including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Faisalabad, Peshawar, Quetta and Dera Ismail Khan, which resulted in seizure of illegally stocked sugar.

In Rawalpindi, the district administration taking strict action against sugar hoarders conducted raids on different illegal warehouses and sealed 13 godowns in Tayyaba Market and Rattaamral, confiscating over 1,000 sugar bags weighing 50 kilograms. The administration also sealed five shops in Dalgaraan and Naswar Bazaars for hoarding sugar. In Peshawar, the district administration recovered 311 tons of sugar

bags from godowns on Daraband Road. In Quetta, a major crackdown is underway against the sugar mafia, under which the local administration last night recovered 250 tons of sugar and 750 tons of urea fertilizer in the outskirts of the provincial capital.

In Faisalabad, the district administration raided storages of sugar in the revenue limits of the city to check its artificial shortage and sale in black. In Lahore, the Punjab government and sugar mill owners reached an agreement that the commodity would be sold at the rate of Rs 140 per kilogram. In Dera Ismail Khan, the local administration conducted raids on the marked godowns on Daraband Road from where 5,000 bags of sugar were recovered.



KHAIRPUR: A large number of supporters of Peoples Party (PPP) gather for warm welcome of the Peoples Party Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari upon his arrival in Khairpur

BHC dismisses constitution...

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Dera Ghazi Khan, he remained professor / Director Business studies and Leadership in Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, he was removed from service on 24.07.2023 on the allegation of illegal appointments. As per the judgment, the petition was taken up for preliminary hearing on 28.08.2023 and preadmission notices were issued to Additional Attorney General as well as the Advocate General of Balochistan and the petition was ordered to be fixed on 30.08.2023.

On 30.08.2023, the petition submitted CMA No. 3137/2023 in court for withdrawal of the petition by stating that he is not interested in further proceed with the petition.

However, on the said date, Additional Attorney General and Advocate General were directed to assist the court about criteria for appointment of members of caretaker cabinet and it was decided to pass appropri-

ate order on CMA on the next date which was fixed as 11.09.2023, despite repeated calls, the petitioner was not in attendance on Monday.

The Additional Attorney General and AG stated the members of caretaker cabinet cannot be termed as parliamentarians, therefore, it is not mandatory for them in fulfilling the qualification as mentioned in the Article 62 of the Constitution nor the disqualification mentioned in Article 63 of the Constitution for member of parliament can be made applicable to them.

The court observed that the caretaker Chief Minister and members of the caretaker cabinet cannot be termed / considered as parliamentarians within the purview of Articles 62 & 63 of the Constitution, and as such the criteria for qualification / disqualification of the members of parliament as provided under Article 62 & 63 of the Constitution cannot be made applicable to the members of caretaker cabinet.

PM hails WB's...

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path of development was the priority of the government. He also appreciated the role played by the World Bank in helping and rehabilitating last year's flood affected people.

The caretaker prime minister said the government will provide all possible administrative support to soon complete the ongoing rehabilitation work in the affected areas.

Najay Benhassaine briefed the Prime Minister in detail about development of backward areas in Balochistan, the ongoing efforts for rehabilitation of flood victims in Sindh and the progress for provision of aid money announced by the World Bank in Geneva for the flood affected people.

Pakistan will...

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resolution of the issue on September 06.

Afghan forces not only damaged infrastructure but they put at stake the lives of people. She held unprovoked firing has encouraged terrorist elements. We welcomed Afghan people openheartedly for several decades. She underlined that Afghan ministry of foreign affairs offered improper comments about Pakistan economy.

Pakistan will not allow to misuse Afghan Transit trade agreement. Pakistan supports the resolution of matters between the two countries through dialogue, she remarked.

We hope Afghan authorities will respect sovereignty of Pakistan, she underscored.

Asia Cup 2023: India register biggest ODI win over Pakistan

Sports Desk

COLOMBO: India beat Pakistan by 228 runs in the Asia Cup Super Four match in Colombo on Sunday. Pakistan batting line-up fell like a house of cards. The Green Shirts posted 128 runs in 32 overs.

Earlier, India set a target of 357 for Pakistan after they resumed batting at 147/2 against Pakistan on reserve day of the Super Four match of Asia Cup at Colombo.

Pakistan in pursuit of the mammoth total lost four wickets - Imamul Haq, Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and Mohammad Rizwan - with 78-4 from 19.5 overs. Earlier, an impressive third wicket partnership of 233 runs between Virat Kohli (122) and KL Raul (111) helped the team build a mammoth total against Pakistan. The match resumed earlier in the day with no over lost.

Meanwhile, Haris Rauf has been ruled out of the Asia Cup contest due to injury.

Earlier, the ground at Colombo's stadium was covered with thick sheets as downpour began on the reserve day for a crucial

Pakistan-India match of Asia Cup.

The conditions were not favourable for cricket in Colombo as the match between Pakistan and India was likely to be affected by rain today.

Since late night, Colombo had been receiving drizzling intermittently and was overcast with strong winds.

Intermittent rain is forecast throughout the day today, with more heavy rain expected during the afternoon hours.

In the ongoing match in Colombo, Pakistan won the toss and invited India to bat first.

On Sunday rain washed out play which is about to resume today (Monday) as India were 147/2 at the start of the 25th over against Pakistan in the Asia Cup 2023 Super Fours match in Colombo.

As many as 75 overs were washed out on Sunday due to the heavy downpour.

Cricket rivalry between the India-Pakistan is one of the most strong sports rivalries globally and cricket lovers forever wait for their clash eagerly.



H.E. Mr. Neil Hawkins, Australian High Commissioner called on Minister for Defence Lt General Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd) in Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi.

Election Commission to...

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in the incident would be dealt with according to the law of the land, he continued.

He said Nawaz Sharif was thrice elected prime minister and when he would come back to Pakistan he would be treated according to law.

He clarified that he had no intention to start meetings with the leadership of political parties.

To a question about Pakistan's foreign policy, he said Pakistan had good relations with all countries, adding China was on the verge of becoming the largest economy of the world and the western world led by US was anxious about it and wanted to contain its influence.

Pakistan had adopted the policy of Look Africa to improve its relations with the continent which had a population of more than a billion people, he informed.

He said Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman would visit Pakistan on a mutually agreed time when both sides would be ready to announce projects for investment.

The state would show its firmness against terrorists as in no condition anyone would be allowed to resort to violence, he stressed.

PM Kakar said there was no restriction on Pakistan Tehreek in Insaf (PTI) for taking part in the elections.

Talking about incidents of May 9, he said miscreants resorted to vandalism and arson and the whole incident was reported by the local and international media.

The accused involved

Pakistan ripe for investment: Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has termed Pakistan as ripe for investment as the country is inviting investments from the United States and the Gulf region.

He made these remarks while addressing Pakistan America Business Forum Annual Award Banquet 2023 in Dallas area of Texas State in the United States.

He said China is already making investment through CPEC projects and the Pakistan has invited Gulf region to participate in extractive industries and they are partnering with many European and North American firms. He said this is creating a huge opportunity for more investment in Pakistan. Since the infrastructure is there, so step into that market.

The Ambassador thanked Chairman PABF Waqar Khan, President Anwar Azam and other PABF members for providing him with the opportunity to highlight business potential of the country.

He also acknowledged Texas State Repre Salman Bhojani, Mayor Richardson



Mayor Bob Dooley, Mr. Shamsul Aarifeen, Abdul Khabir and others for their presence in the event.

Meanwhile, addressing leading businessmen and entrepreneurs, Masood Khan said with the presence of 80 US enterprises, there are already exists a vast infrastructure in Pakistan for investment. He said there are ample opportunities available in Pakistan. To streamline business activities and investment, the Ambassador suggested establishment of a forum, either in Dallas, Houston or any other part of the United States, to address specific issues related to regulatory regime in Pakistan, ease of doing business in the country, repatriation of profits and other issues that are confronted by the business community and potential investors.

The Ambassador highlighted mining sector, agriculture, education, health, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, biotechnology which were opening up to the world and offering huge dividends to investors and business community.

Highlighting decades long partnership between Pakistan and the United States, the Ambassador observed that Pakistan chose the United States over others as its friend. He observed that as Pakistani-American continue to come to the United States, they enrich the landscape of Pakistan and they continue to build bridges between Pakistan and the United States. He said that Pakistan is a country of a great potential and we would be amongst the top ten economies and the strongest countries in the world. He told the audience to dismiss all negative chatters about the country and invited them to personally visit the country and witness its potential.

The Ambassador highlighted that there are more than 82 million people comprising middle class of the country, adding that Pakistan is making progress in many sectors. He assured the audience that the country would emerge successful in overcoming its present challenges.

Recalling unwavering support of Pakistani-American community, Masood Khan said that Pakistani American have always stood with Pakistan. They will continue to support Pakistan and its economy with their investment and positive contributions.

Noting the presence of around one million Pakistanis in the United States, the Ambassador advised Pakistani-American to launch themselves as a community and make bridges between Pakistan and the United States even stronger.

China-Pakistan Gandhara Heritage Exhibition unveiled in Lanzhou, China

BEIJING (APP): As part of the continued cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan, "Gandhara Heritage along the Silk Road: A Joint China-Pakistan Exhibition" was unveiled at the Palace Museum in Lanzhou, Gansu Province. This is the continuation of the same exhibition that was held at the Palace Museum, Beijing earlier this year.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior officials from China and Pakistan, including Ms. Zhao Jinyun, Vice Governor of Gansu Province, Wang Xudong, Director of the Palace Museum, Ms. Humaira Ahmed, Secretary of National Heritage and Culture Division, Pakistan and Bilal Mahmood Chaudhary, Deputy Head of Mission, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing.

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6	The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan		
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Issuance of EOI Documents: From the date of publication of NIP to 02 October, 2023 02:30 PM during office hours on working days

Last Date of Application submission: The EOI must be submitted latest by 02 October, 2023 till 01:30 PM at the office of the undersigned.

EOI Opening: All EOI will be opened on same day at the office of the under signed at 02:30 PM

Address: Grain Silos Sheikh Manda Air port road Quetta The Pre-Qualification Documents can be downloaded from BPPRA Website (www.bppra.gov.pk).

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Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under signed at 02:30 PM

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Minorities enjoy equal rights in Pakistan: Caretaker PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday reiterated that all minorities enjoyed equal rights in Pakistan and assured them of complete protection of their rights and security.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the Christian community that called on him. Caretaker Minister for Human Rights Khalil George and other relevant authorities were also present during the meeting, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM Kakar said that

those responsible for the Jaranwala incident would be made an example so that such incidents would not occur in future.

He also asked the minorities to give proposals for the resolution of their issues and problems to the government so that the same could be solved.

The caretaker prime minister said that the Constitution of Pakistan ensured equal social, religious and political rights to all citizens without any racial, caste, creed and ethnic discrimination, adding with due respect to each others' faith, a peaceful and prosperous society could be

formed.

He also called upon all the segments of society to play their role in the elimination of extremism.

The delegation welcomed the appointment of Khalil George as Caretaker Minister for Human Rights.

They also thanked the prime minister for visiting and taking immediate measures in the wake of Jaranwala incident.

The delegation included Ijaz Augustin, a former provincial minister, Asia Ansar, a former Member of the National Assembly, bishops and pastors.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with a delegation of Christian Community during meeting held in Islamabad.

Jamal inaugurates exhibition "Portraits of Quaid" at PNCA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah on Monday inaugurated a solo exhibition of paintings titled "Portraits of Quaid" to commemorate the 75th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The exhibition was organized by Ali Azmat, a renowned artist in collaboration with ForArtSake curated by Amna I Pataudi and Dr. Rahat Naveed Masood here at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Jamal Shah paid rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his vision, untiring hard work, and charismatic leadership to win a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent.

The minister said that Ali Azmat has thematically tried to capture what Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad

Ali Jinnah envisioned for Pakistan.

Jamal Shah said "Ali Azmat adds color, aesthetics, and takes up the responsibility to bring clarity and awareness to the larger political landscape of the country. He has accomplished this feat remarkably well in his works. As you walk from one painting to another, you can see how brilliantly Azmat Ali captures the changing expressions of the Quaid's visage."

He said that the exhibition is a fantastic amalgamation of hyperrealistic paintings and drawings of Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The minister said, today, there was a need for the nation to emulate the Father of Pakistan's everlasting principles of faith, unity, and discipline to face the current challenges.

Jamal Shah said that the National Heritage and Culture Division and its attached departments would organize more cultural activities including theatre,

music, film festivals, and China Pakistan Economic Corridor Cultural Caravan.

He praised curator Amna I Pataudi, artist Ali Azmat, and ForArtSake and said "The art can transform you like nothing else."

Amna I Pataudi said that for the first time, any artist has become the Federal Minister for Culture and added that Jamal Shah being an artist can better understand the issues of the artist's community.

She said the repertoire of expressions is as rich as the colorful strokes of the artist. His works reflect his love for nature, history, and spirituality, as well as his social commentary on contemporary issues. He uses various mediums and techniques, such as oil, watercolor, acrylic, collage, and mixed media, to create his unique style.

The exhibition will remain open for the public till 18th September at the National Art Gallery, PNCA.

US based film maker for highlighting Pakistan's image through rich culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Izzy Chan - a US-based film maker stressed the need to highlight the positive image of Pakistan through a showcase of its rich cultural heritage and beauty as she recently visited Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Islamabad to train youth in documentary making.

Izzy Chan is a storyteller and award-winning documentary maker who is deeply curious about cultural and social trends poised to change life. Her award-winning documentary feature on the rise of breadwinner moms and at-home dads, "The Big Flip—Stories from the Modern Home Front" (2016), premiered at the Austin Film Festival and Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival and was featured in the 2017-2019 American Film Showcase. As a film envoy, Izzy has traveled to Egypt, China, and Ukraine to conduct workshops on storytelling and strategy.

Talking to APP in an interview, she said that during her recent visit to GB

she trained over 50 young aspiring filmmakers through her methods of production, idea conception, and theme development.

"Pakistani youth has amazing talent and they can excel in the field of filmmaking if their ideas are explored and provided proper platforms.

They can use the filmmaking field to bring positive change as well as project a soft image of the country through highlighting the positive aspects of their society which are not shown in international media," she maintained.

Praising the beauty of nature and vibrancy of the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan, especially the North side, she said, "There is huge potential for tourism in Pakistan, and nature lovers and tourists from across the world must come to see these stunning glimpses of nature, local communities and hospitality of Pakistani people and show the world this true face of the country which is not shown unfortunately."

Shah grieved over legendary artist Ahmed Khan's demise

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah, conveyed his profound sadness and condolences regarding the unfortunate passing of Prof. Ahmed Khan, a renowned artist, designer, teacher, and mentor.

In expressing his sorrow over Ahmed Khan's demise, the minister extended his heartfelt condolences and offered prayers for the grieving family.

He also beseeched Allah Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul. The minister remarked that his contributions to education and the world of art will be fondly remembered and valued by all those fortunate enough to have learned from him, both at the National College of Arts (NCA) and beyond. He emphasized that the void left by his passing is irreplaceable. Furthermore, the minister issued instructions to the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) to arrange a condolence reference in honor of Prof. Ahmed Khan.



ISLAMABAD: Students are taking lessons at open sir "Pheli Kiran School" at Golra area, which is back by NGO, to fulfill the Needs of Underprivileged Children in Pakistan For A Promising Future.



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi exchanging views with Ahmed Irfan Aslam, Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

G20 heads urged to put pressure on India to resolve Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pro-freedom organizations through the posters pasted in Srinagar and other areas of the Kashmir Valley have appealed to the G20 countries to put pressure on the Modi-led Indian government to resolve the Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations resolutions.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the posters, displayed by pro-freedom organizations, including Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Resistance Youth Forum J&K, Jammu Kashmir Democratic Movement and

Jammu Kashmir Youth Movement, urged the World Body to implement its Kashmir-related resolutions and settle the dispute forever.

The posters read, "Play role in release of all Kashmiri political detainees," "India is using this international forum to legalize its brutal repression in Indian occupied Kashmir and paddle falsehoods of normalcy", "Jammu and Kashmir is under Indian military and police siege since August 2019".

The posters ask G20, "Do you know India is the

worst violator of freedoms of expression and opinion and do you believe in human rights and peace, if so, why you, G20 countries, are guests of the worst violator, India."

The posters called upon the international community to take cognizance of the grave human rights violations being perpetrated by Indian troops in the occupied territory.

The posters appealed to G20 members that they should realize that India's ulterior motives behind holding the groupings meeting in IIOJK is nothing but to hide its anti-Kashmir agenda and demand of the UN resolutions by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Interim President Alvi can't announce election date: Attaullah

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Attaullah Tarar has said that Interim President Arif Alvi cannot announce the election date as his tenure had expired on September 9.

Addressing a press conference on Monday, he said that the Article 58 had become ineffective after September 9. "Under the Election Act, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) can announce the election date," he said.

He said that the president wants to destabilize Pakistan.

In a statement, PML-

N leader Marriyum Aurangzeb said that President Arif Alvi should give the date to vacate the presidency after the completion of his term.

She said that the puppet of those brought destruction to the country is hell-bent on bringing another constitutional crisis in the country.

"Enemies of people's development and livelihood are responsible for today's situation. Conspirators attack the country and people as soon as they get the opportunity. This is another nefarious attempt to create chaos, conflict and dirt in the country.

Imran files contempt of court plea against Superintendent jail Attock

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI Imran Khan has filed contempt of court petition against Superintendent Jail Attock.

It has been said in the petition filed by Imran Khan telephonic conversation between chairman PTI and his children was not arranged despite court's orders. The contempt of court plea against Superintendent jail Attock has been filed through advocate Shiraz Ranjha.

UN organizes sixth of 12 dialogues about sustainable development

ISLAMABAD (INP): The sixth of a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development was held in Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by the United Nations and the district administration.

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

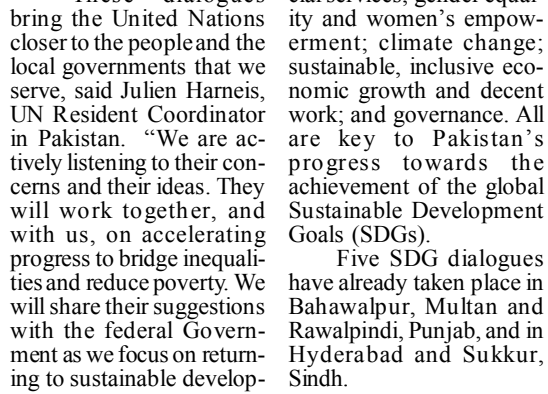
"These dialogues bring the United Nations closer to the people and the local governments that we serve, said Julien Hameis, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. "We are actively listening to their concerns and their ideas. They will work together, and with us, on accelerating progress to bridge inequalities and reduce poverty. We will share their suggestions with the federal Government as we focus on returning to sustainable development."

In Mardan, the discussions focused on four topics chosen by the participants ahead of the event: women's voice and participation, nutrition, food security, and humanitarian emergency preparedness.

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

The 12 dialogues are engaging local leaders around development issues such as access to basic social services; gender equality and women's empowerment; climate change; sustainable, inclusive economic growth and decent work; and governance. All are key to Pakistan's progress towards the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Five SDG dialogues have already taken place in Bahawalpur, Multan and Rawalpindi, Punjab, and in Hyderabad and Sukkur, Sindh.



ISLAMABAD: President International Islamic University, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi meeting with Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Madad Ali Sindh.

IIUI president calls on Education Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): President, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) H.E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, Monday, called on Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindh and congratulated him on his appointment.

During the meeting, issues of mutual interests including initiatives for promotion of quality education and role of universities in discouraging extremism were discussed. The meeting was also attended by Vice President Administration and Finance Dr. N.B. Jumani.

Honorable Minister, while appreciating the role of IIUI in society building and services, assured of maximum support to IIUI. He opined that universities can play vital role in curbing the extremism. He desired that the IIUI being the best platform should hold a conference on the life of Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The IIUI President said that university will soon scheduling this conference in cooperation with the ministry. He also apprised

that the university will hold another conference on Shariah that will be attended by Imam e Kaaba. He added that another conference of the league of Islamic universities to be organized by IIUI is in the pipeline that will be attended Muslim World League chief.

Talking about the relations of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, the Minister said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share a remarkable brethren history. He added that brotherly ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are getting stronger by every passing day.

He said Arabic is the language that is one of the most expressive and rich languages.

He also praised the vision of Govt of Saudi Arabia saying that contributions of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bin Salman for dissemination of peace are laudable.

He said that His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman is a great leader of Muslim world with a unique vision.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan addressing a seminar regarding Climate Resilient Health Systems.

Posters appear in IIOJK urging G20 heads to ask Modi to stop Kashmiris' massacre

ISLAMABAD (APP): Posters have appeared in Srinagar, urging the G20 heads to ask Modi to stop the slow-motion massacre of people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and resolve the Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations (UN) resolutions.

According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), the posters, displayed by pro-freedom organizations, including Resistance Youth Forum J&K, Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Jammu

Kashmir Democratic Movement, Resistance Youth Forum J&K, Jammu Kashmir Youth Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Justice and Peace Initiative and Nawjawan-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir, urged the World Body to take notice of the violation of Kashmiris' right to self-determination recognized by the UN Security Council through its resolution passed on January 5, 1949.

The posters appealed to G20 members that they should realize that India's ulterior motives behind

holding the groupings meeting in IIOJK were nothing but to hide its anti-Kashmir agendas and demand the UN resolutions by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The posters called upon the World Body to honour its commitments made 74 years ago and said that the Right to Self-Determination Day was a reminder to the global community that it could not shy away from its responsibility of settling the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and aspirations.

Doctors-scarce Pakistan has 35% female doctors jobless

ISLAMABAD (INP): A large number of female doctors are out of job in Pakistan despite the fact that the world's fifth most populous country badly needs qualified medical practitioners. Ironically, this is happening in a country where the resource-constrained government is spending billions of rupees on subsidizing medical education in public sector universities.

As many as 35% female medical doctors are unemployed in Pakistan, revealed a research jointly conducted by Gallup Pakistan and PRIDE across the country.

Basing their research on Labour Force Survey 2020-21, Gallup Pakistan and PRIDE analyzed Pakistan Bureau of Statistics' data on labour market specially female medical graduates and disseminated the same for the country's wider policy circles.

The crises-hit country while is facing a serious shortage of qualified doctors more than 36,000 female doctors are either jobless or opt to remain out of the labor force for various reasons. "Pakistan has a dearth of trained medical doctors," said Bilal Gilani, an executive director at Gallup Pakistan.

The survey shows that presently 104,974 female medical graduates are residing in Pakistan. Of the total, 68,209 or 65% are working at various private and state-owned medical facilities. The country, however, has 15,619 or 14.9% female doctors without any job while 21,146, constituting 20.1% of the total number, are completely out of labour force, the survey shows.

According to Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC), since its inception in 1947 Pakistan has

produced about 200,000 doctors, half of them being females. The data from Bureau of Emigration show that around 30,000 doctors have left Pakistan since 1970 and on average almost 1,000 are going to settle abroad every year. "Among females, a major issue is qualified female doctors are not working," viewed Gilani.

Majority of these doctors studied at public sector universities where the government spends billions of rupees to subsidize education.

An average private university whereas charges the medical students with more than Rs 5 million the government one imparts the same education for less than Rs 1 million.

Thus the government has to give at least a Rs 4 million subsidy to produce a medical doctor.

This taxpayers money

goes to waste as one in three of these female doctors are not working, the survey shows.

Almost 50,000 female doctors on whom an investment of at least 200 billion in current value is wasted, it said. "We need to rethink about both the costs to taxpayers of these not working doctors but also the loss in terms of health outcomes which their absence is causing," observed Gilani.

Further, Dr. Shahid Naeem, director policy research at PRIDE, said one in every five medical graduates opt to remain out of labour force.

Majority of these 'out of labour force' female medical graduates are married, he said. "This is indicative of the presence of a social trend of getting medical education in order to secure a better spouse," Dr. Naeem opined urging the government to review

its policy of allocation of seats at least in the public sector medical colleges to ensure value for money.

The issue of female medical graduates or doctors who remain out of the labour force after completing medical education is a serious concern that warrants further exploration, he said. The findings of this survey support the phenomenon of 'doctor brides' as widely discussed and reported in Pakistan's context and stipulates that many families prefer their daughters to have medical education, as it enables them to find a more suitable match for their marriage. The survey also addresses the regional breakup of the employment pattern of these doctors and found that about 28% and 72% of Pakistan's total medical graduates reside in rural and urban areas, respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking interest in the portraits of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during exhibition at Pakistan National Council of Arts to mark the 75th death anniversary of Founder of the Nation with reverence and solemnity.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

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Vulnerable Chitral

The Chitral region of KP has been in the headlines of late due to the Sept 6 deadly cross-border incursion in which a large band of TTP militants reportedly crossed over and attacked Pakistani positions before being pushed back into Afghanistan.

Though the authorities have not given any numbers, the raiders were reported to be in the 'hundreds'. The interim foreign minister insists this was an "isolated incident" and that the Afghan Taliban rulers did not sanction the attack, while the Foreign Office has repeated the mantra that Pakistan's concerns have been communicated to the relevant quarters in Kabul. State functionaries may be giving the impression that all is well in the region, but more information is needed on the exact details of the attack, while the local people need to be reassured that their lives and properties will be protected by the state. Chitral lies in a strategically sensitive area, bordering Afghanistan and with only the Wakhan Corridor separating it from Tajikistan. China's Xinjiang region is also in the vicinity.

This makes it an attractive location for transnational jihadists looking to expand their operations, even though Chitral itself has largely been shielded from terrorist activity.

Moreover, the region is culturally, linguistically and ethnically distinct from the rest of KP. While Swat and erstwhile Fata suffered the most during earlier waves of terrorism, Chitral managed to weather the storm. The area where the incursion took place is close to the traditional lands of the Kalash people, and Chitral also has a significant Ismaili population.

Therefore, the state needs to beef up security in the area, as the banned TTP and sectarian militants thrive on targeting minority communities. While there have been reports of small-scale infiltration from Afghanistan, the last major incursion occurred in 2011 when reportedly a very large number of terrorists staged attacks, leading to several fatalities among security men.

Simply expecting the Afghan Taliban to 'do more' may not be enough, especially when there is speculation that some Taliban factions may actually be encouraging attacks within Pakistan.

The best option is for the military to provide iron-clad security to all vulnerable border regions, and ensure that no groups are again able to violate Pakistan's territory.

A jirga in Chitral has asked the army chief to visit the area, and called upon the authorities to fence the border with Afghanistan. Reports indicate that the Afghan Taliban had started relocating TTP fighters from the border area; the process must be sped up so that this ever-present threat on the country's frontiers is neutralised. The terrorist threat on the borders must be handled proactively. In the past, the country has suffered immensely by allowing malevolent actors to establish fiefdoms on Pakistani territory. This mistake must never be repeated.



Malecha Lodhi

Are 'middle powers' more important today in geopolitics? Which countries are middle powers and why do they have rising clout in the present era? How do we define them and assess their influence on the international stage? Is soft power also a factor in their global standing?

The notion of middle powers has long been around. But it has acquired new relevance in the current geopolitical context whose defining features are increasing multipolarity and the US-China competition. There is no consensus in the growing literature about how to define middle powers. However, there is general agreement that these countries are neither among the world's superpowers nor are they small powers as

they have the ability to influence geopolitics.

This is due to their economic strength, military muscle or other attributes, including demographic characteristics, regional weight, soft power, diplomatic conduct and activism. This gives them significant leverage in global affairs and ability to build multiple relationships.

They include countries from the developed world and Global South, such as Germany, Japan, Canada, Brazil, India, South Africa, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Indonesia. They are a heterogeneous group of countries with varying governance systems as well as political and strategic interests. Pakistan is in some respects a middle power but its economic weakness has significantly limited and diminished its global influence.

The global debate about the role of middle powers has intensified as a consequence of the US-China stand-off. This hasn't mimicked the Cold War in terms of dividing the world into a 'tight' bipolarity. But, as several analysts have noted, it has, instead, offered opportunities and le-

way to countries to increase their leverage by playing off that rivalry and pursuing an 'independent' path.

Moreover, structural changes and dispersal of power in the international system—the very currency of power also having changed—has created an enabling environment for middle power activism and for them to wield influence. As Alec Russell recently wrote in a thoughtful Financial Times op-ed, "The age of the Western set menu is over. And the new menu, while heavily influenced by two lead chefs, is still being written"—a reference to middle powers who now seek a seat at the table.

Last month's BRICS summit in South Africa renewed focus on middle powers and their aspiration to reconfigure the global order and rewrite the rules of the game. Expansion of the group by addition of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Argentina, UAE and Ethiopia, with China working for enlargement, underlined how these emerging economies were seeking a bigger role by using the bloc as a countervailing force to US-led Western groupings, such as G7.

They also advocate reform of the international financial system and Bretton Woods institutions. As widely acknowledged, this expansion has increased the weight of BRICS, which represents over a quarter of the global economy and accounts for a major share of the world's oil resources.

Among decisions to emerge from the Johannesburg summit was for finance ministers of member countries to explore how to reduce dependence on the US dollar. As Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africa's president put it, "BRICS has embarked on a new chapter to build a world that is fair" and "inclusive". Whether or not that ambition is realised, the bloc has become an important platform for middle powers to make their global presence felt.

While many middle powers are capitalising on the US-China competition to strengthen their bargaining position they also seek to enhance relations with both global powers. They want to avoid getting in the crosshairs of that confrontation but to also reap advantages from it. This has urged both the US and China

to pay more attention to middle powers to ensure they don't get entrenched in their rival's camp.

Under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia has pursued initiatives that have set a new foreign policy direction and raised its diplomatic game. Riyadh loosened its traditionally close ties with the US to significantly boost its economic ties with China. Its rapprochement with long-time regional rival Iran, brokered by China, greatly increased its leverage with Washington.

This development so alarmed the Biden administration that it urged Washington to hasten plans to pursue a 'grand bargain' in the Middle East. This involves Saudi Arabia normalising relations with Israel in return for a mutual security pact with the US and Riyadh committing to scale back ties with China. In fact, Riyadh is driving a tough bargain by making several demands—a defence pact with Washington, a civilian nuclear deal, missile defence system/other high-tech weapons and substantial Israeli concessions for the Palestinians.

Turkey is another

country adept at the middle power diplomatic game, which has been widely commented on. A member of Nato, Turkey under Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has followed an assertive foreign policy in the region and beyond, maintaining ties with both the US and Russia. Ankara has played off the Ukraine conflict to further project its power and increase its leverage. It sought to mediate between Russia and Ukraine and (with the UN) brokered the Black Sea Grain Deal between them in July 2022. This allowed safe passage for shipment of grain from Ukraine, a big exporter, through the Black Sea, whose maritime routes are controlled by Turkey. Ankara also used its leverage over the issue of Nato's expansion to secure concessions from the US and EU.

Other middle powers including India have derived similar benefits from their activist diplomacy in a multipolar world. Indeed, their growing role in shaping geopolitics has led some analysts to describe this as the 'new normal' at a time when the world is in a state of flux. -- Courtesy Dawn

Dealing with the Taliban



Dr Naazir Mahmood

The 1990s saw the emergence of the Taliban and in the 2000s the TTP appeared to be distinct from the Taliban in Afghanistan. In this story we have had to shift our focus from our eastern borders to the western and vice versa; then you see the emergence of some patterns. You put on boots purportedly made to protect your feet but in actuality they may be erasing your footprints. All is fair in love and war, or is it? Then the chief threat starts coming from your own creations, and you end up losing hundreds of thousands of your own people. In over seven decades, nearly all voices of sanity have disappeared—or rather have been made to disappear.

By way of habitat loss, any potential species in society that could stand

up to extremism whether the TTP's or TLP's is either migrated or keeps silent. The insanity of extremism is not new, neither is it spontaneous; it is home-grown and self-nurtured. The Taliban and many other outfits operating now with impunity have been able to adapt and evolve in the past couple of decades. They have been receiving shots of homemade energizers, which promise good performance in time of need. But now the time of need is not controllable and the outfits themselves decide when and where to strike.

From the mujahideen to the Taliban these outfits can claim many achievements, including the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the defeat of the US. The creators of these outfits may also feel elated at the strategy their successive leaders have been following. But at what cost? Look at the plight of the Afghans—and of course Pakistanis themselves. The sky looks overcast for all of them from Kabul and Kalash to Karachi. Just peer down the main thoroughfare leading to the international arena of economic and human develop-

ment, and you don't see us anywhere.

What we see is streets in Afghanistan and Pakistan where stooped men and women beg for a bowl of rice. People in their 70s and 80s are left without care but fed with songs of nationalism and patriotism. What our children get in colleges and schools is not good quality education but an overdose of tales about past victories, which perhaps we never scored. Afghanistan and Pakistan are now tottering across a bridge leading to despotism and destitution. Afghanistan has already reached there and we are on our way; the Taliban and their creators have a lot to do with it.

The dynamic society that we could have had once is now strangled and hollowed out. Afghanistan's path after the Taliban victory two years ago, foreshadows what's coming in Pakistan. The Pyrrhic victory that former prime minister Imran Khan and his facilitators eulogized and welcomed in no uncertain terms has changed the fabric of society in ways both obvious and subtle. The hard-scrabble neighbourhood has sprung up in the past two years

during the Taliban boom, with aging infrastructure and declining economy. The system is strained and the increasing insularity of the Taliban is rubbing off on the youth of Pakistan.

It is a daunting list of failures that has led Pakistan to its sorry state now. No amount of sugar-coating or whitewashing can hide the stark contrast between what is on the ground and what the state wants us to believe. Had there been an incremental pace of reform in defence and foreign policies, Pakistan could also have witnessed corresponding economic and fiscal improvements. The state has scrunched all possibilities of activities and communication in society, other than the ones it approves. Those who have moved out of the country are called for their kin, and the caretaker prime minister says "so what?" with a sombre demeanour.

The youth are indignant and panicked; they feel abandoned and have no education and skills that can underpin their future. But the state is more interested in the housing societies and authorities that dot the outskirts of many of the larger cities in Paki-

stan; while a vast majority of Pakistani people cannot even afford mud constructions of their own, let alone a concrete structure. Just look at the millions that the floods affected not long ago, and ask yourself what gateway the state is providing them. Some of the abandonment of traditional state responsibilities may simply be a function of changing state priorities.

You prioritize backward groups over active citizenry and you get a conservative society devoid of initiative. Our communities have become more communal than inclusive; they suffocate individuality the way the Taliban have been doing in Afghanistan. The Talibanization of society presents a particular challenge that requires a drastic change in state priorities in policies from education and defence to foreign affairs. Just by reviving the memories of past sacrifices and victories—both real and imaginary—we are not heading anywhere. The state has already lost its grip on public imagination and now it is a formidable task to restore it. Cross-border infiltration by militants is in-

creasing by the day and tensions on the borders are a disturbing reality. Just by fighting on the security front, the situation will not change. The state of Pakistan believed that bilateral ties would improve after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. Independent observers including this writer had no such hope and kept writing about a possible upsurge in militant activities if the Taliban captured Kabul. Now we see that AfPak relations have become more dysfunctional than they were during the past two decades under the Hamid Karzai and Ashraf-Ghani governments.

The ruling structure in Pakistan has consistently miscalculated its ambitions and the balance is even now out of place. Those who cautioned against nurturing the mujahideen and the Taliban did not get a sympathetic ear from the state as it wanted a favourable dispensation in Afghanistan. Now those expectations have fallen flat and the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has worsened the situation which some still refuse to acknowledge. -- Courtesy TheNews

Undoing exclusion



Arooj Waheed Dar

Lack of equal opportunities and innovation has suffocated the growth capacity of Pakistan, limiting investment to buying and selling of real estate and dollars by the elite. Inequality of opportunity (IOP) evident across provinces, gender, religion, and the rural-urban spectrum presents itself as a major impediment to growth in Pakistan. This IOP largely stems from poor governance and exclusive institutions that have over time perpetuated the culture of elite capture. It is an endemic situation that mars society by curtailing social mobility, thereby killing all incentive for development.

IOP across gender keeps women at the sidelines, excluding them from work and education prospects. Statistics from the World Bank show that of the 22 million out-of-school children in Pakistan, 12m are girls. Of those going to school, learning outcomes remain poorer for girls compared to boys due to lack of focus. Access to work opportunities also remains disproportionate for women.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2021 shows that female labour force participation stands at a depressing 21.4pc; of this, around 94pc women are employed in the informal sector. Owing to cultural norms, female workforce participation goes down as household unpaid care responsibilities mount. Using the Pakistan Social And Living Standards Measurement Survey 2014-15, we can see that

on average, the number of weekly hours worked by women goes down by approximately 4.5 hours once they become mothers. This translates into widening pay gaps over the years, simultaneously isolating women from leadership positions.

IOP is also blatant across provinces; statistics from ASER 2021 show that learning outcomes remain poorest for Sindh, closely followed by Balochistan. This finding is mirrored in LFS 2021 which shows that 56pc people in Balochistan, and 46pc people in Sindh cannot read a simple sentence in any language with understanding. According to Unicef, 52pc of the poorest children in Sindh (58pc girls) are out of school; meanwhile in Balochistan, 78pc girls are out of school. Within provinces, an urban premium exists that favours those living in urban areas.

The recent cable car incident at Battagram highlights the hypocrisy of living in a country where on the one hand, inadequate infrastructure in poorer districts puts lives of school-going children at great risk; in contrast, you have cities like Lahore where multiple projects have been aimed at reducing commute time to the motorway. This bifurcation has increased the incidence of rural-urban migration, thereby resulting in a concentration of population in major cities. Using LFS 2021, we can see that around 58pc of all migrants have moved to Punjab in search of better health, education, and employment opportunities.

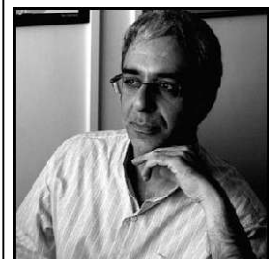
Favouring certain groups based on circumstances that are beyond one's control is an impediment to growth. It disincentivises individuals from investing in entrepreneurship and human capital formation. In a country where around 31pc of uni-

versity graduates are unemployed, lack of opportunities becomes a major cause of brain drain.

The goal should be to 'enable' marginalised groups, rather than to aid them unsustainably. This includes policies such as incentivising work-from-home models by providing tax breaks to businesses that facilitate it. This will make employment opportunities accessible to women and to persons living in indigenous regions. Remote learning opportunities also need to be created so that equitable education levels can be ensured for all. The biggest challenge in this regard will be to overcome the great digital divide which can be achieved through public-private partnership. Overcoming the digital divide is also crucial to allow us to fully reap the benefits of artificial intelligence, such as for education and health endeavours.

Additionally, financial inclusion needs to be ensured by creating incentives for women to open bank accounts and by making credit facilities readily available for marginalised groups. For this, it is vital to formalise the undocumented sector; however, it should not be done under the purview of raising taxes, but rather to support entrepreneurship by facilitating, counselling, and encouraging new business ventures. Instead of directing tax breaks and subsidies towards the same old cronies, subsidies should be given as a reward for innovation to new and emerging businesses. In conjunction, an impartial mechanism for registration of trademarks and copyrights should be ensured. Lastly, social programmes need to be expanded to ensure decent basic standards of living. In short, inclusivity is key to achieving SDGs by 2030. -- Courtesy Dawn

Unfriendly fats



Zarrar Khuhro

I'm one of those people who scoff at health trends, especially when a new dietary villain is found every other day. That's because I remember when butter was bad for you and the magic bullet solution was touted to be margarine. Then they flipped on that without so much as an 'oops' and then we were told that margarine was the devil's spread and to be avoided. Then it was eggs that humans have eaten for millennia but which were now the devil's droppings and a surefire way to give yourself a heart attack. From full-fat milk to desi ghee, everything that received the alarmist treatment ended up being endorsed as actually good for you, considering the alternatives.

So, when my wife, who devours such news with the same gusto as I devour nihari, sent me an article about the dangers of trans-fatty acids (or trans-fats as they're usually called) my first instinct was to dismiss this as yet more of that 'West-centric wellness eat clean live love pray hippy-dippy' grift that's so virally popular these days.

But, to my infinite regret and a few dozen 'see I told you so's', it turns out that not only are trans-fats as dangerous as they're made out to be, they are also very much a desi problem, and not an upper-class elite desi problem but one that affects the masses more than it does others.

Trans-fats are found in just about everything we like to eat, from deep-fried

street food like samosas to breakfast cereals, bakery goods, cookies, chocolates and processed foods. The main culprit seems to be partially hydrogenated oils like Vanaspati ghee and other refined oils, along with margarine and bakery shortenings, all used in food preparation in Pakistan. In fact, in the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean region, Pakistan accounts for the second highest consumption of trans-fats, amounting to six per cent of our daily energy intake, while the recommended 'safe' level is meant to be less than 1pc.

The consequences are deadly and can be seen all around us. Pakistan has one of the highest incidences of diabetes in the world, with an estimated 27pc of adults suffering from this disease. Then there's heart disease, which is already a top killer in Pakistan, along with obesity and a variety of cancers—all of which are also on the rise across the country, with many going undiagnosed until it's too late.

There's more: take a look at the wall-chalkings in any town or city in Pakistan and you'll see advertisements of treatments for increasing male potency (or 'strength' as the Urdu euphemism puts it) plastered everywhere. It's no surprise then that excessive consumption of saturated fat is also linked to erectile dysfunction and trans-fats in particular are closely linked to male infertility. If that doesn't get your attention, I don't know what will.

The cost isn't just to our health—every incidence of disease means yet more financial burden on those afflicted—this is especially worrisome considering how overburdened our healthcare system is and how stretched household finances are. The medicines required to treat these illnesses are increasing in price and many are already beyond the reach of most people.

Take diabetes alone: if we continue as we are, the number of diabetics in Pakistan will likely reach 62 million by 2045. That would mean a staggering burden on those suffering; note that the International Diabetes Federation estimated that in 2021, the cost of treating diabetes in Pakistan was \$2,640m.

So, what can be done? One approach is of course to spread awareness in the hope of inducing behavioural change, but this can't be the main thrust as most people will continue the way they always have, and consume what they are already consuming, simply out of a lack of access to alternatives.

That leaves legislation and enforcement, and some progress has been made on this front: in 2020 the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority imposed a limit of 5pc on trans-fatty acids in Vanaspati ghee, and then three years later set a limit of 2pc in Vanaspati ghee, margarine, bakery goods, biscuits and rusks etc. However, as always, enforcement is an issue and the industry has also successfully approached the courts to buy time. Moreover, this only covers the organised sector and cannot thus include the vast majority of the sources of trans-fats, such as street food and so on.

I realise that flagging a concern like this at a time of severe and deepening national crisis may seem a bit odd, but this is a literal time bomb that the whole nation is sitting on and, with so many issues, it is a crisis that disproportionately affects those in a lower socioeconomic stratum. The well-to-do not only have access to more information, but also have the fiscal ability to use alternatives. The poor, as usual, are on their own. -- Courtesy Dawn

Governor directs GIT to furnish detail report regarding varsities

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has directed the Chairman, Governor Inspection Team (GIT) for furnishing a detailed report regarding the academic programme, financial resources, staff, and number of students in the public sector universities and to present it to him.

He issued these directives during a meeting with the Chairman GIT, Dr Saad Sikandar Khan here in the Governor's House on Monday.

During the meeting, the Chairman GIT informed the Governor regarding the overall performance of the organization, financial & administrative irregularities in different universities, and inquiries conducted on the complaints filed by the students and general public.

During the meeting, they also discussed matters relating to surplus staff and less number of students in the universities.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that offices are sacred trust of the county and nation, saying performing duties with honesty should be the mission of all of us.

He said that the prevailing financial problems of the universities are a matter of concern and that the situation of the public universities is hurting him.

He said universities prepare the future of the country, saying besides bringing improvement in financial and administrative matters, they should also take the responsibilities of the Vice Chancellors and faculty members and pledged to take all possible steps in this regard.



ABBOTTABAD: People standing near an accidental vehicle, on sherwan road as several people sustained serious injuries during the accident due to the over speeding.

Advisor stresses for best project design, durability within limited resources

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Irrigation, Planning, Development, Communication and Works, Dr Syed Sarfaraz Ali while referring to the engineers and technical staff on Monday said the best design and durability of a project within less possible funds should be the prime objective during executing of a project of people welfare.

He said the newly inducted engineers would be provided the necessary training to make their work praiseworthy.

Talking to newly inducted SDOs at a five-day training workshop at the Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PAR), he said the engineers who have been imparted training should work as the servants of the people.

He said engineers for the posts were selected through merit as all the newly inducted SDOs have passed their competitive examinations. The capacity of the Irrigation Department would be further boosted with the induction of these successful engineers.

The engineers at the five-day training workshop were imparted training on technical sanctions, procurement, general financial rules, provincial rules of business, office management, official letter writing, central public account rules, vision of the Irrigation Department and project management.

IG Islamabad neither appeared in LHC nor filed reply despite court's orders

LAHORE (Online): IG police Islamabad neither appeared in Lahore High Court (LHC) nor filed reply despite court's orders in contempt of court case against not safely escorting former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi back to his residence.

The contempt of court petition filed by Qaisara Elahi wife of Pervaiz Elahi came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Chaudhry Waqas Rauf.

DIG Investigation and DIG Operation Lahore appeared in the court.

The police officers filed replies to the contempt of court show cause notices in the court.

IG Islamabad did not appear in the court despite being summoned.

The court remarked it did not deem proper to us that we should summon IG Islamabad through some other way.

The court remarked you should check how IG Islamabad would come.

IG Punjab filed report after getting the matter investigated under court's orders.

The state counsel told the court SP Imran Aslam investigated the matter. As per report police arrested Pervaiz Elahi as per law. The officers had upheld LHC order fully.

The state counsel requested the court to give time to see the report and replies filed by the two officers.

LHC adjourned the hearing of the case till September 18.

Qaisara Elahi has taken the plea in her petition that LHC accepted bail of Pervaiz Elahi in all cases. Pervaiz Elahi was got released after recovering him from NAB custody.

The court summoned DIG operation and DIG Investigation and gave them written order. The court ordered these police officers to safely escort Pervaiz Elahi back to his residence.

It was further said in the petition that Pervaiz Elahi was lifted in the presence of both of the police officers.



KARACHI: A large number of workers, heirs of the martyrs, political and social workers and civil society activists gather during condolence ceremony in connection of the 11th anniversary of Baldia factory fire tragedy arranged by National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) held in Karachi.



MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the 25th session of Punjab cabinet South Punjab Secretariat Multan.

Caretaker Punjab cabinet decides free journeying for students, senior citizens

Independent Report
MULTAN: Caretaker Punjab cabinet in its first-ever meeting in the history of the city on Monday extended a big relief to students, senior citizens and differently-abled people.

The notification of the decision was also issued soon after the meeting.

Chaired by Punjab caretaker Chief Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, the meeting among others was attended by ministers, advisors, chief secretary, IGP, ACS South Punjab and secretaries.

The cabinet also approved Rs 32,000 as minimum wages for labourers and sanctioned recommendations of a committee on admission policy to public medical and dental colleges 2023-24.

It gave the go-ahead to constitute a cabinet committee to devise a policy to tackle smog.

The CM ordered to initiate of effective steps to implement the policy on smog.

The cabinet decided to set up an endowment fund with Rs one billion for journalists and their families.

For the School Adoption Programme, it decided to extend the school landscape in the province besides extension in contractual employees of Violence Against Women Centres (VAWC) in Multan.

The appointment of the Chairman and members for the LDA commission was also approved in addition to handing over Haji Abdul Qayyum teaching hospital Sahiwal control from SHC&ME to the P&SHC department.

It also approved names for presidential and Qaid-i-Azam Police medals.

The cabinet in its 25th meeting decided to establish Mental Health Authority under the Punjab Mental Health Amended Act 2014. Earlier, the CM was briefed about the development and road network projects of South Punjab while he directed the department concerned to accomplish these at the earliest.



KARACHI: Caretaker CM Sindh Maqbool Baqar talking to media persons after laying floral wreath at the mausoleum of the founder of Nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to mark his death anniversary as The 75th death anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed throughout the country with reverence and solemnity.

CM for quality treatment to poor kid with heart outside chest

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Muzaffargarh DHQ Hospital witnessed the birth of a child having a heart outside of the chest and Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi ordered quality treatment for the infant.

The infant, whose heart astonishingly protruded from its tiny chest naturally, left the medical staff utterly bewildered. Muhammad Qasim, the father of the kid, found himself in a deeply distressing situation, lacking the resources required to ensure the critical medical care needed for his newborn. In a desperate bid to save his beloved child, Muhammad Qasim was urgently referred to a hospital in Multan, seeking emergency medical attention.

KPC CM condemns blast on FC vehicle

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam on Monday strongly condemned the explosion near the vehicle of the FC force on Warsak Road and termed it a cowardly attack by anti-state elements. In his message, the Chief Minister expressed his best wishes for the recovery of the blast victims and directed the hospital.

NATCO bus plunges into ravine in Kohistan kills one, injures 43

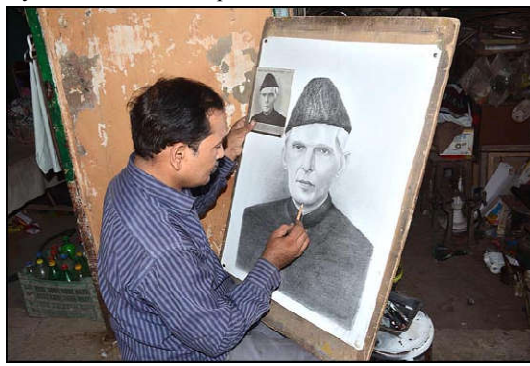
KOHIKISTAN (APP): At least one passenger died and 43 others were injured when a tragic bus accident occurred at Shorghar Lower Kohistan as a Northern Areas Transport Company (NATCO) bus fell into a deep gorge due to certain reasons.

Rescue 1122 Lower Kohistan and local law enforcement agencies swiftly provided medical assistance to all injured individuals at the accident site. Subsequently, they were transferred to the Basham Hospital for further treatment and later most of the injured passengers were shifted to Ayub Medical Complex (AMC) Abbottabad.

The ill-fated bus was en route from Gilgit to Islamabad when the accident occurred. Authorities are working diligently to manage the situation and provide necessary support to the victims and their families.

Due to the substantial number of injured, Rescue 1122 requested additional ambulance services in Lower Kohistan to ensure prompt medical attention for all those affected.

Initial reports indicate that the accident has resulted in injuries to approximately 40 to 43 individuals in Lower Kohistan.



FAISALABAD: A painter giving final touch to portrait of Quaid-e-Azam in connection with death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

PDMA relief activities underway in flood-hit areas

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director General Imran Qureshi said on Monday that relief measures were going on in the flood affected areas of the province.

In a statement, he said more than 595 villages were affected by the flood in Sutlej River, out of which routine life was completely restored in 145 villages.

He informed that more than 1,000 rescue personnel participated in round-the-clock relief operations, adding that people were transferred to safer places by 236 boats in the affected districts.

The DG elaborated that 106 medical camps were set up to provide medical facilities to the affectees. Around 16 ambulances were alerted in the affected areas for emergency response, he added and said that more than 55,000 patients were provided treatment facilities in the medical camps. Apart from medical, 179 relief camps were also established in the affected districts, he maintained.

A total of 300,000 people were evacuated to safe places on an emergency basis while cooked food was provided to more than 150,000 people in the flood-affected districts in Sutlej River. More than 300,000 cattle were moved to safe places and around 90,000 cattle were given medical facilities in the flood-hit areas. The DG said that relief activities would continue until the issue of flood was resolved completely.

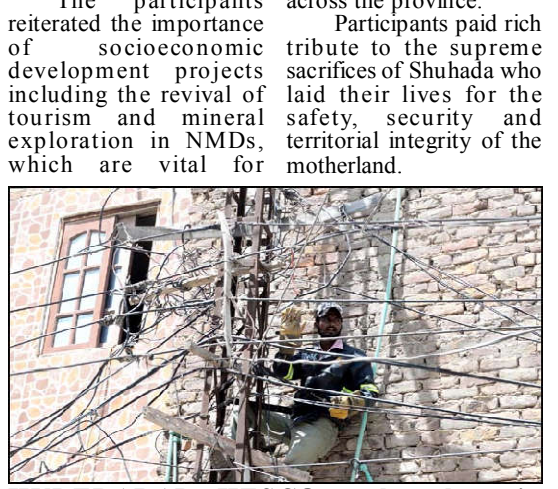
Caretaker CM KP visits Corps HQ Peshawar

PESHAWAR (Online): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan along with members of the provincial cabinet visited Corps Headquarters Peshawar on Monday. The dignitaries were briefed about overall security situation, ongoing development projects in Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and capacity building of police. Corps Commander Peshawar Lt. Gen. Hassan Azhar Hayat and other senior civil and military officials attended the meeting.

The participants reiterated the importance of socioeconomic development projects including the revival of tourism and mineral exploration in NMDs, which are vital for sustainable peace and growth in the area.

The meeting also reviewed the mechanisms of border management including measures to curtail and curb the smuggling of goods and put forward a comprehensive approach to address the issues. Participants underscored the importance of the capacity building of KP Police including Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and expressed satisfaction on the recent achievements of police in thwarting terrorist attacks across the province.

Participants paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada who laid their lives for the safety, security and territorial integrity of the motherland.



HYDERABAD: HESCO workers busy in disconnection of illegal connections in Latifabad.

CM Baqar says: Govt promotes tech improvements, upgradation to improve agriculture sector

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret) Maqbool Baqar has said that his priority is centered on promoting continuous technological improvements and upgradation to increase the competitiveness of the agriculture sector, including the sugar industry.

He said that the Government of Pakistan recently established a high-powered 'Special Investment Facilitation Council' to attract investments from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the

fields of Defence, Agriculture, Minerals, IT, and Energy.

The caretaker CM said that as a member of SIFC's Apex Committee, he was determined to focus on channeling investments to boost the productivity and competitiveness of Sindh's agriculture sector, including the sugar industry. He is also a firm believer in fostering cross-sectoral collaborations for improving the lives of our population which has been struggling with soaring inflation in a stagnant economy.

This he said while speaking at the Inauguration Session of the 55th Annual Convention of Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists organized at a local hotel. The CM was welcomed by Mr. Zahid Mahmood Qureshi President of Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists (PSST) Mr. Zahid Qureshi, sugar industry and professional experts.

He said that the PSST was founded for the overarching purpose of sharing and disseminating knowledge among sugar technologists. He appreciated the Society for conducting workshops.



HYDERABAD: Leaders and workers of HDA Labor Union (CBA) hold a sit in protest after suspend water supply from the filter plants at Jamshoro road filter plant against non-payment of their salaries and pensions as water supply is suspended in Qasimabad and Latifabad area of the City.

Minor girl drowns in canal

FAISALABAD (APP): A minor girl drowned in Gugera Branch Canal in the area of Jaranwala Sadar police station.

Rescue-1122 spokesman said here on Monday that three-year-old Sonia Yousuf fell into the Gugera Branch Canal near Punj Pulla on Nankana Road and drowned.

Receiving information, divers of Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and fished out the corpse from the canal which was later on handed over to her relatives for burial after completing necessary formalities, he added.

Several Karachi SHOs blacklisted

KARACHI (INP): In the wake of significant changes within the Sindh Police, the authorities decided to blacklist over 65 Station House officers (SHOs) from different police stations across Karachi.

According to the details, lists have been prepared at the Karachi Police Headquarters where the performance of all officers and personnel in each district has been reviewed.

After the review of the performance report, the higher authorities decided to blacklist over 65 police station chiefs across all three zones in Karachi.

ANF recovers 70 kg drugs; nets 11 accused

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover over 70 kg drugs and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that over 600 grams Ice drug concealed in two water coolers was recovered from a parcel reached at a private cargo office in Jhelum. The parcel was sent from Peshawar.

2.2 kg hashish was recovered from a local resident netted from Haq Bahu Hotel in Bhakkar.

The spokesman further informed that over 2.5 kg Ice drug was recovered from a passenger's trolley bag at Sialkot Airport.

The accused, a resident of Jhelum, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-769.

Three suspects were rounded up from a passenger bus near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad and drugs were recovered from their possession.

Provision of interest free loan to judges: LHC directs petitioner to file petition again with attested documents

LAHORE (Online): Petitioner filed against approval of interest free loan of Rs 360 million for 11 judges of high court came up for hearing in Lahore High Court (LHC) Monday.

The court directed the petitioner to file the petition again after removing the objections.

Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza heard the petition filed by Mashkoor Hussain.

Chief secretary, secretary finance and others have been made respondents.

Nadeem Sarwar counsel for petitioner took the plea providing interest free loan to judges is illegal. Judges are already enjoying too much facilities and privileges. The caretaker government cannot utilize tax money of people mercilessly.

The counsel requested the court to nullify the loans approved by caretaker government for judges. The court should declare the step for providing interest free loan to judges illegal. Provision of interest free loan to judges be suspended till the final decision of this petition.

Govt determined to entice US-based Pakistani diaspora to return to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Ministry of Commerce is delighted to announce a fruitful meeting between the Federal Minister of Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, and a high-level US delegation to explore avenues for increased investment in Pakistan's burgeoning Electric Vehicle (EV), semiconductor, and

Artificial Intelligence (AI) sectors by the Pakistani diaspora.

During the meeting, Federal Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz expressed his unwavering commitment to facilitate investors for Pakistan's economic development.

He emphasized that the Pakistani diaspora, residing in the United

States, is an invaluable asset to the country and underscored the importance of bringing them back into the fold of Pakistan's economic progress. Dr. Ejaz stated, "IT is our first priority, and the US diaspora is our asset. We are determined to do whatever it takes to entice our talented US-based Pakistani diaspora to

return and contribute to Pakistan's growth. I take full ownership of the necessary steps required to achieve this, as was also requested by Ambassador Blome." The discussions held by the US delegation were marked by a commitment to advancing the future of AI, exploring its wide-ranging applicability.



Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired a meeting on STZs and SEZs at Finance Division, Islamabad



Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production hosts crucial discussion with US delegation to boost investment in EV Sector, Semiconductors, and AI by Pakistani diaspora.

Dr Shamshad chairs a meeting on STZs, SEZs

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, presided over a meeting to review and rationalize the progress and incentives provided by STZs and SEZs in Islamabad Monday.

Minister for IT & Telecom Dr. Umer Saif, Minister for Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Advisor to PM on Establishment Mr. Ahmad Cheema, Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan, Secretary Finance, Secretary Law & Justice, Chairman FBR, Chairman STZA, Chairman CDA, and senior officers from Finance, FBR, and STZA attended the meeting.

The committee was apprised about the comparative models of STZs and the progress and challenges of existing STZs and SEZs respectively. Moreover, a comprehensive discussion took place on the incentives currently available within STZs and SEZs, with a primary focus on enhancing their effectiveness and relevance to the rapidly evolving technological landscape. It was also shared that out of 8 Areas declared as STZs,

5 are fully functional. The meeting also discussed strategies and policies aimed at fostering innovation, economic growth, and technological advancement through efficient management of STZs and SEZs to attract domestic and foreign investment.

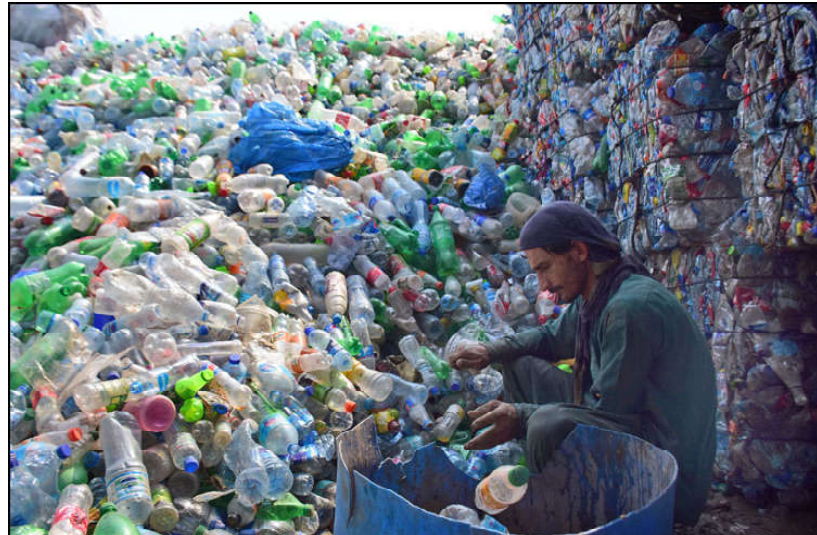
Honorable Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar emphasized the crucial role that STZs and SEZs play in the development and progress of a nation's economy. She emphasized the government's commitment to make Pakistan a hub for technological advancements and economic prosperity. However, she highlighted that we shall focus more on promoting business friendly environment instead of relying exclusively on tax holidays. In conclusion, the Minister, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, expressed confidence that the deliberations amongst the participants would result in actionable recommendations to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of STZs and SEZs in order to fully utilize the potential.

PEW demands to accelerate operation against smugglers

LAHORE (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan on Monday said that the operation against hoarders and smugglers of dollars, oil, sugar, and urea is commendable, but it needs to be accelerated.

In a statement issued here, he said if the influential mafia is not eliminated this time, it will destroy the country, adding that the people do not want elections but food and some relief. Aslam Khan said that India has become the fifth largest power in the world while Pakistan has become the fifth largest borrower, and according to the IMF, Pakistan will soon become the fourth largest borrower. After the crackdown against the criminal currency mafia, people are buying gold, so its trade should be regularised because 100% of the gold in Pakistan is smuggled, due to which no tax is collected from the

jewelers, maintained. Almost every politician, every organisation, and people from every sphere of life have contributed to the destruction of the economy, but now the situation has become very dangerous, and inaction or half-hearted action will result in regrets, he observed. The business leader said that the ruling elite is behind every crisis in the country, but they are never held accountable. India and Bangladesh were already far ahead of Pakistan, but now the conditions in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan, and Afghanistan are much better. Aslam Khan said that the price of sugar and the value of the dollar have decreased significantly due to monitoring at the borders and action within the country, but all the criminals must be brought to justice to improve the confidence of the masses and the business community.



ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in recycling process of plastic bottles at Factory in Golra area of the Federal Capital.

FPCCI says: Pak deeply values relations with Korea

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Mr. Amin Ullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI and chairman of the capital office & Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President of FPCCI Visited the Embassy of the Republic of South Korea in Islamabad and met the H.E Park Ki jun to present him with a flower bouquet on assuming the Charge as Ambassador in Pakistan on

the digital system, and the introduction of Korean high-tech inventions into the trading system were discussed for further development of trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. New ways of cooperation to increase the volume of trade between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan & Republic of Korea were



also revealed during the exchange of views. Amin Baig & Umar Masood ur Rehman emphasized that Pakistan and Korea enjoy long-standing friendly relations and Pakistan deeply values these relations with Korea and is willing to join ventures for the development of different Sectors.

Addressing industrialists issues top priority, Abdul Rasheed

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Ministry of Industries and Commerce was taking serious measures to address the issues of industrialists on a priority basis. Traders and industrialists were playing a crucial role in improving the national economy and providing employment to millions of people, the Sindh government was taking steps to promote industrial areas, said Secretary Industries and Commerce Sindh, Abdul Rasheed Solangi on Monday.

He made these remarks while addressing industrialists at a reception ceremony hosted by the Kotri Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), held in Kotri.

During the reception, Khalil Ahmed Baloch, Patron and senior member

of the Kotri Association of Trade and Industry, highlighted the issues facing the Kotri industrial zone.

He pointed out that there had been a long-standing water shortage issue in the Kotri industrial zone due to the deteriorating water supply pumps and motors that have been in use for over 40 years and are now completely non-functional.

He emphasized the immediate need to upgrade the water supply system to ensure uninterrupted industrial activities. Baloch also mentioned the absence of a fire brigade vehicle at the Kotri site for the past 10 years, which has posed significant risks during incidents, he added requests made to relevant authorities were not entertained.



ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in arranging the cotton in newly sew blanket outside his shop in Sector G-7 as every year in September such stuff start taking place in markets as welcoming sign to winters in Federal Capital.

Inflation widening gap between rich & poor: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the inflation was widening the gap between the rich and the poor.

In a statement issued on Monday, he said that the middle class has become poor, and the people were suffering under the burden of inflation, which was causing economic and social problems.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the business community cannot invest or plan for the future due to inflation, so this problem should be solved immediately.

Inflation was a significant cause of economic instability, which was an obstacle to domestic and foreign investment, he maintained.

He said that unemployment will continue to rise until there is no investment in the country, and the solution to unemployment is to promote technical education. The business leader said that there was a need to create a strategy to end inflation.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy held meeting with PSO and OMCs

KARACHI (Online): The Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali hold important meeting with PSO management at PSO House Karachi. The Minister was briefed by the Managing Director Pakistan State Oil(PSO), Syed Muhammad Taha regarding overall performance and challenges being faced by the PSO.

The Managing Director of PSO apprised the Minister that the PSO had an extensive network of 3500 outlets nationwide. The caretaker Federal Minister directed the PSO

management to minimise the circular debt, being the Pakistan's leading energy company.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman, Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), Masroor Khan and Additional Secretary Incharge Ministry of Energy, Momin Agha.

Later on, the Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Muhammad Ali also held a meeting with the heads of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) headed by the Secretary General Oil Marketing

Companies(OMCs), Dr. Nazir Abbas Zaidi. The delegation of Oil Marketing Companies(OMCs) raised their issues. Mr. Mehmet Celepoglu, the Chief Executive Officer of Total Parco Pakistan also joined the meeting through video conference. Mr. Mehmet also appealed the caretaker Minister for Energy to formulate a uniform policy

The Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy ensuring his complete support, directed the Chairman, Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority(OGRA).

Gold rates decrease by Rs.2,600

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.2,600 and was sold at Rs.209,400 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs.212,000 on the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.2,229 to Rs.1,79,527 from Rs.1,81,756 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.1,65,544 from Rs.1,66,610 the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola decreased by Rs.50 to Rs.2,500 whereas that of 10 grams silver went down by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,143.34.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$7 to \$1,926 from \$1,919, the Association reported.

Govt making efforts to compete country's products internationally: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce, Industries, and Production Dr. Gohar Ejaz assured that the government was making all-out efforts to make Pakistani products compete with their rivals internationally for the benefit of the country's trading community.

The agricultural, industrial and textile sectors will play an important role in increasing exports, and reducing imports and would achieve sustainable economic growth in the country in coming years, he said while talking to a private news channel. He hoped that the country is capable of meeting its economic and social needs, adding, that the government is taking

various steps to take the economy forward including agriculture which is considered the backbone of our economy.

Replying to a question, he replied that continuity of policy is also very important and new governments need to carry the policies made by the previous governments.

It is high time that all the political parties must set aside their political differences and work jointly for the economic development of the country, he added.

The government was encouraging foreign investment in the country and has vowed to provide an enabling environment to foreign businessmen who would invest in Pakistan.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Ali Muhammad chairing a meeting with the officers of Pakistan State Oil (PSO) held in Karachi.

PSX turns loses 147 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend and lost 147.76 points, showing negative growth of 0.32 percent, closing at 45,865.73 points against 46,013.49 points the previous trading day.

A total of 213,198,283 shares were traded during the day as compared to 149,572,246 shares, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs.8.194 billion against Rs.5.551 billion on the last trading day. As many as 306 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 114 of them recorded gains and 172 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 20 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Bank Al-Falah with 59,316,454 shares at Rs 41.12 per share; K-Electric Ltd with 14,653,274 shares at Rs 1.93 per share and Pak Petroleum with 11,683,396 shares at Rs 73.68 per share.

Pak Services witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 29.00 per share price, closing at Rs 680.00, whereas the runner-up was Reliance Cotton with Rs 13.25 rise in its per share price to Rs 540.00.

Mehmood Text witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 46.36 per share closing at Rs 571.77; followed by Indus Bata (Pak) with Rs25.00 decline to close at Rs 1,710.97.

ICCI President says: Use of technology, innovation must for development of agri

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that there is a need to bring technology and innovation for the development of agriculture in Pakistan and to increase the export of the agricultural sector.

Despite being an agricultural country, the annual import of goods worth billions of dollars is regrettable. Cooperation with international agencies and donors should be done for the development of agriculture.

He expressed these views while talking to the

head of World Food and Agriculture Organization Pakistan, Florence Rolle, who met him yesterday along with a delegation. On this occasion, the possibilities of cooperation between the two institutions were discussed.

ICCI president said that Pakistan being an agricultural country is very important for the world. About 18.5% of Pakistan's Gross National Income (GDP) is comprised of agriculture 64% of the rural population is employed in agriculture while about 43% of the total national labor force is in agriculture.

CM Baqar urges KE to add cheap power to their system to reduce burden of heavy bills

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar has urged K-Electric to generate cheap electricity by using local fuel, including renewable so that people could have a sigh of relief in power bills.

He also urged the KE to guide their customers to use such appliances, including fans and LED bulbs which consume less electricity so that their burden of heavy bills could be curtailed.

This he said while presiding over a meeting of KE to resolve their issues and work out a strategy to provide uninterrupted cheap electricity to the people of Karachi. The meeting was attended by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoi, Commissioner Karachi Saleem Rajput, Adl IG Karachi Khadim Rind, Secretary Energy Fayaz Abbasi, KE CEO Monis Alvi.

India PM Modi hails Saudi ties after 'historic' route unveiled

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India hailed its "strategic" partnership with oil-rich Saudi Arabia on Monday, days after unveiling a major trade and transport route linking Europe, the Middle East and India as part of a broad alliance.

"Together, we made the historic start to establish an economic corridor," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in New Delhi.

On Saturday, the pair took part alongside other G20 leaders in the unveiling of ambitious plans to create a modern-day Spice Route, boosting trade ties with potentially wide-ranging geopolitical implications.

"This corridor will not only connect the two countries, but economic cooperation, digital connectivity between Asia, West Asia and Europe," Modi added, in talks following the end of the two-day Group of 20 leaders' summit he hosted.

During their talks, the Indian leader and the Saudi crown prince also discussed cooperation in space, semiconductors and collaboration in defence manufacturing as well.

Indian foreign ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said the leaders discussed issues, including energy security, trade, investment and defence, without giving further details.

India and Saudi Arabia also discussed the

possibility of trading in local currencies and expediting the negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council of which Saudi Arabia is a member.

Ausaf Sayeed, a secretary in the Indian foreign ministry, said the two countries signed eight agreements, including a pact to upgrade their hydrocarbon energy partnership to a comprehensive energy partnership for renewable, petroleum and strategic reserves.

They also agreed to create a joint task force for \$100 billion in Saudi investment, half of which is earmarked for a delayed refinery project along India's western coast, Sayeed said.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Saudi Arabian counterpart and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman attending their delegation talk at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India.

UN rights chief calls for 'urgent reversal' to civilian rule in coup-hit African countries

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: The U.N. human rights chief called on Monday for an "urgent reversal" of military takeovers and return to civilian rule in countries in Africa where coups have driven out elected leaders in recent years as he assailed a multitude of crises across the globe.

Volker Türk's comments set the early tone for the U.N.'s top human rights body as he opened its fall session against the backdrop of conflicts and crises — including the plights of migrants from Myanmar to Mali and Mexico.

Speaking of the de-

cade-old crisis in the Sahel region that stretches across North Africa, in countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, he pointed to the impacts of climate change and a lack of investment in services like education and health care as factors that have fueled extremism.

"The unconstitutional changes in government that we have seen in the Sahel are not the solution," Türk said. "We need instead an urgent reversal to civilian governance and open spaces where people can participate, influence a company and criticize government actions or lack of action."

In his catch-all address at the Human Rights Council, Türk laid out a litany of concerns from "extreme gang violence" in Haiti and "nonchalance" about the deaths of 2,300 migrants in the Mediterranean this year, to the 1.2 billion people — half of them children — who now live in acute poverty across the world.

He criticized incidents of recent public burnings of Islam's holy book, the Quran, as "the latest manifestation of this urge to polarize and fragment — to create divisions, both within societies, and between countries."



U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk (Turk) listens to Chen Xu Ambassador of the Permanent Representative Mission of China to the UN in Geneva, prior to the 54th session of the Human Rights Council, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Iran, US on verge of prisoner swap under Qatar-mediated deal

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: When \$6 billion of unfrozen Iranian funds are wired to banks in Qatar as early as this week, it will trigger a carefully choreographed sequence that will see as many as five detained US dual nationals leave Iran and a similar number of Iranian prisoners held in the US fly home, according to eight Iranian and other sources familiar with the negotiations.

As a first step, Iran on Aug 10 released four US citizens from Tehran's Evin prison into house arrest, where they joined a fifth, who was already under house arrest. Later that day US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called the move the first step of a process that would lead to their return home.

They include busi-

nessmen Siamak Namazi, 51, and Emad Sharqi, 59, as well as environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, 67, who also holds British nationality, the US administration has said.

The Tahbaz and Sharqi families did not respond to requests for comment. A lawyer for the Namazi family declined to comment.

The identities of the fourth and fifth Americans, one of whom according to two sources is a woman, have not been disclosed. At the centre of the negotiations that forged this deal between the superpower which Iran brands the "Great Satan" and the Islamic Republic which Washington calls a state sponsor of terrorism is the tiny but hugely rich state of Qatar.

Ship rescues 68 migrants off Libya

Monitoring Desk
MARSEILLE: The Ocean Viking, a rescue ship chartered by SOS Mediterranee, rescued 68 stranded migrants in international waters off Libya on Sunday, the France-based humanitarian NGO announced.

"The Ocean Viking rescued 68 shipwrecked people from a double-decker wooden boat that left Zouara in Libya last night," the NGO said.

"Several of them are suffering from seasickness and are currently being treated by the medical team of SOS Mediterranee and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on board the Ocean Viking," it added.

Images published by the NGO on X, formerly Twitter, show several dozen migrants crammed into a makeshift boat wearing orange life jackets.

Kremlin says Putin has no real competitors if he runs again

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: If Russian President Vladimir Putin decides to run in the 2024 presidential election, no one will be able to compete with him, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday, Russia's RBC business news service reported.

"The president has not yet announced that he will nominate his candidacy," Peskov was quoted as saying by RBC.

"But if we assume that the president stands as a candidate, then it is obvious that there can be no real competition for the presi-

dent at this current stage," Peskov added that Putin "enjoys the absolute support of the population".

The former KGB agent has dominated Russia, as president or prime minister, for more than two decades, priding himself on bringing stability to the vast nation after the chaos that engulfed it following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. However, his decision on Feb. 24, 2022, to send tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine has triggered by far the biggest challenge of his rule and ushered in the gravest confrontation with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

No arrest risk for Putin at Brazil G20: Lula

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Russian leader Vladimir Putin will not be arrested if he attends the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro next year, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said. The Russian president skipped this year's gathering in New Delhi, avoiding possible political opprobrium and any risk of criminal detention under an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant.

India is not a member of the ICC, which issued the warrant in March over accusations of unlawfully deporting Ukrainian children, a war crime. The Kremlin insists the warrant against Putin is "void".

North Korea's Kim to visit Russia for talks with Putin

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will soon visit Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin, the two countries confirmed on Monday, a potentially landmark summit amid Moscow's deepening isolation over the war in Ukraine.

Kim will visit Russia in the coming days at the invitation of Putin, the Kremlin said, while North Korean state news agency KCNA said the two would "meet and have a talk", without elaborating.

US officials have said the pair would discuss possible arms deals to aid Russia's war in Ukraine and provide North Korea with a much-needed economic and political lifeline.

Washington and its allies have been voicing concern at recent signs of closer military cooperation between Russia and the nuclear-armed North. It

will be Kim's second summit with Putin, after the pair met in 2019.

Despite denials by both Pyongyang and Moscow, the United States has said talks are advancing actively for North Korea to supply arms to Russia which has expended vast stocks of weapons in more than 18 months of war in Ukraine. The North Korean leader appeared to have left aboard a special train bound for Russia, South Korean media reported on Monday, citing unnamed senior government sources, but neither Moscow nor Pyongyang immediately confirmed an exact schedule for the visit.

North Korea is one of the few countries to have openly supported Russia since the invasion of Ukraine last year, and Putin pledged last week to "expand bilateral ties in all respects in a planned way by pooling efforts".

Israeli delegation attends UNESCO gathering in Saudi Arabia

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: An Israeli delegation on Monday attended a meeting by the United Nations' cultural agency in Riyadh, in another sign that Saudi Arabia is opening up to Israel with Washington pressing for a full normalisation of ties.

Three Israeli officials were seen sitting at Israel's chairs of the 45th session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, a Reuters witness said. The officials declined to comment when approached by Reuters.

Another Israeli official said the delegation included the Foreign Ministry's deputy director-general for international organisations and the ambassador to international organisations in Paris. A delegate from Israel's Education Ministry and the chair of Israel's Antiquities Authority also took part in the gathering, the official said.



General view of a flooded road as a powerful storm and heavy rainfall flooded hit Shahhat city, Libya.

UN rights chief criticizes Russia for quitting Black Sea grain deal

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: The United Nations rights chief on Monday blamed Russia's exit from the Black Sea grain deal as well as its attacks on agricultural facilities for higher food prices that have been particularly damaging in the Horn of Africa.

"The Russian Federation's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative in July, and attacks on grain facilities in Odesa and elsewhere, have again forced prices sky-high in many developing countries — taking the right to food far out of reach for many people,"

Volker Türk said at the opening of the Human Rights Council session in Geneva, referring specifically to high malnutrition rates in Somalia amid drought.

Russia quit the U.N.-brokered grain deal, aimed at easing a global food crisis, in July. Ukraine has accused Russia of intentionally striking grain terminals and infrastructure in the Black Sea port of Odesa and elsewhere. In some cases, Russian state media have claimed the facilities were housing mercenaries and military hardware, without providing evidence.

UK man, accused of spying for China in parliament, says he's innocent

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: A man British media have reported was arrested on suspicion of spying for China while working as a parliamentary researcher said via his lawyers on Monday he was "completely innocent" and that he had only ever tried to educate others about China. Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden and the parliamentary speaker were due to raise the case, after several lawmakers called for not only an explanation but also tighter vetting procedures for those working in the House of Commons.



A man leaves a voting booth during mayoral election at a polling station in Moscow, Russia.

Tropical storm batters China for seventh day

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Heavy rains from former typhoon Haikui, now a tropical storm, kept southern China drenched for the seventh day as slow-moving storm clouds drifted from Guangdong on the coast to Guangxi, flooding low-lying areas, blocking roads and trapping residents.

In the rural county of Bobai in Guangxi region, rescuers on assault boats have scrambled to pull people to safety since Sunday night as water more than 2 metres (6.6 feet) deep stranded residents in low-rise homes, state media reported on Monday.

In hillier areas, landslides destroyed roads and bridges collapsed. At one weather station in Bobai, local records were shattered when rainfall reached 511.2 mm (20 inches), more than a quarter of the region's annual precipitation. Haikui has weakened from a typhoon to a tropical storm since making landfall in Fujian province on Sept. 5, but its residual vortex has continued to wreak havoc in southern China, with the populous city of Shenzhen deluged by the heaviest rain since records began in 1952. Neighbouring Hong Kong was pelted by the worst storm in 140 years.

Air strikes kill 46 in Sudanese capital

Monitoring Desk
WAD MADANI: Air strikes killed at least 46 people and injured dozens at a Khartoum market, local activists said, one of the deadliest single attacks in Sudan's nearly five months of war. The bombing in the south of Sudan's capital came about a week after another air strike, also in southern Khartoum, killed 20 civilians on Sept 2, according to activists.

The number of victims in Sunday's "Qouro market massacre" had risen to 46 by evening, said the local resistance committee, one of many groups that used to organise pro-democracy protests and now provide assistance during the war.

In its statement, the committee revised an earlier toll of 30 killed. It added there were "dozens wounded" and said casualties continued to pour into the nearby Bashair hospital. "At about 7:15am (05:15 GMT), military aircraft bombed the Qouro market area," the committee said. The hospital had issued an "urgent appeal" for all medical professionals in the area to come and help treat the "increasing number of injured people arriving".

A conservative estimate from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project says nearly 7,500 people have been killed in the war that began on April 15 between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Storm, floods kill at least 35 people in eastern Libya - medical sources

Monitoring Desk
BENHAZHI: A powerful storm and heavy floods have killed at least 35 people in eastern Libya over the last two days with the death toll expected to rise as dozens more are missing, medical sources said on Monday.

Footage on social media showed people stranded on the roofs of their vehicles as Storm Daniel hit the cities of Benghazi, Sousse, Al Bayda, Al-Marj and Derna.

"We were asleep, and when we woke up, we found water besieging the house. We are inside and trying to get out," Derna resident Ahmed Mohamed told Reuters by phone on Monday.

Heavy floods washed away vehicles, footage broadcast by a eastern Libya's Almoskbal TV showed. The channel also posted pictures of a collapsed road between Sousse and Shahat, the home to the Greek-founded and UNESCO-listed archaeological site Cyrene.

Witnesses said the water level had reached three metres (10 feet) in the coastal city of Derna.

Libya's eastern-based parliament declared three days of mourning. Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah, prime minister of the interim government in Tripoli, also declared three days of mourning in all the affected cities, calling them "disaster areas".

Four major oilports in Libya, Ras Lanuf, Zueitina, Brega and Es Sidra, were closed from Saturday evening for three days, two oil engineers told Reuters.

Search-and-rescue operations were ongoing, witnesses said.

Ukraine collects Russian bodies on 'road of death' in retaken southeast

Monitoring Desk
BLAHODATNE: Wearing face masks, the Ukrainian soldiers poked sticks into the undergrowth along a deserted country road, searching for the bodies of Russian soldiers they hoped to exchange for their own comrades, living and dead.

They called it the "road of death" after the number of Russian soldiers killed there when Ukrainian forces retook the southeastern village of Blahodatne at the start of their counteroffensive in June.

Three months on, the frontline had shifted south and it was finally safe enough for the three-man team of Ukrainian soldiers to start their operation in this liberated part of Donetsk region.

We gather up their bodies. We arrange exchanges for our prisoners who are alive. And for bodies. Our boys," Vasyl, a 53-year-old volunteer, said. "You know, so that a mother can go and visit the cemetery."

Russia and Ukraine have conducted regular exchanges of prisoners of war, as well as the bodies of dead soldiers, since the Kremlin launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

The group recovered nine bodies in their day-long search on Friday. Each was loaded onto the back of a truck and taken for forensic examination.

Volodymyr said Russian forces had been forced to retreat rapidly from Blahodatne and that the only other route out had been unusable because it was heavily mined.

"There was probably an exchange of fire. But they retreated very quickly," he said.

"They left the wounded and killed on the way and escaped to Urozhaine. But they didn't stay in Urozhaine for long either. There was intense fighting for Urozhaine," he said, referring to a nearby village that was later retaken.

Thousands of Canadian Sikhs cast vote in Khalistan referendum

Monitoring Desk
VANCOUVER: Hundreds of thousands of Canadian Sikhs cast their votes in the Khalistan Referendum for the ultimate creation of Khalistan, a free and sovereign homeland for millions of Sikhs scattered around the world.

The Khalistan Referendum, organised by the US-based Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) group, started in October 2021 in the UK and so far the voting has been held in over a dozen European capitals. The previous highest turnout was in Canada's Brompton five months ago, but the participation of over 135,000 Sikhs in Surrey BC at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara broke all the previous records. Several hundred staff, hired by the independent Punjab Referendum Commission (PRC), managed the voting process.

unable to do so due to the strict rules around the timing and the international voting regulations. PRC head Dane Waters announced that given the huge number of people who couldn't vote another phase of voting would be held on October 29 in Vancouver.

Thousands of local Sikhs made queues to cast their votes from early morning. They were carrying posters of the Sikh martyrs and chanting devotional and political slogans in support of the creation of Khalistan.

The voting was held at the gurdwara, where leading Sikh activist and Khalistan Referendum President Hardeep Singh Nijjar was assassinated on June 18 this year.

At the end of the voting, SFJ General Counsel Gurpatwant Singh Pannun told the crowd that the Indian government had yet again declared a war on Sikhs by assassinating Hardeep Nijjar.

The voting was closed at 5:00 pm by the commission as over 40,000 still queued to vote, but were

Governor's IT Initiative Programme set to be launched for promising youth today, announces Kakar

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has said that it has been his personal desire and endeavor to take concrete steps for making the bright future of new generation safe. Moreover, we have also paid full attention on how our youth may create potential of leading life as successful professional, IT expert, civil engineer, researcher or scientist.

The Governor said that the modern science and technology made it possible in the present fast and developed era of 21st century that the youth can earn thousands of dollars on the daily basis while sitting at their homes with quite minor mental work.

In the same manner, we can ensure building of bright future keeping in view the requirements of artificial intelligence and robotic technology.

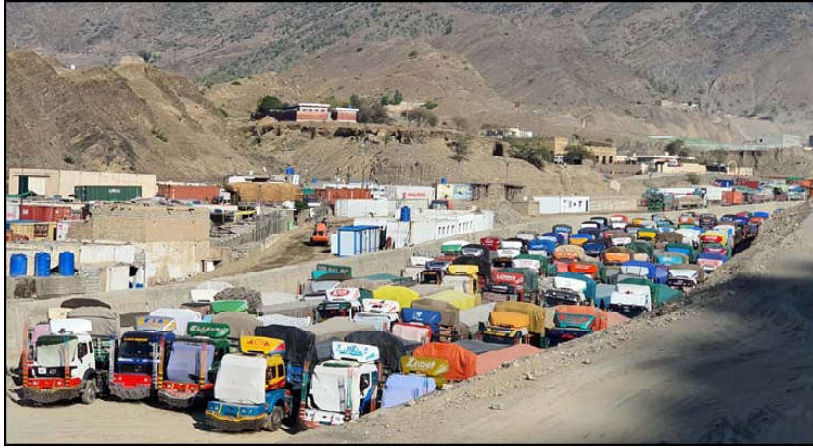
This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor Balochistan in a message issued especially for youth of the province. The Governor said that this is a fact that skilled person can't remain dependent on anyone and on the other hand, he can benefit his family and other people of the society.

He said that the artificial intelligence is effecting

economy, daily life and human behaviours, therefore, it is necessary that we may harmonize with the modern requirements of ever changing world. The Governor stressed that we have to be familiar with the modern information technology in order to meet the challenges of the world. The Governor announced to conduct the course of modern information technology to the unemployed youngsters.



QUETTA: Muhammad Khalid Jamali, Nazim Hussain Wardag, Asif Abbasi and Nasir Ali Jamali meeting with caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.



LANDIKOTAL: A large numbers of loaded vehicles standing in a queue as they are waiting for the reopening of Pak Afghan Torkham Border, in Landikotal.

Ejaz Qureshi re-elected as President of Asian Ombudsman Association

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi was re-elected unopposed as President of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) at Kazan (Republic of Tatarstan) on Monday.

The elections to the various positions in the AOA Board of Directors were held in the 17th Meeting of the General Assembly. In addition to the election of Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi as AOA President, the General Assembly elected Heads of Ombudsman Institutions in Azerbaijan, Hong Kong and Iran as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association respectively.

Heads of Ombudsman Institutions in China, Ja-

FIA raids illegal Money Exchange Dealer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Investigation Agency's commercial banking circle on Monday, in continuation of the ongoing campaign against the hoarding of foreign currency, the Federal Investigation Agency's commercial banking circle raided illegal money exchange dealers in Rawalpindi and arrested four people.

The team led by Assistant Director Mehak Gul raided paracha traders in Rawalpindi and arrested four accused involved in illegal currency exchange businesses without having a license.

The FIA team registered a case under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act against Abdur Rahman Parach, Bilal Kaleem, Tauseef Ahmad, and Muhammad Naveed.

The accused failed to satisfy the team on the recovered foreign currency worth 3 million.

Torkham border closure prolongs as authorities fail to sort out clash

KHYBER (INP): Torkham border could not be opened for the general public and business activities on the sixth consecutive day on Sunday as Pakistani and Afghan border security officials could not sort out the solution.

Sources said both sides met after an exchange of fire on Wednesday last which led to closure of the border.

Khyber Rifles Commandant Asim Kiyani, Lt Col Ahmad Mujtaba of Chitral Scouts, Lt Col Zainul Abideen and Maj Shahabuddin led Pakistan and Hafiz Asmatullah Yaqoobi from Gumrak (Customs), Qari Meraj of

Energy Minister says: New electricity tariff to be introduced before Oct 31

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali announced on Monday that the revised electricity tariff would be introduced before October 31. While addressing a press conference alongside Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali said the government is taking indiscriminate action against the electricity and gas thieves.

"We are making efforts to control everything. We will try to control the electricity tariff and provide low-cost power to industries from October 31. The inflated bills were received due to electricity theft, whereas, the tariff was hiked due to the increase in USD price."

The energy minister said that it is impossible to amend the previous agreements, however, the government would find a solution without violating the terms. He vowed that low-cost electricity would be provided to the industries in the winter season.

He admitted that no reduction was made to the prices of solar equipment, however, the government would formulate a strategy to promote solarisation.

Governor Tessori said that the energy minister has always fulfilled his promises. "I'd also met the prime minister to discuss the current situation. We are trying the support reviving the national economy."

"The [caretaker] government has a good team which would manage to provide relief to the masses within the IMF agreement. The USD price has dropped below Rs300 and good days are not so far."

On Thursday, Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said consultation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was underway for the relief in electricity bills.

Talking to a private television channel, the minister said some final decisions for the purpose were taken during the last meeting of the Cabinet presided over by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar the other day.

He said the prime minister had directed the relevant stakeholders to hold a consultation with the IMF which was underway.

Customs seize 2600 parcels of sugar from various vehicles

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Pakistan Customs seized 2600 parcels of sugar from different vehicles during the routine checking near Ziarat cross and Lak pass area on Monday.

According to the spokesman of Customs, the parcels of sugar weighing 1,30,000 kilogram of sugar were seized from two trucks and different other vehicles being smuggled on the Quetta-Zhob route and

Govt refutes reports about non-provision of financial support to PIA

ISLAMABAD (Online): The reports appearing in a section of media regarding non-provision of financial support to PIA by the government are inaccurate and misleading. Government of Pakistan has supported the national airline in the past and will continue to do so in the future as well.

The Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Aviation are fully assisting PIA in arranging the finances required for its operational requirements. PIA, has only recently negotiated fresh credit facilities from financial institutions under the GoP guarantee limit provided to the airline by the Government of Pakistan. These credit facilities will help PIA to pay any overdue amounts.

Training Courses completed for New Gwadar Int'l Airport

GWADAR (INP): As skilled manpower is a key prerequisite to operate New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), which is highly likely to be operation in September, China has completed "Training Courses" for government officials.

It is the first of its kind human resource training courses aiming to train public office holders in a bid to help them hone their technical, administrative and managerial expertise.

A Civil Aviation Authority official told Gwadar Pro, the government of Pakistan did not bear any cost as all expense incurred in the process of conduction of training course has been executed under China's aid. He said that most of the officials from Civil Aviation Authority in the section of operation, management, security, engineering & mechanical work have completed the course.

He further said that on July 27, former Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif officially inaugurated major component of NGIA, a high-priority project of CPEC, in a watershed moment of the tenth anniversary of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

President condoles with family of soldiers martyred

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday contacted the family members of the soldiers martyred in Jani Khel suicide attack via telephone and offered condolences to them.

During the telephonic conversation, the president paid rich tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country's security, said a press release issued by the President House press wing.

President Alvi shared sympathies with the family members of Naeb Subedar Sanoober Ali, Haladar Aftab Ahmed, and Havaldar Muhammad Arif.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Najib Benhassane, Country Director World Bank during meeting held in Islamabad.



PESHAWAR: Pakistani security officers examine a damaged vehicle at the site of a roadside bombing in Peshawar.

Australian envoy lauds Pak efforts for regional security & Afghan peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Australian High Commissioner, Neil Hawkins called on Minister for Defence Lieutenant General @ Anwar Ali Hyder at the Ministry of Defence and appreciated Pakistan's efforts in maintaining regional peace and security, especially in the Afghanistan peace process.

The Defence Minister emphasized that Pakistan was committed to supporting the initiatives on peace,



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamb called on Minister for Finance Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar.

Court orders to arrange Imran Khan conversation with his sons till Sep 15

ISLAMABAD (Online): The contempt of court plea against Superintendent Attock jail came up for hearing before special court established under official secret act.

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain heard the petition.

The court ordered to arrange the telephonic conversation of Imran Khan with his sons till September 15.

The court sought implementation report till September 15.

The court ordered to ensure implementation of its orders at every cost.

Imran Khan had filed contempt of court plea against superintendent Attock jail.

Aleema Khan sister of PTI chairman Imran Khan also reached the court. She said Chairman PTI telephonic conversation is not being arranged with his sons.

PHE shifted 19 tube wells on solar system for supplying water to people in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Public Health Engineer (PHE) Department's Xen Engineering Irfan Gichki on Monday said that the PHE department has shifted 19 tube wells to solar system while 21 more have been written to the department for transfer them to Solar.

He expressed these views while talking to journalists, Syed Jahangir Shah was also present on this occasion.

Irfan Gichki said that provision of clean drinking water to the people is among the priorities of the caretaker provincial government, on the special instructions of Provincial Minister PHE Ejaz Jafar, all available resources are being utilized to activate the inactive tube wells under the control of PHE.

He said that present PHE department has 71 departmental schemes out of which 4 are inactive was trying to activate them for facilitating of supply water to people.

He said that currently PHE has 117 community schemes out of which 100 are active and 17 are inactive.

The official said that the PHE department is facing some difficulties due to high electricity bills while it is planned to shift all the tube wells to solar system in a phased manner in order to reduce burden of bills.

He said that if the people have any complaints regarding the PHE department, they can contact him directly.

Action continues against Hawala & Hundi: Instance action continues against hoarders of sugar; nine arrested in Quetta, says Commissioner

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has stated that instant action is being taken against those involved in profiteering and hoarding of sugar in the metropolis.

While addressing an urgent press conference at his office on Monday, the Commissioner said that the crackdown against hoarders is continued without any discrimination, and most of the raids have been conducted in Kuchlak and Sariab areas.

During the raids, 1,214 tons of sugar and 750 tons

Sustainable climate resilient health systems urged

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Monday said that there is a need to develop sustainable and climate-resilient health systems in the country.

He was presiding over a consultation initiated by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination with the support of the British High Commission. The minister said that the government of Pakistan has developed a framework of

action highlighting the agenda and objectives of COP-26.

He said that the climate crisis and the health of citizens are interlinked and have many of the same solutions, especially when it comes to strengthening health systems. Implementing the adaptation and mitigation plans will require dedicated financing, acting now is likely to save money and lives in the long term, Dr. Nadeem Jan added.



Chairman Gwadar Port handing over keys of coaster and van to Executive Director Pak-China Vocational Institute Gwadar University.

QESCO registered cases in respective police stations against 387 electricity thieves

QUETTA (APP): On the direction of the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Energy (Power Division), Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) is engaged in operations against electricity thieves and defaulters in various operation circles in cooperation with the district administration and police throughout the province.

According to QESCO, so far, applications have been sent to the relevant police stations for registering cases against 387 electricity thieves in all areas of the province so that further legal action can be taken against them.

Similarly, operations were also carried out in the provincial capital Quetta city on Kirani Road, Sabzal Road, Hazarganji, Eastern



QUETTA: Caretaker Minister for Sports and Culture Nawabzada Jamal Raisani expressing his views during a ceremony regarding Digital Influencer.