

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vt XXV No. 31, Rabi-ul-Awwal 04, 1445 AH Thursday September 21, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

PM urges world to extend financial, technical support to developing countries to address climate change

Urges Int'l community to ensure better preparedness against future pandemics

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has urged the world to extend financial and technical support to developing countries like Pakistan to help them achieve ambitions on climate change.

Addressing the Climate Ambition Summit 2023 in New York on Wednesday, he stressed the need for deriving a climate action to achieve the climate goals across the globe. He said climate justice also entails providing developing countries like Pakistan with the financial and technological

means to realize these higher ambitions.

Highlighting Pakistan's priorities in dealing with the climate vulnerability challenge, the Prime Minister said we have recently adopted our first ever national adaptation plan to build climate resilience. He said our next step is the projections and casting of interventions identified in the adaptation plan complemented by a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said we will also enhance our efforts to integrate ad-

aptation into our planning forces. In the second phase of the plan, we would prepare a sector specific investment framework, which could serve as a blueprint to translate identified adaptation needs and strategies into tangible and bankable projects. He said Pakistan has also launched the Living Indus Initiative, which is a menu of 25 interventions aimed at restoring the ecological health of Indus River basin.

The Prime Minister further said that disaster risk management is a cross

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Project Director QDP Rafiq Baloch briefed Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki about ongoing projects of road expansion.

Balochistan govt to upgrade 150 primary schools in 100-day task plan: Qadir

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Education Prof. Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch on Wednesday said that the interim government has executed a 100-day task plan to upgrade 150 primary schools to middle level.

The provincial government has initiated the project to improve the sector with the provision of basic facilities in public schools in far-flung areas of the province, he expressed these views in a meeting with the delegation of UNICEF. The minister briefed the UNICEF delegation on the ongoing projects in the education sector in the province.

According to UNICEF's report, there are 4,000 schools in the province that have no sanitation and washroom facilities, in which the number of girls' schools is very high.

There are 6700 schools

in which only one teacher is being appointed, termed one of the underlying reasons behind the poor literacy rate and declining standard of education in Balochistan.

Prof. Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch said the government of Balochistan values the partnership of UNICEF that is enduring their committed support in the promotion education sector in the province.

He said UNICEF is currently taking care of 2400 schools and the number of these schools could be enhanced to 3600 if there is strong coordination between the education department and UNICEF.

The caretaker provincial education minister said that around 400 government school teachers are retiring every month and the process of new recruitments has also been slow down after 2019.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing during screening of documentary on the life and achievements of Iftikhar Arif Titled "Barhwaan Khilari" at Information Services Academy.

Balochistan High Court

Whosoever high, every institution is meant for citizens of Pakistan and all properties belong to them

Division bench observes state of affairs shows governance situation in province in general and in Quetta city in particular has totally been held in limbo, without any proper response to the court's orders

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has remarks that whosoever high, every institution is meant for citizens of Pakistan and all properties belong to the people of country.

The Court observed that the state of affairs shows that the governance situation in the province in general and in Quetta city in particular has totally been

held in limbo, without any proper response to the court's orders.

Thus, under the circumstances, we are left with no option, but to issue notice to the Chief Secretary Balochistan to appear in person on the next date of hearing.

These remarks were given by the division bench of High Court comprising

Continued on page 2

Solangi terms poet Iftikhar Arif shining star on literary horizon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi while paying tributes to the academic and literary services of renowned poet Iftikhar Arif on Wednesday said that the towering figure was a shining star on the literary horizon who has made an immense contribution in the field of literature.

He expressed these views while addressing the launching ceremony of the documentary film on the life and achievements of the renowned poet named "Barhwaan Khilari" here at the Information Service Academy.

Murtaza Solangi said that Iftikhar Arif's name would be at the top of the list of the leading figures of media if the knowledge and literature of Pakistan was prepared.

Mastung blast injured airlifted to Karachi for treatment

Independent Report
QUETTA: A seriously injured person of Mastung blast, Inayatullah Shahwani was shifted to Karachi by the ambulance on Wednesday.

Inayatullah Shahwani, who was injured in the Mastung bomb blast on Thursday, was being treated at the Trauma center of Civil Hospital Quetta. He was airlifted to Karachi for further treatment on directives of the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki. Earlier, he had also directed to shift the JUI leader Hafiz Hamdullah and other injured of Mastung blast to Karachi for specialized medical treatment.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the conference on "Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response" held on the sidelines of 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

Delay in completion of projects intolerable: CM Domki directs to complete projects of construction and expansion at the earliest

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the concerned quarters to complete the projects of roads expansion and construction of the roads under Quetta Development Package.

He asserted that the delay in completion of the roads projects is intolerable. The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of inspection of work of under-construction Sabzal road, Sariab road, link Badini to Eastern bypass road on Wednesday.

Also accompanied with him were the Secretary Communications and Works, Ali Akbar Baloch, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Flight Lieutenant (Retd) Saad bin Asad.

The Chief Minister re-

viewed the progress of different roads of Quetta Development Package. The Project Director Quetta Development Package, Rafiq Baloch briefed the caretaker Chief Minister about the package.

He informed that the speed of work on the Quetta development Package has been expedited after visit of the caretaker Chief Minister.

Rafiq Baloch also informed that 15 mosques are coming in the way of construction and expansion of roads under the Quetta Package. The talks are continued with management of the mosques for their alternatives, he maintained.

On this, the caretaker Chief Minister directed the Project Director to complete the projects well in time as per the given schedule by holding talks with the management of mosques.



LIANYUNGANG: Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing the opening session of the 2023 Conference of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum in Lianyungang.

Int'l community needs to put joint efforts to tackle common challenges: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has emphasized upon the international community for making collaborative efforts for tackling the common global challenges threatening the security and well-being of all nations.

While speaking at the opening session of the

2023 Conference of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum in Lianyungang, China on Wednesday, the minister said that this cooperation and collaboration, guided by the international legal framework, should strive for a more harmonious and secure world where the essence of common security benefits for every country.

Provision of jobs to degree holder students important priority of Govt: CS

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that it is an important priority of the provincial government to provide livelihood to the degree holder male and female students in the province.

The Chief Secretary was speaking to the Chief Executive Officer of Tech Valley, Umar Farooq here on Wednesday.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary Education, Abdul Rauf Baloch, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and other concerned high ups. The Chief Secretary said that the government is taking steps to provide job opportunities to youth of the province. He said that the online employment opportunities would get boost for students of the province under the memorandum of understanding between Government of Balochistan and Tech Valley (Google), which is a good initiative.



QUETTA: Secretary Education Abdul Rauf Baloch and Chief Executive Officer Tech Valley signing a MoU regarding Google Scholarships. Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan is also present

Pakistan facing big threat of TTP, ISIS-K from Afghan soil: FM Jilani

Pakistan desired peaceful and cooperative neighborly ties with India. Unfortunately Pakistan positive outreach and peace overtures were met with negativity

NEW YORK (APP): Foreign Minister Jilani

Abbas Jilani on Wednesday said that Pakistan was facing the biggest concern at present with an enhanced threat from the terrorist organizations, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and ISIS-K (Islamic State - Khorasan Province).

The foreign minister expressed concern over the outfits' ability to use the Afghan soil to launch attacks on Pakistan.

He was speaking on Pakistan's foreign policy and its quest for peace, stability, and shared prosperity at an event of Asia Society, held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session in New

York. Jilani said Pakistan remained closely engaged with the interim government of Afghanistan on the issue.

Highlighting Pakistan's commitment to fighting and defeating the terrorists, he stressed that terrorist outfits trying to gain a foothold in Afghanistan should be treated as a threat to the neighbourhood and the entire international community.

After Afghanistan itself, Jilani said, Pakistan had the greatest stake in Afghanistan, i.e., peace within and with its regional and international partners.

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Additional IG Balochistan Police, Commandant BC Salman Chaudhry and DIG Quetta Abdul Hayee Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Indian links to Canada target killing shows its 'extrajudicial network' has gone global: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Office on Wednesday said the news of Indian involvement in an extrajudicial killing in Canada had shown that the country's "network of extra-territorial killings had now gone global".

"India's assassination of a Canadian national on Canadian soil is a clear violation of international law and the UN principle of state sovereignty," the FO spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing.

Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch was responding to a question on Canadian Prime Minister

Justin Trudeau's statement that he had "credible evidence" linking the Indian state to Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder must be based on "some facts."

Nijjar, 45, was shot dead in his vehicle by two masked gunmen in the busy car park of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in British Columbia, a Canadian province.

The spokesperson said the incident was a "reckless and irresponsible act" that called into question India's reliability as a credible international partner and its

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai and CEO Tech Valley Pakistan Umar Farooq visiting DGPR Information Cell, Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and DGPR Kamran Asad are also present

Jan Achakzai lauds performance of Tech Valley for digital literacy, job opportunities

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has appreciated performance of the Tech Valley for the digital literacy and improving opportunities of jobs in Balochistan.

He expressed the hope that the Government of Balochistan, Tech Valley and Google would continue partnership in future.

He particularly referred to the Google career certification programme and digitalization of Information Department Balochistan and said that these are two important examples of the resolve of Tech Valley for development of the province. Jan Achakzai was speaking to the CEO of Google for Education and Google Work Space Partner, Tech Valley, Umar Farooq here on Wednesday.

Also present in the meeting were Commis-

sioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and Director General Public Relations, Kamran Asad.

He appreciated the endeavours of Tech Valley and Google in the projects of increasing working capacity especially Google career certificates programme in the province. He was impressed with the fact that Google career certificates programme is accessible to everyone. He said that this programme can play important role in helping to promote skills required for success in digital economy and empowering youth of the province.

Umar Farooq informed that Tech Valley is also working to digitalize the information department of Balochistan under a pilot programme besides the Google career certificates programme.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inspecting Duty Room during his visit to BHU Pashtoon Bagh

President directs Post Office to return wrongly deducted Rs 1.35 m to pensioner

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the Pakistan Post Office Department to pay Rs 1.35 million to a retired employee as the amount was wrongly deducted from his pensionary benefits by the Postmaster General Punjab, Lahore (the Agency) on account of a mistake in employee's date of birth.

The president gave these remarks while accepting a representation filed by Muhammad Yousaf (the complainant) against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib declaring that the Agency had wrongly deducted the amount from his pensionary benefits.

President Alvi said that

the employee continued to serve four more years in his department after his retirement on the orders of the competent authority and had a bonafide belief of receiving the salary for the period.

He added that depriving the employee of pensionary benefits and deducting the salary paid in performance of his duties was unlawful and maladministration had been established.

The complainant had alleged that he served for 38 years with the Agency and he retired in 2016 but his department had wrongly recorded his date of birth due to which his retirement year was changed to 2012.

Subsequently, he over-worked for additional four years but a huge amount of Rs 1.35 million was unjustifiably deducted in lieu of the salary paid to him for four years from his pensionary benefits.

Feeling aggrieved, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib which passed the orders in the Agency's favour. Afterwards, the complainant raised the matter with the president by filing a representation against Wafaqi Mohtasib's decision.

President Alvi accepted the representation of the complainant and pointed out that the Agency had notified the date of retirement on superannuation of the complainant effective from 05.05.2016 vide its letter dated 04.06.2015 and the complainant performed his duties on the basis of said order of the Agency.

He stated that although the issue of the correct date of retirement of the employee had been settled by the Federal Service Tribunal and the Supreme Court of Pakistan, however, the issue of depriving a worker of his salary for his services rendered still remained unresolved.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan Dr. Shafiqur Rehman meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai

Indian links to Canada target...

Continued from page 1
claims for enhanced global responsibilities.

About India's previous record, she said for decades, the Indian intelligence agency RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) had been actively involved in abductions and assassinations in South Asia.

Pakistan, she said, remained a target of a series of targeted killings and espionage by RAW.

She recalled that in December 2022, Pakistan released a comprehensive dossier providing concrete and irrefutable evidence of India's involvement in the Lahore attack of June 2021. The attack was planned and executed by Indian intelligence.

In 2016, she said, a high-ranking Indian military officer Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav confessed his involvement in directing, financing, and executing terror and sabotage in Pakistan.

On India's accusation linking Pakistan with the Anantnag encounter, she said Pakistan had been stating time and again that India had the "habit of implicating Pakistan in anything that happens under its watch, especially in IOJK (Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir)".

Asked about engagement with India at levels of the foreign ministries and Director General Military Operations (DGMOs), she said the main channel of communication between Pakistan and India, i.e., at the level of diplomatic missions had reduced its strength to charge d'affaires.

She mentioned that if

functional, the DGMO level also existed between the two countries.

To a question about the recent letter of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to the leader of the interim government of Afghanistan, she confirmed that the "routine" correspondence was made in response to Afghanistan's congratulatory letter to the caretaker PM on assuming his office.

"These are diplomatic norms. Our PM's letter was in that context – a positive message of friendship between Pakistan and Afghanistan," she said.

Baloch said diplomacy means talking to the counterpart whenever there are difficult issues. "For us, it is important that we continue to engage with Afghanistan to discuss all issues that are concerned to Pakistan," she said.

Regarding the address of Turkiye's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the UN General Assembly session, where he supported the Kashmir cause and proposed talks between Pakistan and India, she termed Turkiye as Pakistan's "old friend and brother".

"Turkiye always has had a principle stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute (J&K) and they are equally pained with the plight of Kashmiri people," she said.

Baloch said Pakistan was ready to hold talks with India on all disputes, especially the core dispute of J&K.

"With regard to third-party mediation, Pakistan has always said that we would welcome it on the J&K issue on the basis of

the UN Security Council resolutions and in accordance with the principles of international law," she said.

Pakistan, she said, would continue to raise India's state-sponsorship of terrorism in Pakistan and its suppression of the people of IOJK.

She said human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) continue unabated.

During the first eight months of this year, the Indian occupation forces in IOJK killed 68 Kashmiris, including women and children with 13 custodial killings. Also, 2,900 persons including political activists, businesspeople, women, and youth were arbitrarily arrested.

Asked about Pakistan's position on the escalation in Nagorno Karabakh issue, Baloch said Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, considering Karabakh its sovereign territory. On the PM's visit to New York to participate in the UNGA, she said a small delegation accompanied him including the foreign minister, foreign secretary, and some senior officials.

In his upcoming address on September 22, she said the prime minister would outline Pakistan's perspective on a range of regional and global issues, including the longstanding unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute on the UN Agenda.

"He will also share the measures taken by Pakistan to consolidate economic recovery and efforts to mobilize domestic and external investments," she said.



NASEERABAD: Relatives of Imdad Joya are holding protest demonstration for demanding justice for him, outside Commissioner Office in Naseerabad.

Security forces killed terrorist in DIKIBO, ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): On 20 September 2023, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Kulachi, Dera Ismail Khan District.

During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between Pakistan Army troops and terrorists, resultantly one terrorist was killed while one got injured.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist, who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent civilians.

Locals of the area appreciated the operation. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

NAB sends back references to courts after SC verdict

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Wednesday sent back references against politicians to accountability courts after approval of NAB Chairman.

Sources claimed that references against politicians – including former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif, Yousuf Raza Gilani, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, former president Asif Zardari and former finance minister Ishaq Dar – will be submitted to accountability courts.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Supreme Court ordered restoration of corruption cases against public representatives as it struck down some sections of the amendments made to the country's accountability laws last year by the previous coalition government.

During the meeting, sources claimed, the NAB submitted an application to send back the references against politicians to ac-

countability courts. The application was submitted to accountability courts after approval of NAB Chairman.

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BFA joins forces with NI to conduct a capacity-building visit to PFA

LAHORE: Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) joined forces with Nutrition International (NI) to conduct a capacity-building visit to Punjab Food Authority (PFA) in Lahore. The visit aimed to empower and equip the newly appointed field officers and lab technologists of BFA with invaluable knowledge and skills related to food safety and regulation.

Over the course of five days, the participants embarked on an immersive journey at the Punjab Food Authority, where they engaged in a comprehensive program designed to enhance their understanding through a com-



bination of lectures, lab sessions, and field visits alongside the experienced lab analysts and food safety teams of PFA.

During the lectures, they were educated on the significance of regulations and the pivotal role played by PFA in ensuring food safety.

The participants witnessed firsthand the meticulous process of collecting samples using the FSO code and were also enlightened about the decoding procedure by the lab analysts.

Furthermore, they were acquainted with various aspects of lab analysis, including the examination of water, juices, and other food products.

The visit also featured accompanying inspection teams to local Food Business Operators (FBOs), enabling the participants to gain valuable insights into compliance and inspection processes. This hands-on experience further enriched their understanding of the practical application of food safety standards.

Whosoever high, every institution...

Continued from page 1

Mr. Justice Kamran Khan Mulakhail and Mr. Justice Iqbal Ahmed Kasi during hearing of a constitutional petition of Ms. Jalila Haider here.

The court directed to the Chief Secretary to call a meeting of concerned QDA and QMC officials along with the Secretary Local Government in respect of plot under Zarghoon road bridge in the light of directions passed by the Supreme Court, and he shall also convene a meeting with the Secretary Transport department, Chairman Provincial Transport Authority and DG Traffic Engineering Bureau to devise a mechanism for compliance of the court's orders regarding Traffic Engineering Bureau and, Traffic management to consider and redesign the local buses routes and work out on a possibility of shuttle service for mid-city business district.

The court also directed to the Chief Secretary to immediately convene a meeting with officials of 12 Corps and cantonment board Quetta to work out on a possibility and device a mechanism for establishment of bus stop near or around Koyla Phatak.

The issue of parking

plaza on circular road as earlier directed by the court to the commission Quetta shall also be resolved and comprehensive report in the light of these directions shall be submitted through signatures of the Chief Secretary with his appearance in person, the court ordered.

The court was dismayed that despite repeated directions of the court in respect of public interest litigation, not a single progress has been shown with regard to traffic management, redesigning of local buses routes and, similarly, the other directions time to time issued by the court, particularly with regard to regulate the local buses routes coming from suburbs of Quetta city and the rickshaws being plied without permits as well as to ensure the establishment of local buses stop beyond Koyla phatak and Sariab phatak.

At one point, the court remarked that it appears that the concerned officials are not ready to respond to the court's orders and on each date of hearing are coming forward with lame excuses. Thus, it clearly transpired that the concerned officials are liable to be prosecuted under the contempt of court proceedings.

ADB sees implementation of reforms key to economic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's adherence to an economic adjustment program through April 2024 will be critical to restoring macroeconomic stability and the gradual recovery of the country's growth, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report on Wednesday.

According to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) September 2023, Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to recover modestly to 1.9% in fiscal year 2024 (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024) from 0.3% in FY2023, with price pressures remaining elevated.

However, significant downside risks to the outlook remained unchanged,

including global price shocks and slower global growth.

"Pakistan's economic prospects are closely tied to the steadfast and consistent implementation of policy reforms to stabilize the economy and rebuild fiscal and external buffers," said ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye.

"Greater fiscal discipline, a market-determined exchange rate, and speedier progress on reforms in the energy sector and state-owned enterprises are key to reviving economic growth and protecting social and development spending," Yong Ye added.

Pakistan's economy was jolted by severe floods, global price shocks,

and political instability in FY2023, causing growth to weaken and inflation to rise.

According to the ADO, the implementation of the economic adjustment program and a smooth general election in FY2024 are expected to boost confidence, while easing import controls is likely to support investment.

Favorable weather conditions and the government's relief package of free seeds, subsidized credit, and fertilizers are expected to support a recovery in agriculture. This, in turn, will help the industry, which will also benefit from the increased availability of critical imports.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest of the event Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Muhammad Sami Saeed cuts the cake along with Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari and others during the celebrations of the Constitution Day and National Day of Nepal at local hotel in Federal Capital.

ECP to hold meeting with political parties on elections code

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) convened a meeting with political parties on October 4 to discuss the code of conduct specified in Section 233 of the Election Act 2017, for the upcoming general elections.

The ECP spokesperson mentioned here Wednesday that draft of the code of conduct has been provided to political party leaders in advance, allowing them to provide feedback more effectively during the consultation.

A copy of the draft code of conduct has also been uploaded on the Election Commission website www.ecp.gov.pk.

Pakistan facing ...

Continued from page 1

"This objective lies at the heart of our efforts to directly engage with the Afghan interim government as well as cooperate with the international community on Afghanistan," he said.

The foreign minister mentioned that Pakistan had been hosting millions of Afghan refugees for decades and would continue to work with the Afghan authorities and the international community for their return to their homeland.

He pointed out that Pakistan shared the international community's concerns over the human rights situation in Afghanistan, especially issues related to women's rights, girls' education, and women's employment.

He mentioned that delinking aid from political considerations was the key to avert humanitarian crises in Afghanistan.

Jilani said Pakistan was committed to playing its part in the comity of nations to address the pressing challenges of the time and realize its vision for peace, stability, justice, equity, and shared prosperity.

"We are committed to moving our economy to macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth, and are undertaking ambitious reforms to realize our vision," he said.

Pakistan's priorities, he said, were to attract investment, improve the ease of doing business, and streamline the regulatory regime.

As regards Pakistan's relations with the United States, he termed the same one of the most consequential of bilateral relationships. "From our independence onwards, Pakistan partnered with the US in promoting regional and global peace, stability, and prosperity."

He said two important transformations had taken place in Pakistan-US ties. Firstly security and defence cooperation remained an important pillar.

UoT extends last date for admissions to 5th semester BS Programs

QUETTA (APP): The University of Turbat (UoT) has extended the last date for admission in Fall 2023 BS Programs, 5th Semester, until October 4, 2023.

According to a notification issued by the Registrar Office University of Turbat here on Wednesday, those who have successfully completed their B.A./B.Sc./B.Com./Associate Degree or equivalent qualifications are eligible to apply for admission to the various undergraduate programs, including BS English (Linguistics and Literature), BS Balochi (Linguistics and Literature), BS Sociology, BS Political Science, B.Ed. (Hons), BS Chemistry, BS Bio-Chemistry, BS Biotechnology, BS Botany, and BS Economics.

The application form is available for download on the University's website (www.uot.edu.pk/admissions). For further information, interested candidates can visit the University of Turbat's Admissions Cell (0852-400539) or the Registrar's Office (0852-400529).

Candidates can submit their applications online, accompanied by a non-refundable application processing fee of Rs. 2000/- which can be deposited to UoT's Account No. 1040-7900525001 at HBL, either online or through a challan available at authorized HBL branches in Turbat, or by a demand draft in favor of Director Finance or Registrar, University of Turbat.

The application form is available for download on the University's website (www.uot.edu.pk/admissions). For further information, interested candidates can visit the University of Turbat's Admissions Cell (0852-400539) or the Registrar's Office (0852-400529).



QUETTA: Secretary Culture Manzoor Hussain takes interest in Art work during exhibition.

PM urges world to extend ...

Continued from page 1

cutting priority in our national adaptation plan. Within the last year, we have taken significant steps in enhancing Pakistan's early warning capacity including by updating our national flood prediction plan. Talking about global warming, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said although, Pakistan has not contributed to the problem of global warming, we have chosen to be a part of solution. He said Pakistan seeks to produce sixty percent of its energy from renewable resources by 2030. This energy transition will cost over 100 billion dollars and will require international support. Citing Quranic verses, the Prime Minister told the world leaders that Islam promotes responsibility to protect the environment and utilize natural resources efficiently and undertake an equitable approach to nature.

He also thanked UN Secretary General António Guterres for his active solidarity and mobilization of global support for Pakistan in the wake of last year's floods.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has urged the international community to ensure better preparedness through legally binding ob-

ligations for building resilience against future pandemics.

Addressing the high-level meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response at the UN Headquarters in New York today, he said Pakistan believes that the issue of pandemic preparedness, prevention and response can be best addressed through a legally binding treaty as mandated by the World Health Assembly.

The Prime Minister further said any scientific discovery, which is essential to save lives, should be treated as a global public good and be available to all countries and companies. Secondly, commercial companies or private owners and actors should not be put in-charge of determining vaccines or medical production and distribution. He said this should be determined in intergovernmental negotiations under the auspices of the World Health Organization.

The Prime Minister also emphasized on global commitment to remove trade barriers, strengthen supply chains, facilitate the movement of medical and public health goods, diversify manufacturing, capacity across regions and promote technology transfer for developing countries.

High-level dialogue seeks public-private partnership to meet climate action agenda

ISLAMABAD (Online): The upcoming COP-28 is a crucial moment in the global fight against climate change and we must use this opportunity to create an enabling environment to achieve the goals set in the Paris Agreement in 2015.

This was stated by H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, the Ambassador of United Arab Emirates, while speaking at a High-Level Policy Dialogue on "COP-28 and Beyond: Strengthening Climate Action through Public-Private Partnerships". The dialogue was jointly organized by Sustainable Development

Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan Renewable Energy Coalition, and the Embassy of United Arab Emirates in Islamabad, here.

The UAE ambassador said that the upcoming COP-28 is an excellent opportunity to reset our course, accelerate global commitment and efforts to refocus global stock take for finding solutions to the common climate challenges. "We firmly believe that this global challenge requires collaborative efforts of the governments and private sector at global level."

Jacob Linulf, the ambassador of Denmark, while

reiterating his country's support for loss and damage fund for Pakistan, said that Pakistan needs to develop a conducive ecosystem for attracting international climate finance.

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, SDPI Executive Director, said that climate change is a multi-pronged issue, which is manifesting in different forms and affecting countries without any discrimination. "We need a multipronged strategy to address the complex challenges by joining our heads and hearts to find viable solutions making private sector as part of the

solutions for a meaningful climate action. He elaborated that this dialogue has been convened to learn how renewable energy transformation and technology can be adopted to replace carbon-intensive solutions with renewables.

Highlighting the role of public-private partnerships in developing net-zero cities, he recalled that the City of Masdar is the only zero carbon city in the world, which was built in the aftermath of collaboration among public and private sectors, academia, civil society organizations, etc.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to PM on overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Jawad Sohrab Malik chairing the 8th Manpower Export Coordination Committee.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan.

UN organizes 9th of 12 dialogues about sustainable development in Sialkot

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations and district administration on Wednesday organized the ninth of a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development which was held in Sialkot, Punjab.

In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories are discussing the development challenges which they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts.

The dialogues are being held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan, said a UN press release issued here.

"These dialogues bring the United Nations closer to the people and the

local governments that we serve," said Julien Harnois, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. "We are actively listening to the people's 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," he added.

In Sialkot, the discussions focused on four topics chosen by the participants ahead of the event including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), women's voices, governance, and Climate Change.

Nearly 100 local leaders—women and men, in-

cluding youth—participated together with senior officials from Sialkot, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and other UN staff.

The 12 dialogues engage 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 basic social services. All are key to Pakistan's progress towards the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

Minister says: Diabetes medicines supply to be ensured

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan here on Wednesday directed to ensure progress in the supply of diabetes and epilepsy drugs to the masses.

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, following the instructions of the Minister for Health, the process of registration of insulin and heparin medicine has started on an emergency basis.

He said that "Dr. Nadeem Jan is ensuring fast-track processing of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan's (DRAP) registration cases on a priority basis".

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DRAP has been instructed to ensure registration on the fast track and report to the minister on a weekly basis.

Registration of drugs would help supply drugs in the market, especially for diabetes and epilepsy patients, Dr. Nadeem said.

He said that "the most effective measures are being taken to increase the capacity of the pharmaceutical industry".

He said that "the work is being done under a comprehensive strategy to promote the pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan".

Modi has a long 'rap sheet' of HR abuses: Mushaah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mashaah Hussain Malik has stated that the fascist Narendra Modi-led Indian government had unleashed a reign of terror and was committing war crimes in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Inaugurating the Free Dastarkhwan and Free Healthcare society in a private housing society near Gujjar Khan, the SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment said that "Modi has a long 'rap sheet' of human rights abuses," a press release issued here on

Wednesday said.

She said that the Indian government was not only involved in massacre of innocent Kashmiri people but the Hindutva regime was also embroiled in carrying out terrorist activities elsewhere in the world.

Mushaah stated that the brutal forces carried out crack-down against the Kashmiri people and they were being subjected to worst state terrorism in order to silence the dissenting voices.

She went on to say that fascist Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred two Kashmiri youth during the

continued cordon and search operation.

However, Mushaah said that the international community and human rights organizations were silent over the Indian forces' brutal and inhuman acts.

SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment said that people of Pakistan should thank Allah Almighty as they were living in an independent state.

At the end of the ceremony, the Executive Director of New Metro City Housing Society Muqarrab Abbasi presented an honorary shield to Mashaah Malik.

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Court halts Arshad case proceedings due to witnesses' absence

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court of Islamabad has sent the Arshad Sharif murder case file to record room, halting the further proceedings due to the absence of witnesses.

Judicial Magistrate Abbas Shah, in his written decision of the previous hearing issued on Wednesday, observed that the court had received the investigation report of Section 512 of Pakistan Penal Code on March 16 in the Arshad Sharif murder case.

Subsequently the court summoned witnesses on April 5 to record their statements but none appeared before it, the verdict

added.

The court further said that witnesses were not interested to record their statements as they did not appear despite 15 chances were given to the prosecution to submit their statements.

Keeping in view the situation, the court maintained that it stopped further proceedings in the case and that the prosecution might file another application for hearing as per the appearance of witnesses.

The file of Arshad Sharif murder case was being sent to record room till further orders, it added.

Court dismisses case registered against Afghan woman for not holding Pakistani visa

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has dismissed the case registered against Afghan woman for not holding Pakistani visa.

Justice Babar Sattar of IHC has issued detailed decision.

The decision said FIA had registered case under section 14 of foreigners act. The case registered against Afghan woman on the charges of not possessing Pakistani visa is dismissed.

According to decision former Afghan soldier Raheel Azizi was facing life threats in Afghanistan. She came to Pakistan to save her life. Australian government has issued visa to Afghan woman. She could not go to Australia due to the case.

In this situation the case against Raheel Azizi cannot be run under foreigners act.

PTA, FIA conduct raids on franchises involved in issuing illegal SIMs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Office in Lahore in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Circle Wednesday conducted raids against two franchisees of a mobile phone company involved in illegal issuance of SIM in Lala Musa.

During the raid, a laptop, a mobile phone, 48 BVS devices, 48 SIMs, and silicon thumbs were seized

as evidence, and two persons were also apprehended on the premises by the FIA team, said a news release issued by the PTA here.

FIA is currently investigating the matter further. PTA had filed complaints with FIA earlier based on information regarding the illegal issuance of SIMs by the sale channels. A similar raid was conducted in Kasur by the same team a few days back.

Federal Shariat Court admits plea challenging abolition of law on suicide

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Shariat Court has issued a written order, admitting a petition that challenged the removal of Section 325 of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, which deals with penalizing suicide or attempted suicide.

Federal Shariat Court Justices Khadim Hussain Sheikh and Justice Syed Muhammad Anwar heard the plea.

The plea was filed by lawyer Hammad Saeed Dar.

The petitioner argued that suicide is considered forbidden in Islam and that prior to the amendment, it was a crime under the Pakistan Penal Code.

The plea cited Quranic verses and numerous Hadiths to support the argument that life is not merely a gift but also a trust from Allah.

The petitioner argued that abolition of Section 325 was against the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the holy Quran and teachings of the holy Prophet (PBUH).

The petition had sought the court's intervention on these grounds.



ISLAMABAD: Female Visitor capturing painting on her mobile phone during Pakistan National Council of the Arts is delighted to present a fantastic new calligraphy exhibition Titled "Mehar-e-Qalam" to celebrate the holy month of Rabi-ul-awal at PNCA.

Show-cause notices issued to police officials over poor performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Traffic Officer has issued show-cause notices to police officials over poor performance and inadequate arrangements at parking places, negligence, and carelessness in official duties.

According to police spokesperson, Chief Traffic Officer Syed Mustafa Tanveer has directed to take legal action against illegal parking, double parking, and encroachment on pedestrian walkways outside commercial centers and shopping plazas including the Margalla Road, Super Market F-6, Jinnah Super Market F-7, F-8 Markaz,

F-10, G-8 Markaz and other commercial areas.

Furthermore, he has instructed to further improve the smooth flow of traffic, control accidents and provide the maximum possible travel facilities to citizens and take strict legal action against drivers who violate traffic laws.

He emphasized that law enforcement should be swift against violators of traffic laws, including those riding motorcycles without helmets, driving recklessly, not wearing seat belts, using mobile phones, disregarding traffic signals, and other traffic violations.

Drive for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Following the special orders of

The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by maintaining law and order in the federal capital adding that the registration of tenants and domestic workers could not only keep a close watch on miscreants but also prevent the elements involved in any kind of suspicious activity. He said citizens are also requested that they can ask for the identity of a person if someone dressed in civil clothes comes to their house in order to collect the data. Unregistered employees and tenants could be involved in serious incidents like theft and robbery by impersonating as a common citizen and Islamabad Capital Police is trying to provide a safe environment to the citizens of the federal capital by using all its resources.

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad capital police on Wednesday arrested 11 outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered liquor, drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession. A public relations officer said following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city. Following these directives, the Shalimar police team arrested an accused namely Imran and recovered 130 gram heroin from his possession. The Sangiani police team arrested an accused namely Usama and recovered three 30 bore pistols with ammunition from his possession. Likewise, the Industrial Area police team arrested an accused namely Allah Rehman and recovered 30 liters liquor.

Dr. Saif for setting up a VC fund to support fintech

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr. Umer Saif, envisaged setting up a government-backed Venture Capital (VC) Fund of Fund to strengthen the startup and fintech ecosystems by providing financial support to new ventures.

During his visit to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Dr. Saif showed a keen interest in the SECP's Regulatory Sand Box and the cutting-edge business models being considered, such as asset fractionalization, said a press release issued here.

Akif Saeed, Chairman of SECP, presented a detailed briefing to the Federal Minister, outlining the organization's significant efforts in digitalization, innovation, regulatory support, capacity building, investment facilitation, and policy advocacy.

The Chairman also in-



ISLAMABAD: A view of the out of order water fountain along the 7th Avenue from several months as the still water into it is also causing the spread of Dengue Fever, which needs the immediate action of local administration.

11 outlaws held, drugs, weapons recovered

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Senate Body for revival of students union after 50 years

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Education Committee on Wednesday deliberated at length on the revival of Students Union after half a century and maintained that it's revival should be improvised according to new trends and mindset of the young generation.

The Senate Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training met on Wednesday under the Chairmanship of Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui here at the Parliament House.

The committee while taking up the Bill titled The Islamabad Capital Territory Student Union Bill 2023 introduced by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi deliberated that since long serious issues related to discrimination and injustice to students obstructing their social and academic life remained unattended leading to dire consequences such as abductions and killings.

Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi said that these issues can only be resolved through collaboration of the management and the elected bodies and a bridge between the administration and students.

The committee was of the view that in order to address these issues prevailing in the student community and ensure democratic and inclusive atmosphere for healthy debate and culture intellect a Student Union should be established in the Islamabad Capital Territory which will play its role as nurseries for training future leadership and will provide forums to students for constructive activities, civic life, understanding or Rights, obligations and their enforcement.

The committee chair Senator Irfan Siddiqui emphasised that the revival of a student Union should be drafted in a way that it

must not become a hub of politics and must be above party lines.

He said the revival must be improvised in a way which is trendy and facilitates the students at its maximum.

The Committee discussed various procedures of elections in order to save the concept of Union from being politicised.

The committee chair deferred the voting on the bill up till the next meeting. The committee gave time to the members to thoroughly deliberate on the bill and submit appropriate amendments.

The committee chair also sought a comprehensive report from the Ministry on the same. The committee also directed the HEC to give its viewpoint on the matter.

The matter of regularisation of the services of the daily wage teachers were also discussed in the meeting.

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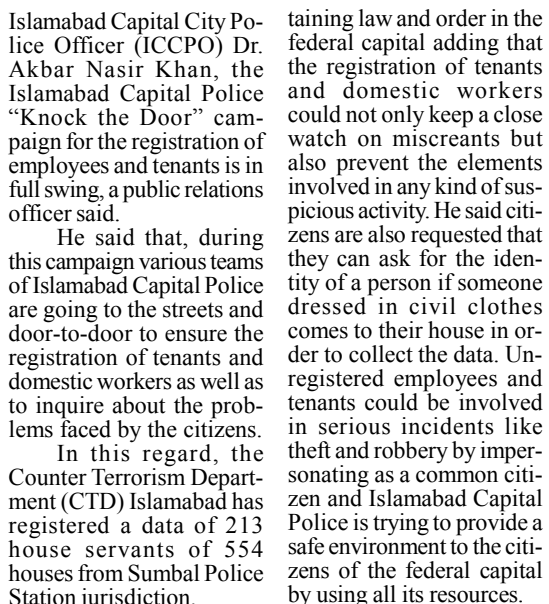
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Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants is in full swing, a public relations officer said.



Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education & Professional Training presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Thursday September 21, 2023

Sikh activist's murder

A spat between Canada and India over the murder of a pro-freedom Sikh activist in a Vancouver suburb has turned ugly, with both states expelling diplomats and exchanging accusatory rhetoric.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen and prominent advocate for Khalistan, was killed outside a gurdwara he headed in June. In a startling disclosure, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told his country's parliament the authorities were "pursuing credible allegations" that Indian "agents" were linked to the murder. In a related move, Ottawa expelled a diplomat described as India's top intelligence agent in the country.

Meanwhile, New Delhi on Tuesday asked a Canadian diplomat to leave the country apparently due to involvement in "anti-India activities", while an Indian foreign ministry spokesman described Mr Trudeau's claims as "absurd".

Bilateral ties had steadily been declining over the Khalistan issue, as Canada hosts a large Sikh diaspora, and many Canadian Sikhs support the movement for a separate homeland.

Due to these facts, Mr Trudeau had received a somewhat frosty reception during the G20 moot in New Delhi earlier this month, compared to the warm welcome other foreign leaders received. With public allegations, things have come to a head.

Assassinations by states on foreign soil of elements they consider undesirable is part and parcel of international espionage. But perhaps Israel takes the cake where subterfuge is concerned.

Tel Aviv's agents have for decades been taking out targets across the globe. Most of the victims have been Palestinian militants and activists, while lately members of Hezbollah and those linked to Iran's nuclear programme and security institutions have topped the list.

Considering the cosy relationship between New Delhi and Tel Aviv, perhaps the Indians have taken a page out of Mossad's handbook in organising the hit on an individual they considered a 'terrorist'. Other states, too, indulge in such activities.

However, despite India's posturing, this issue is unlikely to fizzle out, as the Canadian PM would not have made such a major announcement without strong proof.

Along with assuring a large ethno-religious community that their safety matters, Canada will also pursue this murder to protect its reputation as a state where the rule of law is respected, as Mr Trudeau noted.

States may indulge in such underhanded behaviour, but the blowback can be embarrassing if things go awry, as the Indian government is discovering.



Zahid Hussain

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa has made his mark on his very first day in office by ordering the live-streaming of the full court hearing petitions challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023. It was an unprecedented event in Pakistan's judicial history that may reshape the institution.

While live-streaming has opened up the court to the public, ready access to the proceedings within could also mould public perceptions about the superior judiciary. The judges and litigants engaged in arguments in full live view of the public on TV screens. In fact, even the difference in views among the judges on this extremely important constitutional matter was evident. It was a fascinat-

ing experience for the public to see it all live.

Whether or not live telecasts lead to greater transparency in the delivery of justice remains to be seen. Nevertheless, the presence of cameras in the courtroom and the perception of being watched renders the judges open to public scrutiny and accountability.

Pakistan is not the first country to live-stream such proceedings in the apex court. There are others, including India, that regularly live-stream apex court proceedings on important constitutional issues. In some other countries, the videos of court proceedings are uploaded on websites. In Pakistan, this new beginning has lifted the veil over apex court hearings.

However, a major challenge before the newly installed chief justice is to restore the public's confidence in the top judiciary. This trust has been badly tarnished because of the perception of political partisanship and judicial populism. Over the last few years, the top judiciary has been sucked more deeply into the country's reckless

power struggle, polarising the bench and the bar.

Its unnecessary involvement in political matters, which should be resolved in parliament, made the top court controversial and reinforced the widespread perception of it being partisan. The divide within became uglier with the judges engaging in open polemics. Split down the middle, the apex court had been fighting an uphill battle to maintain its sanctity.

The rift came to the fore when some of the judges challenged the former chief justice's authority and called for ending what they described as a "one-man show". The split took an ominous turn as the disagreements came out into the open. In his new position, the first job of the chief justice, who was perceived as being the focal point of the divisions, is to restore the sanctity of the apex court and end the polarisation.

It was, therefore, not surprising that Chief Justice Isa took up the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, which has been a major point of conflict dividing the top judi-

ciary, on his first day in office. The Act, which clips the powers of the chief justice, was suspended by an eight-member bench in April this year even before it came into effect.

The pre-emptive strike was described in a resolution in the National Assembly as an "aggressive attempt of the Supreme Court of Pakistan to abrogate the unquestioned constitutional authority of parliament to make legislation...". It heightened institutional tensions. The composition of the bench that heard the petition also widened the divide within the court itself. Questions have long been raised by the legal fraternity, as well as by judges, on the concentration of power in the office of the top judge to take suo motu notice and form benches. There may be a difference of view on whether the changes in rules should be carried out through an act of parliament or be left to the apex court to do, but the legislative powers of parliament cannot be questioned. The senior-most puisne judge at the time, the current chief justice had demanded a full court hearing on the petition before

proceeding on other constitutional cases. He refused to be a part of any bench until the matter was resolved. His decision to hold a full-court hearing on an extremely important matter related to the powers of the chief justice is seen as the validation of his views on the need for democratisation of the functioning of the top court.

While the hearing on the petitions would continue, the court appears divided between the constitutionalists headed by Justice Isa and those seeking to preserve the power of the chief justice. Irrespective of the difference in views, the decision will provide a way forward on reforming the functions of the apex court.

Reputed to be an upholder of supremacy of the Constitution and defender of human rights, the new chief justice faces high expectations to take up the issue of political prisoners being tried by military courts. According to media reports, more than 100 PTI supporters have been handed over to military authorities for trial under the Army Act. Thousands of other political workers, including women, are said to

be detained under the anti-terrorism laws without being formally charged. Chief Justice Isa has previously taken a strong position against civilians being tried by military courts. The controversial amendments to the Army Act have given sweeping powers to the intelligence and law-enforcement agencies to detain anyone without charge. Although the enactment of the law remains controversial because of the president's denying that he gave his assent to it, it is already being used against political detainees.

Similarly, the controversial amended Official Secrets Act is now being used to persecute politicians. The spectacle of former foreign minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, being brought to court handcuffed for trial is shameful.

As the custodian of the judicial system, Chief Justice Isa has a great responsibility to guard against creeping authoritarianism and violation of human rights in the country. Democracy and the Constitution are under threat. Let's see if the upright judge can meet all expectations. -- Courtesy Dawn

Welcome to college – and adulthood



Dr Ayesha Razaque

Fall, the time when millions of students all over the world – including Pakistan – will start their college journeys, is upon us. Many will be first-generation students, the first in their family to go to university. Today's op-ed is addressed to all the new college goers, first-generation in particular. It is an accumulation of pointers that I hope will help college students settle into their new lives smoothly and make the best of the opportunity life has given them. You are legally an adult now, even if your university will not always treat you like one, something you will feel when staff routinely address you as 'bachay', 'beta' or 'beti'. The transition from school to university will be the most drastic you will go through in your academic career.

In schools, your teachers had a great deal of authority but with that authority came the responsibility for your learning. When you skipped a homework submission in school, teachers would follow up with you, with your parents, and would give you reminders. Now, as you transition into adulthood and university, the balance of autonomy and responsibility shifts towards you. Class sizes will be bigger than you may be used to from school and professors will not have the time or resources to chase you (they might not even remember your name!).

If your family is educated, you may have enjoyed the benefit of help at home in your school years. For most, that advantage will evaporate now.

According to 2020-21 numbers, 2.7 million Pakistanis – a little more than one per cent of our population – study in degree-awarding colleges or universities at a time. By virtue of having reached a college or university, you are statistically already a member of an elite group. Whether you choose to make the best of your time and opportunity or prefer to

spend it hanging out at the campus cafe is up to you; you are responsible for your own progress.

Let me take this opportunity to dispel a lie you might hear early and often: 'Grades / GPA don't matter'. This is not true. Low grades can permanently bar your entry to some graduate programmes and scholarships and will play a part in where and how quickly you land your first job.

Cost of attendance is a significant barrier to entry to universities. If you are struggling to keep up with educational expenses, find out if your university offers merit scholarships or need-based tuition support. A recent study showed that a surprising number of universities in Pakistan offer one or the other. At the same time, be mindful that the tuition fee you pay does not automatically entitle you to a degree. All it does is buy you an opportunity, not a guarantee, to show your work and earn a degree qualification, regardless of how ungodly an amount your tuition bill might be.

Get organized. Perhaps the real sign of being an adult is when you start maintaining a calendar to

keep track of tasks, deadlines, meetings, and appointments, whether it is in an app or in a diary.

Like the Scout motto, always be prepared. Practices across universities may differ, but even if it is not explicitly required, complete your readings before you come to class to get the most out of them. Do not expect a lot of handholding from professors. Big class sizes mean professors cannot redo topics until most of the class understands. This is possibly the biggest adjustment you will have to make.

Teaching assistants and/or professors keep office hours when you can drop in – use them, but do not expect to receive a replay of a class lecture. The etiquette of asking for help demands you first make your best attempt using the resources you already have (lecture, text, reference books, etc) before you make demands of others' time. You would be shocked to learn how mediocre most lectures at some of the world's best universities can be. Coming in, what few college students realize is that tertiary education is a lot of self-learning.

Build your network: We think of 'reference' as a dirty word, but a 2015-16 research study conducted together with LinkedIn showed that 85 per cent of positions are filled via networking. No, it is not just us in Pakistan – that is the way the world works.

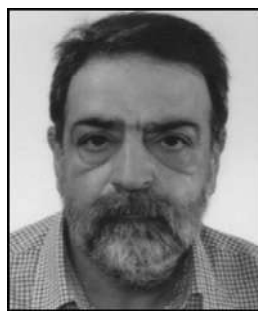
Long before universities began offering their courses online, Harvard Business School published case studies it used in its programmes for others to use. Textbooks and materials used by its other schools and programmes, and indeed all universities, are not state secrets but are available to everyone. What additional value is there in attending a (prestigious) university in person at great cost versus going through its course materials by oneself? The real value in attending Harvard or any great university lies in the network it allows you to build. A good portion of US presidents and world leaders in government and business attended the world's top schools.

In her 2013 book 'Your Network is Your Net Worth', Porter Gale writes "I believe that your social capital, or your ability to build a network of authen-

tic personal and professional relationships, not your financial capital, is the most important asset in your portfolio." Your university may not give you the same level of opportunity, but the principle still holds.

To the young women reading: If anyone, student or staff, harasses you, report them. Many more (if not most people) understand not to blame you. It is not 1995 anymore. If you find yourself in a situation that makes you uncomfortable, even if you cannot put your finger on why, always trust your instincts and extricate yourself. That said, meet people and make friends. Universities are a place to meet people from different parts of the country, with widely varying views and backgrounds. They can be our country in microcosm. You may not be part of such a diverse community ever again in your life. By progressing past high-school, you are, in our context, already in a privileged position. Make the best of it. Let the next four years not become the peak of your life. Let them be the starting point to a life of achievement. Welcome, Freshmen! -- Courtesy TheNews

Chinese whispers



Mahir Ali

To paraphrase Oscar Wilde, to lose one recently appointed senior cabinet minister could be construed as a misfortune; losing two seems like carelessness. China's defence minister, Li Shangfu, was late last week reported to be under investigation for corruption – possibly during his five-year tenure as the head of the Central Military Commission's equipment development department.

Seven weeks earlier, the foreign minister, Qin Gang, was dismissed without explanation. His purported sins – and fate – remain unknown. He was replaced by his predecessor, Wang Yi, but – like Li – officially remains a state councillor.

The absence of official narratives has spurred speculation – and inspired mockery. Since Xi Jinping ascended to the pinnacle of power in 2012, he has been renowned for his anti-corruption drive, as well as a tendency to elevate to positions of power long-time associates or verified loyalists. If two of his handpicked choices for internationally prominent positions had to be sidelined with months of their appointment, awkward questions about his judgement will arise.

That's not all. Shortly after Qin's disappearance and dismissal, the two top leaders of the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force were also replaced. Xi created the

Rocket Force, which oversees China's missile programme, in 2015. It's his baby, so to speak, and the perception of there being something rotten at its core can be seen as a personal blow.

It is unclear whether the purges symbolise Xi's strength, as various China analysts claim, or his weakness. His third term as party chief and president, unprecedented in recent decades, appeared to point to a higher stage of absolutism, echoing the age of supremacy that once surrounded Mao Zedong.

Even Mao, mind you, was hardly immune from perceived challenges to his authority. Liu Shaoqi, for instance, had effectively served as head of state for nearly a decade when he was denounced as a traitor to the revolution and thrown into prison in 1967, where he died two years later. And Mao's designated successor, Lin Biao, evidently died in an air crash in Mongolia in 1971 while allegedly seeking to defect to Moscow after a failed coup attempt. Posthumously, he was dubbed a traitor, but the mystery surrounding his demise has never been cleared up.

Nor has he ever re-entered the revolutionary pantheon, unlike Liu, who was rehabilitated under Deng Xiaoping. Deng himself was purged and rehabilitated more than once, and even his mentor and protector, Zhou Enlai, barely survived the Cultural Revolution.

Much water has flowed down the Yangtze since those times, and some of those once denigrated as 'capitalist roaders' had the last laugh as capitalism with Chinese characteristics turned the People's Republic into an economic juggernaut.

This version of the Great Leap Forward did not condemn tens of mil-

lions to penury, but instead lifted them out of absolute poverty.

Disparities of wealth grew exponentially, however, as the market economy produced millionaires and then billionaires as sweatshops proliferated. It's hardly surprising that many so-called captains of industry in the West viewed the Chinese model with envy, given it guaranteed cheap labour, high profits and little threat of organised unions, let alone strikes over low wages. Beijing's simplistic excuse was that a few people would get rich before everyone benefited.

This version of trickle-down capitalism did help to forge a middle class, but relative poverty remained the lot of much of the proletariat that the Chinese Communist Party was intended to represent. Xi's slogan of "common prosperity" echoes earlier initiatives, and his government has transmitted who's boss to the biggest corporations in recent years, but the consequences of relying too much on property development have lately been playing out, and growth has been slow to pick up after the pandemic – although perhaps the most intriguing Covid-19 phenomenon were the mass protests over extended lockdowns.

There is no indication so far of significant domestic resistance to the nation's economic or political direction, let alone significant turmoil, but that could be because the future is unwritten in a nation where the supposed demographic time bomb of a declining population is contradicted by a growing rate of youth unemployment.

The only thing that's clear for China and the world is that there are interesting times ahead. -- Courtesy Dawn

Assigning guilt



Adeel Wahid

There are two strands of thought that can be blamed for the practices of law enforcement. The latter has been recently exercised, unabashedly, to detain, harass and intimidate family members and friends (both near and distant) of those accused of having committed crimes, for the purposes of arresting the accused.

The first culprit is the well-known and much-admired ends-justify-the-means thinking. If harassing, intimidating and, if need be, detaining family members of the accused compels the accused to come out of the woods, does that not justify a temporary infliction of pain on the accused's father, mother, children or siblings? If the noble end of removing an alleged troublemaker from the streets is met, does it really matter how that end is brought about?

Shades of this thought are identifiable in many popular sociological and political mainstream discourses in our country. If, for instance, a highly centralised mode of government leads to greater socioeconomic benefits (a contested claim), do we even need to resort to, say, Dworkin's partnership conception of democracy, with its messiness, factionalism and compromise?

Does the participation of individuals in a structure of governance, where decisions are taken that substantially and materially affect their lives, not have an independent,

intrinsic value? Is the participation of individuals in governance only a means to some other end that there be, say, order in society or an increase in economic growth? Or is there independent worth in ensuring that the individual has, at least, some or any say in how matters are conducted that have an effect on him? At times, it is not only the fruits, but also the roots that matter.

The second strand, which also allows for imposing guilt by association, is the notion of communal sense of honour and shame. Under this conception, it is not only the accused who is responsible for the acts he may have committed, but also his family and friends. Therefore, it becomes justifiable to discipline the parents, for not having raised an upright child; for the spouse and the children to have had the bad luck of being intimately connected with the reprobate; for the friends and extended family to have spent time with such a person. All may bear enough responsibility to be treated with disdain.

This communal sense where the sins, both real and perceived, or at times concocted, travel beyond the person of the accused, to that person's family members, is what, probably, undergirds the practice of 'honour' killings as well. The acts of an individual, in deviation of the prevailing customary practices, may bring 'shame' not only on that individual, but on the entire family, or even tribe. This, in turn, opens up space for the exercise of extensive control by parents, tribe members, and society, at large, on the conduct of individuals, alerted to the possibility that shame is lurking around the corner, lest one of them is seen to falter.

And this is probably why we need a heightened

sense of individualism: the reinforcement of the idea that everyone is responsible for primarily their own conduct. When the state institutions themselves partake in and perpetuate the conception of guilt by association, then, as a society, we flout the basic principles of our Constitution and its philosophical underpinnings. The constitutional rights, for instance, are individualistic in their conception, referring to each person, where, for example, the language used in the provisions is that no person shall be deprived of 'X', every person or citizen has a right to 'Y'. As Dworkin would put it, the state has to have "equal concern" for all of its citizens. This stems from the understanding that "[d]ignity requires us to recognize and respect the objective importance of other people's lives", along with appreciating the worth of our own. Each individual carries his own destiny, with an independent obligation to make something of his life, to forge his own pathway.

Whereas the predicament in Pakistan is that policing, among other things, is done in a manner that defeats this idea. There are issues of resource scarcity, lack of training and, more importantly, lack of respect for each and every human life. And in such a situation, it is easier to go after family, friends and those others associated with the accused to produce himself than to do some additional work.

The state, however, indulges in this practice at the humongous cost of undermining its legitimacy. The very justification of its existence is contingent on whether there is equal respect and concern for the people it presides over. -- Courtesy Dawn

Punjab Governor says: Unfortunate that youth pushed towards despair

Young generation is our future and most valuable asset

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman attended the opening ceremony of the 13th National Youth Peace Festival 2023 under the title "Aspirations of the Youth for a Democratic, Peaceful and Harmonious Pakistan" at a local hotel in Lahore today. As many as 300 young leaders across Pakistan were present on this occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that the young generation is our future and most valuable asset. He said that it is unfortunate that the young generation has been pushed towards despair, while there are many positive things in society, adding that we have to look at the positive things in society. He said that he has confidence in the abilities

of the young generation, and they will take Pakistan to new heights of success and prosperity. Governor Punjab said that in addition to educating the youth, there is a need to inculcate positive character traits in the youth. He said that in modern era, technology and collaboration are vital to success. He further emphasized the importance of tolerance and understanding other's point of view and said that

it is very important for peaceful co existence in a pluralistic society. US Consul General Kirsten K. Hawkins while speaking on the occasion said that youth can play a robust role for peace. Executive Director of Chanan Development Association Muhammad Shahzad Khan, Shahzad Fateh, Shireen Sikandar and Humira Aslam and others also addressed the ceremony.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar presides over a joint meeting of Ulemas and divisional administration to finalize arrangements for 12th Rabi-ul-Awal at CM House.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan presides over 17th Board meeting of Hydel Development Fund.

Chairs senate meeting of AWKUM Governor suggests measures to overcome financial problems

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday chaired the 15th Senate meeting of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM) that approved the minutes of the last meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the caretaker education minister, Qasim Jan, Vice Chancellor of the varsity, Dr. Zahoor-ul-Haq, Additional Secretary Education, Javid Iqbal and representatives of the Higher Education Commission. The meeting approved minutes of the last senate meeting and discussed matters including

draft statutes, university's power of attorney, discipline rules, pay scale and appointments of administrative officials.

The meeting also discussed objections on promotions of administrative staff, appointments of regular faculty members and disbursement of pensions.

Speaking on the occasion, the governor said that the objective of the meeting is to bring improvement in the whole system after consultation and deliberation. He said that it is my utmost desire that universities should overcome their financial problems and further

improve performances for the betterment of students. He suggested that universities should devise a strategy with the consultation of insurance companies for payment of pension arrears and added that it would reduce the pension burden on varsities and also help providing financial help to employees after retirement. Later KP governor met with a delegation of various areas including Mathra, Abbottabad, Ghalanai and the business community. The governor listened to their problems and assured his cooperation and conveyed their concerns to relative quarters.

KP CM for timely completion, activation of hydel power projects

PESHAWAR (APP): The 17th board meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Hydel Development Fund (HDF) was held here on Wednesday with the Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Finance, Ahmed Rasool Bangash, Advisor to CM on Energy and Power, Dr. Sarfaraz Ali Shah, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Zubair Asghar Qureshi, administrative secretaries

of the concerned departments and other board members attended the meeting. Besides reviewing progress on the decisions of the last board meeting, the forum accorded conditional approval to the proposed funding for hydel development projects for the fiscal year 2023-24.

The Chief Minister on this occasion, directed the quarters concerned to take necessary steps in order to operationalize the province's own

Transmission and Grid Company adding that the appointment of the chief executive officer of the company be ensured as early as possible for the purpose.

He termed the establishment of the Provincial government's own Transmission and Grid Company as a good move to improve the power supply system in the province and said that its operationalization will substantially reduce the province's dependence on WAPDA infrastructure.

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Feroze Jamal says: Provincial govt constantly demanding payment of its rights from the federation

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Information, Tourism and Culture Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel has said that the caretaker KP government will never give up the constitutional rights of the province.

His provincial government is constantly demanding payment of its rights from the federation in hydropower, gas royalty and other issues, while positive progress is also expected from the center in this regard, he added.

He expressed these views during a visit to Pakhtunkhwa Radio FM 92.2 and a detailed interview in the program Pakhtunkhwa Online in Peshawar. On arrival at

Pakhtunkhwa Radio, he also inspected the Broadcasting House while Station Director Ghulam Hussain Ghazi briefed him on the performance and role of this provincial Radio network.

Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel said that the announcement of the election date is not the responsibility of the caretaker government, but instead it's the responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan, when asked by the host of the program, Lehaz Ali, about the general elections.

"Whenever the election commission announces the date of the elections, the caretaker provincial government will give full support to conduct fair and

Punjab expands 24/7 healthcare services in underserved areas

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir announced that more than 300 basic health units (BHUs) in remote and underdeveloped areas of the province are now offering round-the-clock medical services, following the directive of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi.

Dr. Nasir, while presiding over a departmental review meeting on Wednesday, revealed that additional medical staff, including doctors and paramedics, have been deployed to ensure these BHUs remain operational 24/7.

Additionally, the caretaker government has supplied 300 ultrasound machines to enhance

healthcare services at these primary health facilities. Dr. Jamal Nasir outlined that these 24/7 BHUs are equipped to provide Basic Emergency, Obstetrics & Newborn Care (EMONC), Antenatal & Postnatal Care, family planning services, immunizations (BCG, OPV, Hep B, DPT, Measles, TT), laboratory services, ultrasound services, 24-hour ambulance services, and Mother & Child Healthcare counseling, going beyond the standard BHU functions.

This initiative aims to extend access to quality healthcare services in underserved areas, ultimately relieving the burden on city hospitals. Furthermore, the government plans.

ATC allows fresh physical remand of Mehmood in 3 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday granted a fresh physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed to police in three cases related to May-9 violence.

The court allowed police three-day physical remand of the PTI leader in three cases, including torching a container at Kalma Chowk and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz office in Model Town.

ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan conducted the proceedings wherein the police produced the accused after bringing him from jail.

The investigation officers had requested the court to grant physical remand of the accused. They submitted that the custody of the accused was required for interrogation in connection with the new offences added in the cases.



LAHORE: President Young Doctors Association Dr Hassan Raza addressing press conference along with others at Shaikh Zayed Hospital, in Provincial Capital.

Task Force announces reduced load shedding in high recovery rate areas

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's task force on power theft has announced a significant reduction in load shedding in areas where consumer recovery efforts have been successful.

The decision was taken in the 2nd meeting Presided by Muhammad Abid Majeed, Additional Chief Secretary of the Home and Tribal Affairs Department, held here on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Chief Executive Officer of PESCO, Deputy Commissioners, and District Police Officers. The meeting was told that in just a short span of 15 days, this operation has yielded remarkable results. Over 7,454 electricity connections involved in power theft have been disconnected and fines and arrears amounting to more than 15 crore rupees have been successfully recovered. Collectively, the PESCO, district administration, and the police have conducted more than 3,000 raids in various districts of the province, focusing on illegal power users. In the process, connections of over 5,000 commercial and residential consumers engaged in power theft have been disconnected. Cases have been registered against 3,000 individuals, leading to the arrest of hundreds of individuals involved in this unlawful activity.

Mayor Karachi chairs meeting to review Eid Milad arrangements

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has presided over a meeting to review the arrangements for Rabi-ul-Awwal at Frere Hall lawn.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that Rabi-ul-Awwal was a blessed month and it was the right of every citizen to celebrate the arrival of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), said a statement issued here Wednesday.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Additional IG Khadim Hussain Rind, Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi, SSP Irfan Bahadur, SSPs, Project Director Sindh

Solid Waste Management Board Syed Imtiaz Shah, Chief Executive Water Corporation Asadullah, Karamullah Waqasi, Dil Muhammad and other officers and elected representatives were also present.

The Mayor said that in connection with the arrangements for Rabi-ul-Awwal, coordination was underway with various civic organizations and it was important to identify the problems related to the arrangements of Rabiul Awwal by the scholars. All the problems will be solved through mutual consultation with the concerned organizations.



LARKANA: Caretaker Home Minister Sindh Brigadier (Ret'd) Haris Nawaz along with IG Sindh Police Riffat Mukhtar Raja and SSP Kashmir Mir Rohal Khoso talking to the media at durrani Meher police station after reviewed the operation against criminals in Kashmir District.

LHC gives last chance to IG Police Punjab to recover journalist Imran Riaz

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) while giving last chance to IG police Punjab in connection with recovery of journalist Imran Riaz has remarked if journalist is not presented on the very day then court will take its decision.

Petition filed by father of Imran Riaz came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) LHC Wednesday.

IG Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar appeared in the court and sought another chance in connection with recovery of Imran Riaz.

CH LHC while expressing resentment maintained "I am hearing your responses since the last five months with patience.. Now I am running out of my patience. The CJ LHC inquired from Mian Wali Ishfaq counsel

for the petitioner if you are willing then I give chance.

Mian Ali Ishfaq showed his willingness for giving chance to the IG Police Punjab.

The petitioner took the plea his son Imran Riaz was abducted and he was not produced before any court.

He requested the court to order for recovery of his son.

During the hearing of the course IG Punjab and other officers appeared in the court.

The CJ LHC inquired from IG Punjab what progress has been made in the matter of recovery of Imran Riaz.

IG Punjab said as per court's orders we have told to father of Imran Riaz and lawyers about the progress in connection with meeting of Imran Riaz with his father.

Most wanted dacoit killed in encounter with police

SUKKUR (APP): A most wanted and notorious Dacoit, Yasin Shar was killed during an exchange of fire with police here on Wednesday.

According to SSP Sukkur Irfan Samo, the deceased dacoit was wanted in many cases of heinous crimes, including killing of several police officials.

The provincial government also announced a bounty of millions of rupees for arrest of notorious outlaw. SSP said that the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh directed for prompt recovery of remaining hostages and keeping in touch with families of the abductees. IG Sindh had also ordered termination of internet services in katcha area, the SSP added.

Askari Tower case: ATC remands 5 accused in police custody

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday handed over five accused to police on 7-day physical remand in a case of attacking Askari Tower, during May-9 violence. Earlier, the police produced the accused, Abdul Jabbar Khan, Usman Aslam, Muhammad Rafique, Hafiz Ahmad Rauf and Muhammad Ahsan before ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan on completion of their identification parade.

The investigation officer submitted that the accused were involved in the case.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali presides over the 15th Senate session of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan.

EUM holds int'l conference on AI, linguistic studies

MULTAN (APP): Emerson University Multan (EUM), Department of English organized an international conference on the importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Linguistics here on Wednesday.

The conference titled "Artificial Intelligence and Linguistics Studies" was addressed by the Dean School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai International University, Dr. HU Kaibo, Dr. Kang Yang, and Dr. Afzaal.

The speakers shared their experiences with students regarding research and language development, emphasizing their significance.

EUM VC, Dr. Muhammad Ramzan emphasized the importance of Artificial Intelligence and Linguistics.

CCPO Lahore expresses dismay over pending cases

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana expressed disappointment over the pending cases and pending road certificates, and directed the officers concerned to resolve the cases on priority basis.

He expressed this while presiding over a meeting held on the performance of divisional SPs at the conference room of CCPO's office here on Wednesday. In the meeting, a detailed review of the performance regarding the pending road certificates, the cases under investigation and the silent accused was reviewed.

On the occasion, Bilal Siddique Kamyana said that negligence and lack of interest in duties would not be acceptable, however, the SPs concerned would also be held accountable for

the poor performance of SDPOs, SHOs, Incharge (Investigation). The CCPO Lahore said that challans should be completed, and road certificates and the cases should not be kept pending. The CCPO Lahore directed the SPs to hold regular meetings with the concerned SHOs and said that competent, hardworking and dutiful officers were the asset of police department, but the officers who were a part of police force need their ability, professionalism and by making the spirit of serving the people as a motto, play your role in establishing a safe society.

At the end of meeting, the CCPO said that a meeting would be held after every ten days to review the performance of crime control and for this.

Integrated Energy Planning to help in tackling energy crisis: Planning Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): The caretaker Planning Minister for Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed said that Integrated Energy Planning will help in tackling the energy crisis being faced by the country. He made these remarks while addressing at the workshop titled "Integrated Energy Planning for Sustainable Development, organized by the Energy Wing of the Planning Ministry on

Wednesday. Under the vision 2025, the project IEP was envisioned to make a centralized Energy Planning and Resource Centre (EPRC) that meets the demands of energy planning for the fast development in the world. The Planning Minister said that the outcomes of the Low Emission Analysis Platform (LEAP) model by the Integrated Energy Planning (IEP) will help in achieving the high

industrial growth__exported economic base and to save the foreign exchange reserves. The event was attended by the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Jehanzeb Khan, country's leading experts in the energy sectors and other stakeholders. LEAP model is an effort to present a holistic integrated initial approach to Energy Demand and Supply Analysis;

containing all components of integrated balances, it is used to compute long-term energy prices under various scenarios. It is noted that in August 2022, IEP for Sustainable Development took the initiative of providing an in-person LEAP training program where relevant energy sector stakeholders were invited to participate in the training process. EPRC working under IEP started working on Pakistan's first LEAP energy model.



ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed on Wednesday chairs a meeting to "Build Consensus for Regulating Conversion of Agricultural Land to Housing Societies in Pakistan" at Planning Ministry.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad chaired a meeting on PIA in on September 20, 2023. Advisor to PM on Aviation was also present.

Add Secy MOITT says: IT, Telecom Ministry encourages banking sector to facilitate IT & ITES sector

KARACHI (APP): The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT) is encouraging the banking sector to introduce products and services to facilitate the IT & Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) sector. These views were expressed by Additional Secretary MOITT, Ms. Aisha Humera Chaudhry in a video message. The video message was screened to the participants of IT & ITES Awareness Seminar- SBP Policies Initiatives and Schemes organized by the

Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), MOITT in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan here on Wednesday. The Additional Secretary MOITT said that we are trying our best to facilitate the IT & ITES products and services with the help of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). She said that we are assuring ease of doing business and encouraging government departments to further improve their regulatory frameworks and facilitate this sector. Ms. Aisha Humera

Chaudhry assured that the Ministry of IT and Telecom will continue to support IT & ITES services through IT-friendly policies. Earlier, Chief Information and Digital Officer of PSEB, Raza Ahmad Sukhera briefed the participants on Ease of Doing Business Initiatives & Policy Thought Process at Federal Government. Speaking on the occasion, Director Exchange Policy Department SBP Dr. Asif Ali said that all out efforts are being made to facilitate the IT industry.

Zong 4G announces Huo Junli as new CEO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G Pakistan's leading telecommunications company, has announced Huo Junli as the new Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), marking a significant leadership transition. "Huo Junli has officially taken the helm, succeeding Wang Hua, who has served as CMPak's CEO and Chairman for over five years and will now undertake a new role within the CMCC," a news release said on Wednesday. Huo Junli holds a Master's degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Beijing

University of Posts & Telecommunication, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Xi'an Jiaotong University. "He brings an extensive and diverse background with nearly three decades of experience in the telecommunications industry. His career, which began in 1997, has been marked by a series of notable roles within CMCC, including leadership positions such as heading the NOMC and Information Security Department for China Mobile Shanxi Province Company.



KARACHI: Chief Executive officer State Life Insurance Corporation Shoaib Javed Hussain calls on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Thai envoy announces resumption of Thai Airways flights to Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): In a significant development, the Ambassador of Thailand, Chakkrid Kraichaiwong, announced the revival of Thai Airways services from Pakistan, marking a promising step forward in strengthening bilateral ties. The Ambassador revealed plans to reintroduce five weekly flights from Karachi and Lahore, along with four flights from Islamabad. This announcement was made during the Ambassador's address here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) on Wednesday. The LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mehmood Ch, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, and Minister

Counsellor (Commercial) at Royal Thai Embassy Bangladesh in Pakistan, K h e m a t h a t A r c h a w a t h a m r o n g, Deputy Head of Mission Royal Thai Embassy Islamabad, Kamol Wan Sriposil, and former LCCI office-bearers and Executive Committee members were also present. A m b a s s a d o r Chakkrid Kraichaiwong commended Lahore as a vibrant and culturally rich city and expressed optimism that his visit would yield positive outcomes. He elaborated on the purpose of his visit to LCCI, emphasizing the objective of expanding activities between Thailand and Pakistan. Highlighting the strategic significance of Pakistan.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan Chakkrid Kraichaiwong posing for a group photograph along with others after his visits to Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), in Provincial Capital.

SBP awards IPA to establish five digital retail banks

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in a bid to foster innovation, financial inclusion and availability of affordable digital financial services, granted in-principle approval (IPA) for establishing five digital retail banks on Wednesday. Governor SBP, Jameel Ahmad awarded IPAs to the five proposed digital banks- HugoBank Limited, KT Bank Pakistan Limited, Mashreq Bank Pakistan Limited, Raqami Islamic Digital Bank Limited and Telenor Microfinance Bank Limited- in a ceremony at SBP Museum Building,

said a statement issued here. The event was attended by sponsors of proposed DRBs, CEOs of incumbent banks, Payment System Operators (PSOs), Payment System Providers (PSPs), Electronic Money Institutions (EMIs), Fintechs and SBP's top management. It is pertinent to mention that the central bank had issued NoCs to five successful applicants for establishing digital banks in Pakistan in January 2023 and after fulfillment of the necessary requirements, these entities have now been

granted in-principle approval to prepare themselves operationally to launch the digital financial services. Upon attaining operational readiness, these institutions will be required to seek approval of SBP for the commencement of their operations. Governor SBP while addressing the ceremony highlighted the significance of the initiative of introducing DRBs in the country, its profound benefits to the financial system and some of the key challenges faced by such genre of financial players.

PSX loses 20.89 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) declined by 20.89 points on Wednesday, showing a negative change of 0.05 per cent, closing at 45,889.58 points against 45,910.47 points the previous day. A total of 129,372,427 shares were traded during the day as compared to 117,145,448 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 3,639 billion against Rs 4,110 billion on the last trading day. As many as 313 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 132 of them recorded gains and 160 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 21 companies remained unchanged.

Jazz CEO calls to shift focus from 2G-only handsets to local assembly of 4G smartphones

ISLAMABAD (APP): The telecom industry is urging a paradigm shift in Pakistan's local handset manufacturing approach, advocating for a transition from 2G-only handsets to a full focus on the domestic assembly of 4G smartphones. According to data available on the Pakistan Telecommunication website, out of the 67.7 million handsets assembled within the country since 2020, only 22.9 million were smartphones, indicating a critical need for a directional overhaul in the industry. In a tweet, Jazz CEO Amir Ibrahim highlighted that various countries are

phasing out 2G and 3G networks to pave the way for more efficient 4G technology. Pakistan must ensure its populace was digitally equipped for the modern age. Ibrahim urged the government to take decisive steps, advocating for the discontinuation of both the import and local assembly of 2G and 3G phones. Instead, he emphasized the need to prioritize the production of high-quality 4G-enabled smartphones. According to Ibrahim, this shift will not only expedite Pakistan's digital journey but also position the nation for significant export opportunities.

SNGPL disconnects 13 gas connections over illegal compressor use

MULTAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has disconnected 13 Sui gas connections during an ongoing drive against compressors. According to SNGPL official sources, the campaign against illegal usage of compressors and giving illegal extensions was underway across the region. The task force was raiding on a daily basis at various places to ensure gas supply to domestic consumers, under the direction of General Manager SNGPL Rashid Ishaq. The teams removed three connections in Multan, one in Khanewal, two in Shujabad, one in

Muzaffargarh, two in DG Khan, and four in Mian Channu. SNGPL has launched a crackdown against gas pilferers across the region under the direction of GM Rashid Ishaq. The circle has tightened against gas theft at the industrial, commercial, and domestic levels. The task force, along with the police, would raid jointly, and not only would connections of gas pilferers be disconnected, but they would also face cases. GM said that using gas through illegal compressors was also illegal, as it would not only destroy the gas network but also pose a life threat to consumers.

Rupee gains Rs 1.02 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed 12th consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs1.02 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 293.88 against the previous day's closing of Rs 294.90. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 293.6 and Rs 296.5 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 99 paise to close at Rs 314.29 against the last day's closing of Rs 315.28, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen came down by 1 paise to close at Rs 1.98, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.92 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.

SWCCI, Superior University ink MoU

SARGODHA (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony was held between the Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Superior University Sargodha campus on Wednesday. The aim of agreement is to providing students with business opportunities in various fields through the Chamber of Commerce. President SWCCI Madam Shamim Aftab, Vice President Tanzila Fiaz, Secretary Chamber Sara Rehan, Executive Members Dr Humaira Azhar, Rubina

Mukhtar, Samira Shahid, Shazia Bangash, and from the university side, Director University C a m p u s Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal, Lecturer Anam Khan, and other staff members were present in the ceremony. On the occasion, SWCCI President Madam Shamim Aftab said the Women's Chamber of Commerce had always provided opportunities for women to progress. Female students would also be familiarized with modern business methods in the contemporary era.

Wheat seeds distributed free of cost to 150 farmers

LAYYAH (Online): Distribution of wheat seeds among flood victims organized by Cimnyt and Lok Sanjh Foundation. According to the details, wheat seeds were distributed free of cost to 150 men and women in Layyah's Mauza Samra Nasheeb so that the victims could cultivate their own wheat crops while meeting their food shortage. Program Manager Gulfam Dogar, Manager Sheikh Hanif.



LAYYAH: Farmers women receives wheat seeds as distributes by Welfare Organizations among the flood Victims, in District.

1333 electricity thieves caught in 15 days; Rs.163.6 mln fine imposed: FESCO spokesman

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has claimed to catch 1333 electricity thieves during 15 days of anti-power-theft drive in FESCO region. FESCO spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Wednesday that anti-theft drive was in full swings across the FESCO region and the special teams detected pilferage of electricity at 1333 points during last fortnight. Hence, the cases were got registered against 1174 thieves. The company also removed electricity supply

meters of all power pilferers in addition to imposing a total fine of Rs.163.6 million under detection units of 3.733 million. As many as 135 power pilferers were sent behind bars in addition to recovering Rs.38.3 million so far from them, he added. Giving more details, the spokesman said that during house-to-house checking, the FESCO teams detected electricity theft at 487 points in Faisalabad district and imposed a fine of Rs.90.6 million on them under the head of 1.297 million detection units.

ACS for expediting Property Tax collection process

KARACHI (APP): The Additional Chief Secretary Local Government Department Sindh, Manzoor Ali Shaikh here on Wednesday directed to expedite the process of Property Tax collection by LG institutions and for measures to gradually increase revenue generation. The ACS, while presiding over a review meeting on property tax collection, instructed that smooth process of Property Tax collection from all residential and commercial properties should be ensured without any interruption. The Property Tax challans should be delivered to owners at districts, towns and union council level in time while mentioning correct addresses on the challans in clear words, he said adding that complete data of returned challans should also be compiled with reasons. He said that a separate list of the government buildings and institutions exempted from Property Tax should be prepared and tax challans should not be sent to them.

Huawei Connect 2023 kicks off to explore new prospects for intelligent future

SHANGHAI (APP): Huawei Connect 2023 kicked off in Shanghai on Wednesday, bringing together business leaders, tech experts, partners, developers, and industry stakeholders from around the world, to explore new opportunities for an intelligent future. At the event, Sabrina Meng, Huawei's Deputy Chairwoman, Rotating Chairwoman, and CFO, unveiled the company's All Intelligence strategy. She described the company's ongoing efforts to dive deep into foundational AI technologies and build a solid computing backbone for China - and another option for the world - to support a vast range of AI models and applications for all industries. Huawei also released a reference architecture for driving intelligent transformation at this year's event, as well as a number of related products and solutions. This reference architecture, has also been included in the company's new white paper, Accelerating Intelligent Transformation,

which offers practical advice and references to help industries make the most of intelligence. For the past two decades, Huawei has worked with the industry to drive information and communications technology forward, first with its All IP strategy to support the informatization, and then with its All Cloud strategy to support digitalization. As artificial intelligence gains steam and its impact on industry continues to grow, Huawei's All Intelligence strategy is designed to help all industries make the most of new strategic opportunities presented by AI. Key to this strategy, is providing the massive amounts of computing power needed to train foundation models for different industries. "Huawei is committed to building a solid computing backbone for China - and another option for the world," said Meng in her keynote. "We will keep strengthening the synergy between hardware.

Iran's president denies sending drones and other weapons to Russia and decries US meddling

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Iran's president on Monday denied his country had sent drones to Russia for use in the war in Ukraine, even as the United States accuses Iran of not only providing the weapons but helping Russia build a plant to manufacture them.

"We are against the war in Ukraine," President Ebrahim Raisi said as he met with media executives on the sidelines of the world's premier global conference, the high-level leaders' meeting at the U.N. General Assembly. The Iranian leader spoke just hours after five Americans who had been held in Iranian custody arrived in Qatar, freed in a deal that saw President Joe Biden agree to unlock nearly \$6 billion in frozen Iranian assets.

Known as a hard-liner, Raisi seemingly sought to

strike a diplomatic tone. He reiterated offers to mediate the Russia-Ukraine war despite being one of the Kremlin's strongest backers. And he suggested that the just-concluded deal with the United States that led to the prisoner exchange and assets release could "help build trust" between the longtime foes.

Raisi acknowledged that Iran and Russia have long had strong ties, including defense cooperation. But he denied sending weapons to Moscow since the war began. "If they have a document that Iran gave weapons or drones to the Russians after the war," he said, then they should produce it. Iranian officials have made a series of contradictory comments about the drones, U.S. and European officials say the sheer number of Iranian drones being used in the war in

Ukraine shows that the flow of such weapons has not only continued but intensified after hostilities began. Despite his remarks about trust, Raisi's tone toward the United States wasn't all conciliatory; he had harsh words at other moments.

Raisi said his country "sought good relations with all neighboring countries" in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. "We believe that if the Americans stop interfering in the countries of the Persian Gulf and other regions in the world, and mind their own business... the situation of the countries and their relations will improve," Raisi said.

The United Arab Emirates first sought to re-engage diplomatically with Tehran after attacks on ships off their coasts that were attributed to Iran.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with other lawmakers walks in a procession to enter the new Parliament building, in New Delhi, India.

Azerbaijan halts Karabakh offensive after ceasefire deal with Armenian separatists

Monitoring Desk
BAKU: Azerbaijan said on Wednesday it had halted military action in its breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh after Armenian separatist forces there agreed to a ceasefire whose terms signalled the area would return to Baku's control.

Under the agreement, confirmed by both sides and effective from 1pm (0900 GMT) on Wednesday, separatist forces will disarm and disband and talks on the future of the region and the ethnic Armenians who live there will start

on Thursday. Karabakh, a mountainous area in the volatile South Caucasus region, is internationally recognised as Azerbaijani territory, but part of it has been run by separatist Armenian authorities who call the area their ancestral homeland.

Fearful of what the future might hold, thousands of Armenians massed at the airport in Stepanakert, the capital of Karabakh which is known as Khankendi by Azerbaijan. Others took shelter with Russian peacekeepers.

Azerbaijan, which sent troops backed by artillery strikes into Karabakh on Tuesday to bring the breakaway region to heel, says it plans to integrate the area's 120,000 ethnic Armenians and that their rights will be protected under the constitution.

But some Armenians — given the region has been at the centre of two wars since the 1991 Soviet fall — are sceptical and neighbouring Armenia has accused Azerbaijan of trying to ethnically cleanse the territory, something Baku denies.

Washington, Riyadh exploring mutual defence pact: New York Times

Monitoring Desk
JEDDAH: American and Saudi officials are discussing the terms of a mutual defence treaty that would resemble military pacts that the US has with allies such as Japan and South Korea — in a bid to get Saudi Arabia to normalise relations with Israel, the New York Times reported.

Under the agreement, both sides would pledge to provide military support if the other country is attacked, either in the region or on Saudi territory. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is

also asking the Biden administration to help his country develop a civilian nuclear programme, which some US officials fear could be cover for a nuclear weapons program to counter Iran, according to an NYT report.

Any treaty with Saudi Arabia that is similar to the American pacts with other allies is sure to draw strong objections in Congress, including top Democrats, see the Saudi government as unreliable partners who care little about US interests or human rights.

Communications cut to Libya's ruined city

Monitoring Desk
DERNA: Telephone and internet links were severed on Tuesday to Libya's flood-hit city of Derna, a day after hundreds protested there against local authorities they blamed for the thousands of deaths.

A tsunami-sized flash flood broke through two ageing river dams upstream from the city on the night of September 10 and razed entire neighbourhoods, sweeping untold thousands into the Mediterranean Sea. Protesters massed on Monday at the city's grand mosque, venting their anger at local and regional authorities.



Gillian Tett of the Financial Times, moderator, Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley, Wold Bank Group President Ajay Banga and Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay, participate in the United Nations Sustainable Development Forum.

Indonesia parliament committee approves higher 2024 budget of \$216bn

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesia's parliament committee on Tuesday approved the government's higher 2024 budget expenditure of \$216 billion to support economic growth, but some analysts say a bigger spending buffer might be needed to cope with adverse weather events.

President Joko Widodo's budget for 2024, his final year in office, targets expenditure at 3,325.1 trillion rupiah (\$216.27 billion), up 6.45% from 2023's outlook to account for higher energy subsidies amid rising global oil prices.

The fiscal deficit for next year was seen at 2.29% of gross domestic product versus an outlook of 2.3% of GDP for this year, with 2024 economic growth seen a touch higher at 5.2%.

The fiscal budget proposal was approved by the budget committee chaired by Said Abdullah.

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati highlighted the risk of rising global crude oil prices to the budget next year.

"Global uncertainties will still be with us, so the state budget will need to continue protect the people from any shocks."

Spain lawmakers use earphones as regional languages make debut in lower house

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: Spain's lower house of parliament allowed the use of regional languages for the first time on Tuesday as part of a deal to elect a Socialist speaker and amid vocal protests from conservative lawmakers.

Legislators used earphones to listen to live translations into Spanish of speeches in Catalan, Basque and Galician as they debated amending house rules to allow their use in proceedings, which had previously been banned in the lower house but partially admitted in the Senate. The reform

was passed with 176 votes in favour, 169 against and two abstentions. It comes as acting Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez courts Catalan separatist parties to support him in an investiture vote.

Sanchez's caretaker government has also asked the European Union to make the three languages official at the bloc's institutions. Jose Ramon Gomez Besteiro, a Socialist deputy from the northwestern Galicia region, was the first to speak in his native Galician and was interrupted by far-right Vox spokesperson Pepa Millan.

Syria's Assad to travel to China for summit with Xi

Monitoring Desk
DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar al-Assad will travel to China this week for a bilateral summit with his Chinese counterpart, the presidency in Damascus said in a statement on Tuesday.

Assad, Syrian first lady Asmaa al-Assad and a senior delegation will travel to China on Thursday for a string of meetings in Beijing and Changzhou. Presidents Assad and Xi would hold a Syrian-Chinese summit, the statement said.

Assad last visited China in 2004 to meet then-President Hu Jintao. It was the first visit by a Syrian head of state to China since the countries established diplomatic ties in 1956.

Member of Belarus squad faces trial in Switzerland

Monitoring Desk
ZURICH: A former member of a Belarusian special unit accused of making opposition members disappear without trace went on trial in Switzerland on Tuesday, in the first case of its kind to be heard in the country. The man, who has sought asylum in Switzerland, is accused of involvement in the enforced disappearance of three opponents of President Alexander Lukashenko.

India moves toward reserving 33% of the seats in Parliament and state legislatures for women

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's Parliament on Wednesday took a major step toward reserving 33% of the seats in its powerful lower house and in state legislatures for women to ensure more equal representation, an issue that had languished for nearly three decades because of a lack of consensus among political parties.

Indian President Droupadi Murmu called the measure the most "transformative revolution in our times" for gender justice. The Lok Sabha, Parliament's lower house, approved legislation introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

government that is expected to boost its image ahead of national elections before next May. An overwhelming 454 members across the political spectrum supported it and only two voted against it. However, the measure will not apply to next year's national elections, Home Minister Amit Shah said.

The legislation now requires approval from Parliament's upper house and half of the country's 28 state legislatures, which is considered likely. Shah said it will be implemented in the 2029 national elections following a new census and an adjustment of voting districts after next year's elections.

As UN Security Council takes up Ukraine, a potentially dramatic meeting may be at hand

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: All eyes will be on Ukraine's president and Russia's top diplomat at a U.N. Security Council meeting Wednesday: Will they clash? Will they speak? Will they avoid each other entirely? The meeting's topic is deeply relevant to those questions: It's about upholding the U.N. Charter in Ukraine. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres minced no words this week in reiterating that Russia's February 2022 invasion of its smaller neighbor violated the charter's underpinning—that the 193 U.N. member nations respect each others' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The U.N. chief will brief the 15-member council and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, making his first in-person appearance before the U.N.'s most powerful body, is on tap to follow him. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is No. 11 on the list, and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is scheduled to follow him.

The meeting on the sidelines of the annual gathering of world leaders at the General Assembly is taking place during a Ukrainian counteroffensive, which has been slower than Kyiv hoped, with no end to the war in sight. Zelenskyy is seeking additional Western military hardware and is heading to Washington for meetings with U.S. President Joe Biden and members of Congress. Russia is reportedly digging in for a long war. Since the war began, Zelenskyy—a former actor—has become a global figure, crisscrossing the planet both physically and virtually since the Russian invasion to plead his nation's case as a wartime president often clad in military-style garb. Lavrov, a former longtime Russian ambassador to the United Nations, is a vigorous defender of his nation's policies and an imposing man known for not suffering fools.

London police force says it will take years to remove officers accused of corruption, misconduct

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Hundreds of London police officers are facing dismissal as the department steps up efforts "to root out those who are corrupt" after a series of scandals eroded public trust and a scathing report found it was institutionally racist, homophobic and misogynistic.

The Metropolitan Police Service said Tuesday that more than 1,000 officers are currently suspended or on restricted duties. That means the public is likely to be bombarded with stories of police misconduct over the next few years as the department works through the backlog of cases and around 60 officers face disciplinary proceedings each month.

"This is going to take one, two or more years to root out those who are corrupt," Deputy Assistant Commissioner Stuart Cundy said as he updated reporters on efforts to reform the department.

London's police force, known by many as Scotland Yard, is under immense pressure to fire officers accused of misconduct and change its male-dominated culture after a serving officer kidnapped and murdered a young woman two years ago and another was convicted of a series of sexual assaults. An independent review found that the department had failed to properly vet and train officers, and had allowed many to remain on the job even after they were accused of domestic abuse or racial harassment.

The scandals have undermined public confidence in Britain's largest police force, which has more than 34,000 officers serving about 9 million people across the capital. Rebuilding that trust is crucial in a country where most officers don't carry guns and the police rely on the support of the public to do their jobs, a model known as "policing by consent."

The "eye-watering" figures released Tuesday are part of a painful but necessary process as the department tackles corruption in its ranks, said Zoe Billingham, who for 12 years led the Inspectorate of Constabulary in England and Wales.

"The whole of the British policing model is built on the concept of legitimacy, and if the police aren't seen as legitimate in the eyes of the public."

Canada expels an Indian diplomat as it investigates a Sikh's killing. India denies an alleged link

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Canada expelled a top Indian diplomat as it investigates what Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called credible allegations its government may have had links to the assassination in Canada of a Sikh activist, an accusation that India rejected as "absurd."

Trudeau said in Parliament on Monday that Canadian intelligence agencies have been looking into the allegations after Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a strong supporter of an independent Sikh homeland known as Khalistan, was gunned down on June 18 outside a Sikh cultural center in Surrey, British Columbia.

Trudeau told Parliament that he brought up the slaying with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Group of 20 summit last week in New Delhi. He said he told Modi that any Indian government involvement would be unacceptable

and that he asked for cooperation in the investigation.

Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said the head of Indian intelligence in Canada has been expelled as a consequence.

"If proven true this would be a great violation of our sovereignty and of the most basic rule of how countries deal with each other," Joly said. "As a consequence we have expelled a top Indian diplomat."

India's foreign ministry dismissed the allegation of government involvement as "absurd and motivated." The ministry's statement Tuesday added that Trudeau made similar allegations to Modi at the G20 summit. "Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," the statement noted, referring to a separatist movement India regards as a security threat.



Russian peacekeepers evacuate civilians in the town of Askeran following the launch of a military operation by Azerbaijani forces in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, a region inhabited by ethnic Armenians, in this still image from video published.

New Zealand should use diplomacy to avert any conflict in Taiwan Strait: PM

Monitoring Desk
WELLINGTON: New Zealand should use its diplomatic clout to try and avert a situation of armed conflict in the Taiwan Strait, Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said on Tuesday during a first debate with his main challenger ahead of a general election.

He was responding to a hypothetical question in the 1News debate on what he would do if China invaded democratically-ruled Taiwan, which it claims as its own territory, at a time when China is stepping up military activities near the island.

"Armed conflict in the Taiwan Strait is not going to be good for the world and New Zealand should use all of its diplomatic might—whatever that might be—to try and avoid that situation," Hipkins said.

UN chief calls for global plan to rescue SDGs

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: A "rescue plan" for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must now result in policies, budgets and investment to ensure a more just, equitable and green future by 2030, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said.

He was speaking at the conclusion of the two-day SDG Summit on Tuesday at the UN Headquarters, where world leaders adopted a political declaration to ramp up progress to achieve the 17 goals, which are in danger of derailment due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global crises.

"Goals that address hunger, health, biodiversity, strong institutions, pollution, and peaceful societies are all off-track. Now is the time to lift the declaration's words off the page."

"Our relationships with key partners have actually been very consistent between governments," Luxon said, adding that successive governments.

King Charles greeted in France with pomp, diplomacy on state visit

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: King Charles arrived in France on Wednesday for a three-day state visit, during which he and President Emmanuel Macron will hope to build on symbolism and personal bonds to turn the page on years of rocky relations between the two nations.

The king and his wife, Queen Camilla, were greeted by French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne in a windy Paris, before heading to a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe, where they paid tribute to French and British soldiers who died in two world wars. They then drove down the Champs-Élysées avenue in a French DS car, waving at the thin crowds that had gathered along the tree-lined boulevard. "Shame he didn't drive down in a carriage," Marie-Noelle Ahanso, a 62-year-old employee, told Reuters.

Sea Breeze players wrap up Black Sea drill, first series since war

Monitoring Desk
MERSIN: The multinational naval exercise Sea Breeze—held for the first time since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine—prioritized ensuring freedom of navigation and countering explosive devices such as sea mines.

The latest iteration, dubbed Sea Breeze 2023-3, took place in the Black Sea, bordered by Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Georgia. The entire exercise is split into three parts.

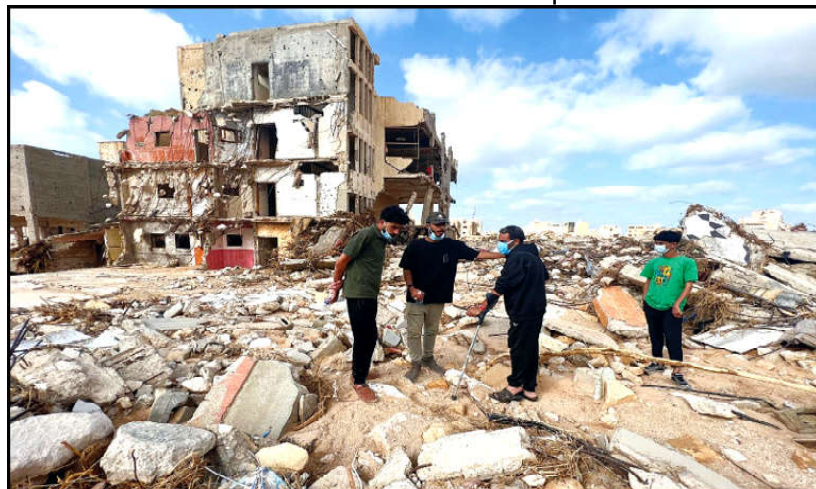
The third event, which ran Sept. 11-15, saw the United States, Bulgaria, France, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom come together for drills. The U.S. and Romanian navies co-hosted the exercise.

"The exercise, now in its 22nd iteration, has been held annually since 1997, except for five separate years in which operational

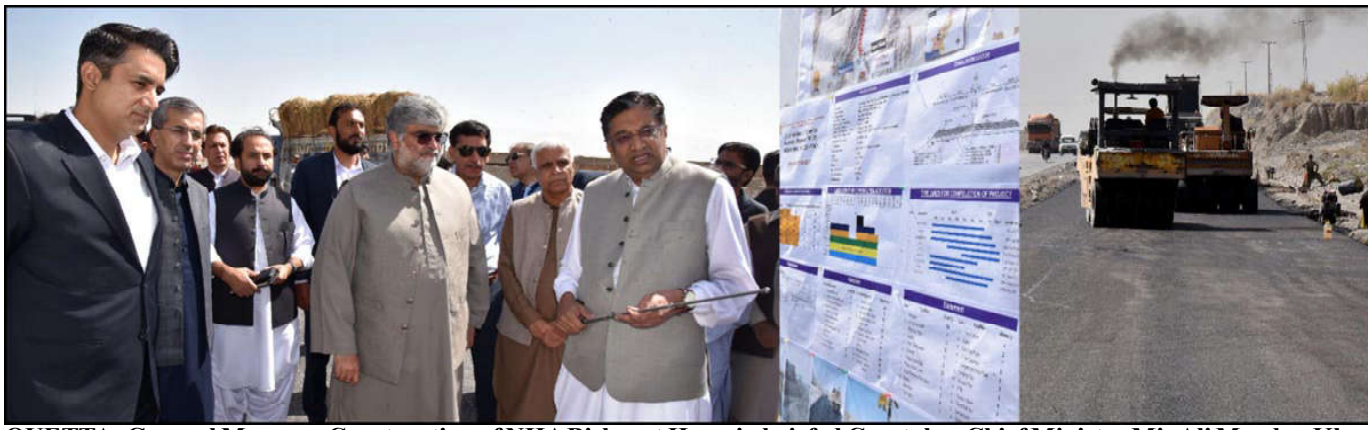
commitments or world events prevented the execution of the exercise," a U.S. Navy news release noted.

Due to the regulations of the Montreux Convention, non-riparian participants could not send naval vessels. Under the Montreux Convention, Turkey manages the movement of commercial and military ships in and out of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. The country has carefully implemented the agreement since 1936, which is a critical component of Black Sea security and stability, for more than seven decades. While the convention governs the transit regime across the straits, the most important aspect is defining the principals of military ships transiting the straits and deploying to the Black Sea.

"It is very important that the Sea Breeze exercise, which could not take place last year.



A man uses crutches as he walks on the rubble of destroyed buildings in Libya's flood-hit Derna.



QUETTA: General Manager Construction of NHA Bisharat Hussain briefed Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Balochistan farmers get pulses seeds to enhance production

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) has provided high-quality pulse seeds to farmers of Balochistan province in order to enhance the production of edibles in the country.

The other aim of the initiative was to enhance the farm income of small growers as well as to ensure food safety and security of the farming communities of such areas of the province, said Chairman PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali.

Talking to APP here on Wednesday, he said that high-yielding pulse seeds have been distributed to farmers in 22 districts of Balochistan.

He further said that the council has played a pioneering role in the introduction and promotion of olive, saffron, pistachio, and other high-value fruit plants in Balochistan.

Chairman PARC reiterated the commitment of the Council, as the apex

national agricultural research organization, to disseminate innovative agricultural research findings across the province to enhance farm income, particularly of the small farmers.

Dr Ali said that PARC has also planted approximately one million olive trees across eighteen districts of Balochistan and installed a drip irrigation system on 2,000 acres.

Our primary focus is on enhancing area under pulses crop in Balochistan to achieve self-sufficiency at the national level and to fulfill the dietary needs of the people of the province, he remarked.

Additionally, he said that PARC has launched multiple research programs for the cultivation of sesame and psyllium husk (Isphaghol) in various areas of the province, adding that it would also help in achieving sustainable agriculture growth in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili called-on Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

Sikh community protests against India over leader's killing in Canada

LAHORE (INP): The Sikh community staged a protest in Lahore on Wednesday against the Indian government in response to the killing of a prominent Sikh leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a vocal advocate of the Khalistan movement, in Canada.

The Sikh community emphasised that Indian intelligence agencies were involved in targeting Sikhs globally, calling on the international community to take note of India's acts of terrorism.

Speaking to the media, former member of the Punjab Assembly, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, asserted that India was involved in the assassination of the Khalistan leader.

"Indian government is fearful of the Khalistan referendum and is resorting to targeting Sikhs, but Sikhs have a fundamental right to peaceful and democratic struggle for Khalistan," he added.

He said that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has provided evidence of India's involvement in the killing of Sikh leader, adding that India has long been accused of spreading terrorism.

The Sikh community also raised slogans against the Indian government and demanded that the international community must take notice of the atrocities and ethnic cleansing perpetrated against Sikhs by the Modi government.



LAHORE: Sikh Community of Pakistan holds protest outside Press Club against the alleged death of Sikh person in Canada.

WMFP condemns harassment of Spanish journalist

QUETTA: The Women Media Forum, Pakistan (WMFP) strongly condemns the harassment faced by Spanish journalist Isa Balado while reporting in Madrid.

Isa was on-air reporting a robbery when a male passerby appeared to touch her rear and proceeded to ask her which channel she worked for. She did not react to the ha-

arrassment but proceeded to calmly catch his face on camera.

WMFP commends the way Isa dealt with the harassment, commenting on her courage in confronting this person immediately not only sending him a message that he had not intimidated her and that it was not alright to do this. She dealt with the situation with professionalism and courage.

DC Quetta directs to issue 1500 pending cases of local certificates within a week

QUETTA: The Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Flt. Lieutenant @ Saad bin Asad has directed to issue 1500 pending cases of the local certificates within a week time.

The decision to this effect was made on the pub-

lic complaints on Wednesday.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed to issue the local certificates, which are lying pending since August 23, 2023 within a week.

All those who have submitted the applications

Ejaz Qureshi says Wafaqi Mohtasib playing leading role in international fraternity of ombudsmen



ISLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi on Wednesday said the Wafaqi Mohtasib institution was playing a leading role among the international fraternity in realizing the ombudsmanship goals of rule of law and good governance.

It was evident from the trust reposed by the 47 members of Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) in the institution by re-elect-

ing the Federal Ombudsman as AOA President during the General Assembly moot held at Kazan, Tatarstan, on September 11, he said while addressing a conference.

The unopposed re-election, he said, "is a clear manifestation of the fact that the services of Wafaqi Mohtasib of Pakistan in carrying forward the ultimate goals of ombudsmanship i.e good governance, fair play, ad-

ministrative justice and rule of law were fully recognized by the international community."

Ejaz Qureshi thanked the AOA General Assembly for expressing confidence in Pakistan's contribution in promoting the cause of ombudsmanship in Asia and beyond.

Prior to Kazan moot, he said, a meeting of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) was held in Bangkok (Thailand) on July 11, which was actively participated by Pakistan.

He said the Asian Ombudsman Association, established following the First Asian Ombudsman Conference held on April 15-16, 1996 at Islamabad, was a major non-political, independent and professional body of international character representing more than two thirds of the world population.

Ex Senator Saifullah call on CM Domki

QUETTA (APP): Former Senator, Nawabzada Mir Saifullah Khan Magsi called on Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Wednesday.

Provincial Adviser Irrigation Mir Danish Longov, Syed Asad Shah, Director General of Agriculture Research Development Nadeem Sadiq, retired police officer Sardarzada Mir Gul Khan Sasoli, Mir Saifullah Sasoli, secretaries of various departments and trade union officials were also present on the occasion.

Different issues came under discussion during the meeting, said a press release.

Maximum public service and solution of problems included in priorities: CM

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that it is included in his top priorities to serve the masses and resolve their problems.

Mr. Domki was speaking to a representative delegation of All Baloch Trade Union who called on him under leadership of Muhammad Siddique Yousafzai here on Wednesday.

The members of delegation congratulated Mr. Domki on assuming the office of caretaker Chief Minister and expressed best wishes for him.

They also informed Mr. Domki about the issues being faced by the trade union and requested him to resolve them.

While assuring to resolve their issues, the caretaker Chief Minister said that maximum public service and resolution of their issues is included in his top priorities.

He said that the directives would be issued to the Deputy Commissioner Quetta to resolve the issues of trade unions.

In this regard, the CM's office would also extend its assistance, he maintained.



QUETTA: A delegation led by General Manager PTV Syed Faheem Shah meeting with Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai. DGPR Kamran Asad is also present

Levies Force recovers body of man in Dasht

QUETTA (APP): Levies Force recovered the body of a man at a mountain near Dasht area of Mastung district on Wednesday.

According to Levies sources, on receiving information, the Levies Force team reached and took the body into custody which was dumped at a mountain after killing by unknown men. The body was shifted to a nearby hospital where it was identified as a 35-year-old Shair Zaman resident of Killi Shahnwaz near Sariab area of Quetta. The Levies source said that the relatives of Shair Zaman had registered a case against in relevant Police Station that he was abducted along with rickshaw by unknown armed men on gunpoint few days ago. The body of the deceased was handed over to the heirs after completion of medico-legal formalities. Further investigation was underway. After receiving the body, the relatives of the deceased body blocked the road near Custom Sariab area against the killing.

Caretaker Minister Home visits SSP Traffic office Quetta; lauds performance

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali visited the SSP Traffic Office Quetta on Wednesday.

The SP Traffic, Malik Muhammad Javed welcomed the Minister Home and briefed him about the overall functioning of the Traffic Police.

Also present on the occasion were the Staff Officer, Attiqur Rehman and IT Incharge, Muhammad Azam.

IT Incharge briefed the Minister Home about the smart traffic management system, Eaasta App, E-chalancing and road safety.

The Minister Home was also briefed about the licensing, monitoring and service infrastructure besides other related issues.

Speaking on occasion, the Minister said that it is no less than a challenge to keep running over 500,000 vehicles in Quetta city.

He said that the provision of police services, education and enforcement are top priorities of the government. He noted with contentment that the Traffic police is providing best services despite limited resources. He said that the roads accidents would be decreased by implementing the traffic laws. Moreover, the 80 percent head injuries would also be reduced by using helmets while riding bikes. While briefing the Minister, SP Traffic informed that committees have been formed comprising transporters, social activists and traders representatives for resolving the traffic issues. Similarly, crackdown is also being done against encroachments at vast level, he informed.

He described encroachments, improper road structure and enormous increase in the number of vehicles as major reasons behind hurdles in flow of traffic.

Pak, Saudi Arabia agree to deepen cooperation in all fields

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday emphasising the vital importance of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations agreed to further deepen mutual cooperation in all fields, especially economy, trade, energy and investment.

The bilateral relations were discussed in a meeting between Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The two foreign ministers exchanged views on various aspects of bilateral relations as well as the regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Jilani thanked the Saudi

leadership for their generous and unwavering support to Pakistan which was particularly instrumental in securing the deal with the International Monetary Fund.

He apprised the Saudi foreign minister of the formation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to facilitate and fast-track potential investments from GCC Member States, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He emphasized that mutually rewarding Pak-Saudi cooperation in key areas including IT, Energy, Infrastructure and labour must be fast-tracked and augmented.

The foreign minister also thanked the Saudi counterpart for hosting more than two million strong Pakistani diaspora

which not only contributed towards the development of both countries but also formed a vital bridge between the two brotherly nations.

Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud highlighted the brotherly relations between the two nations and the valuable contributions made by the Pakistani community in the development of the Kingdom.

The foreign minister reiterated that Pakistan eagerly looked forward to the visit of the Saudi Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are bound by fraternal ties marked by mutual trust and understanding, close cooperation, and an abiding tradition of supporting each other.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar attending funeral prayer of ANP leader Arbab Ghulam Muhammad Kasi

Gwadar Port, SEZ will play an important role in development of Balochistan: Moinul Haque

Briefs media delegation from Balochistan on Pak-China ties, CPEC

BEIJING (INP): A high-level media delegation from Balochistan province, currently on visit to China, met with Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moinul Haque at the Pakistan Embassy here on Wednesday.

Ambassador Haque briefed the delegation about Pakistan and China bilateral relations especially the current status of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which he termed as the flagship project of BRI and a strong symbol of Pak-China strong ties.

In the second phase of CPEC, the focus is on co-operation in science and technology, agriculture and social sector development, he added.

Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan and China are all-weather friends and strategic cooperative partners and both the countries support each other during the challenging



times.

He said that China extended ample assistance to Pakistan during the Covid-19 pandemic by sending vaccines, equipment and medical teams.

During the floods last year, China again extending a helping hand and sent relief goods to help the flood-stricken people in Pakistan, he added.

Ambassador Haque said that China is focusing on the Balochistan province and has initiated several development projects especially in Gwadar.

He informed that Gwadar port, special economic zone and Gwadar international airport will play an important role in the development of the province and the country.

He said that Gwadar has a potential to become the regional hub for business and trade and expressed the confidence that the port city would greatly contribute to the economy and bring about job and business opportunities for the locals.

Funeral prayer of slain ANP leader offered in Kuchlak; Governor, others participate

QUETTA: The funeral prayer of senior leader of Awami National Party (ANP), Arbab Ghulam Muhammad Kasi, who was shot dead the other day, was offered in native area, Killi Katir of Kuchlak.

Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar and a large number of other people belonging to different political parties including ANP, tribal elders, religious leaders and from various shades of life participated in the funeral prayer.

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar also laid floral wreath on the coffin of ANP leader. Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that the late Arbab Ghulam Muhammad Kasi was a gentleman and a sincere political leader, who always focused on the public issues and their rights. He said that the invaluable services of late Kasi would be remembered for long.

Domki pays surprise visit to BHU Pashtoonabad

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki paid surprise visit to the Basic Health Unit, Pashtoonabad on Wednesday. During the visit, the caretaker Chief Minister reviewed the medical facilities available at the BHU Pashtoonabad.

He also inspected the out patient department, medicine store, EPI center and other sections of the

BHU. He expressed satisfaction over the performance of BHU Pashtoonabad describing it satisfactory. He stressed the need to establish role model medical centers on the pattern of BHU Pashtoonabad for provision of healthcare facilities to the masses. He said that the BHUs are basic part of the primary healthcare system in provision of medical services to the masses and as such it is very necessary to make them fully functional.

Jan Achakzai visits PTV Quetta center; assures full cooperation

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai visited the PTV Quetta center on Wednesday.

During the visit, the Minister Information met the General Manager PTV, Syed Fahim Shah. While appreciating performance of the PTV Quetta center, Jan Achakzai said that all federal and provincial government institutions would have to work hard to cope with challenges and requirements of the modern day.

He said that the provincial government is ready

to give share in the provincial advertisements for increasing the working capacity of Quetta center and strengthening it economically.

In this regard, there is a need to start work on a MoU, adding he stressed.

The Minister Information also announced that a vehicle would also be provided to PTV Quetta center for important coverages in the remote areas.

Also present on the occasion were Director General Public Relations, Kamran Asad and Head PTV Bolan, Jawad Hazara.



QUETTA: Provincial Home Minister Capt (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali inspecting different sections during his visit to traffic police office