

# Independent

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RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir presiding over 259th Corps Commanders' Conference.

## COAS presides over 259th Corps Commanders' Conference Top military brass resolves to defend country's sovereignty, territorial integrity

Participants resolve to assist in curbing illegal activities hampering economic growth; Forum pays tribute to sacrifices of the martyrs of armed forces; Emphasis need for speedy development of economic potential of Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and Border Districts of Balochistan for sustainable peace and growth

RAWALPINDI (Online): General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) presided over the 259th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ, today (Thursday).

Forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and Citizens who laid their lives for the safety, security and territorial integrity of the country.

Fateha was offered for the martyrs and it was reiterated that the State of Pakistan and Armed Forces will continue to hold the Shuhadas and their families in highest esteem, ever honoring them with utmost respect and dignity.

Commemoration of Defence and Martyrs Day on 6 September across the country by all segments of the society was appreciated for which the Armed Forces of Pakistan remain ever thankful to our proud nation.

Participants reiterated Pakistan Army's resolve to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan against all kinds of direct and indirect threats.

Forum re-affirmed that inimical propagandists' desperate attempts to cause wedge between the state institutions and public are indicative of their mounting desperation and will only result into more humiliation of such elements, InshaAllah.

## CMIT to check quality of purchased wheat: CM directs to bring stability in prices of flour; demand and supply of other edibles

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the provincial Food department to bring stability in prices of the flour besides ensuring availability of the wheat and flour in the market.

The caretaker Chief Minister was chairing a meeting on the affairs of Food Department here on Thursday. The Chief Secretary Qadir Khan and other concerned high ups were present in the meeting.

The Secretary Food, Mubeen Rehman briefed the meeting about departmental matters of the Food

department and situation of wheat and flour in the province.

The caretaker Chief Minister on the occasion also directed to control the prices of other food items along with flour at the district and divisional level.

He asked the concerned high ups to extend the mandate of food department by bringing necessary changes according to the needs in the rule of business.

In addition to this, the balance should be created in the demand and supply of the flour and other edibles according to the market requirements, adding he stressed.

Mr. Domki also directed the CM Inspection

Team to check quality of the wheat purchased by the food department.

Moreover, the Food department should also take action against those involved in the smuggling and hoarding of wheat and sugar in collaboration with the district administration, the Chief Minister directed further.

He said that the interim government wants to give every possible relief to the masses by preventing inflation in the province.

He stressed that Food department, concerned departments and district administration would have to take wholehearted action for bringing stability in the prices.

## PM emphasizes joint efforts to purge society of intolerance, promote brotherhood

Directs measures to address issues confronting overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday emphasized the need to make joint efforts to purge the society of intolerance and promote brotherhood.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Bohra Community headed by Shahzada Hussain Burhanuddin, said interfaith harmony was part of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's golden principles which was also the foundation of Pakistan as well as guiding light for the people.

Hussain Burhanuddin conveyed the good wishes of his father and spiritual leader of Bohra Community Dr Mufazzal Saiduddin for the prime minister.

The prime minister appreciated the Bohra Community's role in social welfare, education and economic sectors.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to take all-out measures to resolve the problems being faced by the overseas Pakistanis.

The prime minister, talking to his Special Assistant for Overseas Pakistanis Jawad Sohrab Malik who called on him, said the expatriates were a precious asset for Pakistan.

The caretaker Chief Minister was presiding over a meeting on the issues of Quetta city and their solution here on Thursday.

During briefing, the Commissioner informed that wholehearted campaign has been initiated against encroachments and for cleanliness in the city. Similarly, four godowns have been sealed during crackdown against hoarding of sugar in the city. While on the other hand, quality and quantity of petrol pumps is also being checked under the special Municipal laws.

He said that it is very essential to restore traditional beauty of Quetta city and increase civic facilities.

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QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting to review affairs of Food Department

## Notification regarding ban on Rs 5000 currency note fake: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that notification regarding the ban on Rs 5,000 currency notes was fake.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, the minister said that the government would take strict action against those spreading such fake notifications.

## IMF 'approves' Rs. 15bn relief in electricity bills

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant development, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has given the green light to a relief plan of Rs 15 billion which aimed to give financial relief to electricity consumers in Pakistan, sources said on Thursday.

According to media reports, matter revealed that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) played a pivotal role in securing this relief from the IMF, adding that the FBR has exceeded expectations by collecting an impressive amount of Rs 20 billion in excess taxes.

The IMF's decision to grant the relief of Rs15 billion – aimed at relieving the financial burden on electricity consumers – is a testament to the commendable performance of the FBR.

## Levies man among two killed in firing incidents

MASTUNG/NASIRABAD (INP): Two including a Levies man were killed and another injured separate firing incidents here on Thursday.

According to details, armed men shot death Levies personnel identified Abdul Zahir and injured a pedestrian at main bus terminal of Mastung city and fled the scene.

In Goth Ghulam Rasool Supra, jurisdiction of Baba Kot police station district Nasirabad, armed men barged into a house, gunned down Nazir Ahmed and escaped the scene.

## Jan lauds efforts of Army Chief for curbing currency smuggling

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Interim Minister for Information Jan Achakzai on Thursday lauded efforts of the Pakistan's Army Chief for preventing currency smuggling in the country which termed positive sign for interest of motherland.

He said that the Pakistan's Army Chief and his team stopped the mafia involved in currency smuggling by taking timely measures saying that the mafia wanted to spread chaos in the currency market through black marketing.

He said that the situation has improved, now the State Bank and other economic institutions should use this opportunity to boost the system.

The Information Minister also said that smuggling has reduced and the price of sugar has stabilized in the country. Balochistan Chief Minister has also taken steps to stop electricity theft and sugar smuggling as per the wishes of Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, he said.

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Provincial Task Force for anti-smuggling meets: CS directs to continue operation for prevention of smuggling of sugar & urea across province

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has directed the concerned high ups to continue operation for prevention of smuggling.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary said that smuggling is putting negative impacts on economy of the country. The public hardships have also been increased due to increase in prices of daily essential commodities following smuggling.

The Chief Secretary directed to formulate effective system of coordination among all the concerned provincial and federal departments and agencies to curb smuggling from the province.

He also directed to improve trace and track system for prevention of smuggling of the sugar and fertilizer besides toughening checking at all the check posts across the province.

He asserted that the across border smuggling of essential commodities including sugar and Urea would not be tolerated at all.

The Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Divisional Commissioners participated in the meeting through video link.



QUETTA: A delegation of Education Parliamentarians Cucus of Senate led by Senator Sana Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Political and economic circumstances require us to take wise decisions: Governor

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has categorically stated that the current political and economic circumstances require us to take wise decisions as a nation, as we can steer the country and nation out of prevailing political and economic crisis with the public friendly policies and projects.

In this regard, we have to make serious and bold decisions in the present complex situation, the Governor maintained while

speaking to a delegation who called on him under leadership of Senator Sana Jamali here at Governor House on Thursday.

The Governor said that it is a challenge to strength the basic infrastructure all over the province according to the increasing human needs and ever changing circumstances in the province.

The Governor said that there's a very much backwardness in remote areas of the province, and in view of this, we have to make all policies and projects in the best interest of masses. For

the purpose, our targets of future can be succeeded with help and support of the international agencies.

He also stressed that it is high time to make serious and daring decisions in the present complex situation, and adopt a national thinking and approach instead of mere personal interests.

In addition to this, we would also have to adopt the policy of taking all along so that we are able to take wholehearted part in the country's development, he maintained.

## Govt announces closure of markets at sunset

LAHORE (INP): The caretaker government has ordered measures to conserve energy, including closing all malls and markets at sunset to mitigate the effects of energy crisis.

A similar announcement was also made by the previous Shehbaz government regarding the closure of markets by 8pm across the country under the 'energy conservation plan'. On June 6, the former federal minister made the announcement while talking to journalists after a meeting of National Economic Council (NEC) chaired by then prime minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"The NEC has approved an energy conservation plan under which shops and commercial centres would be closed by 8pm," he had announced, noting that energy has become a huge challenge for Pakistan due to global prices. However, no implementation was made on the measures announced by the previous govt.

## Five terrorists of banned outfit killed in gun battle with CTD

QUETTA (INP): Five alleged terrorists of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were killed during an operation by the Balochistan Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Aghberg area of Quetta, police said on Thursday.

According to a statement released by the CTD, an operation was planned over information provided by an alleged TTP terrorist, identified as Naseebullah, who was in custody.

The CTD added that during the course of an investigation, he revealed the presence of his associates in Quetta and divulged that they were "in advance planning of carrying out a terrorist activity in Quetta soon".

"An operation was planned and terrorists were identified over the information provided by the arrested accused person who was nominated in FIR number 84-2023," the statement said.

Elaborating on the details of the operation, the CTD statement said when police were setting up a security cordon outside the TTP hideout, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire and tried to escape.

"Two terrorists tried to escape on a motorcycle but the raiding party took precautionary measures and retaliated," it added. "Additional force was called and the fleeing terrorists were contained."

As a result, the CTD said, four TTP militants were killed, while the "arrested accused person" was severely injured by the firing of his associates.

"He was rushed to the hospital but he succumbed to his injuries," it said, adding that a sizeable quantity of ammunition and explosives were recovered from the crime scene including one suicide jacket, five hand grenades, two pistols, one rifle, two motorcycles, and explosive material.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting of Provincial Task Force for Anti-Smuggling regarding stopping of smuggling of Urea and Sugar in the province

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
 Friday September 08, 2023

**Sugar prices**

Sugar prices are a major political economy issue in Pakistan. Any small or large upward change in domestic sugar prices tends to trigger much noise in the media, with the government activating its administrative machinery to launch a 'crackdown' against sugar mill owners and traders to bring down retail rates.

Sometimes the judiciary also intervenes because of the massive public attention sugar prices draw, thanks to the political profile of most mill owners. A 'probe' is ordered, lengthy reports are prepared and recommendations formulated to 'reform' the sugar trade and keep prices in check. But nothing really changes.

The reason for the recurring 'sugar price crises' is well known: the government's involvement in the sugar economy to protect politically powerful large cane growers and factory owners. The solution is also obvious: withdrawal of the government from the market, and removal of restrictions on free import and export of the sweetener to let demand-and-supply forces take their own course.

However, no government — civil or military — has shown enough political will to implement the solution for fear of losing the support of large growers and wealthy millers. Hence, both farmers and factory owners remain deeply invested in this crop because of guaranteed, risk-free profits.

It was, then, not surprising when the discourse over sugar's rising cost gained momentum recently. Many accused the previous PDM government of allowing the export of 'surplus stocks' lying with mill owners earlier this year, blaming it for the current price spike. Others held sugar's unchecked smuggling to Afghanistan, due to the large gap between the domestic and international prices of the commodity, responsible. Punjab's caretaker government has blamed the price surge on an interim Lahore High Court order that stopped it from monitoring the commodity's supply chain to ensure implementation of the notified price of Rs 100 per kilo.

Interestingly, the caretaker administration has done nothing to get the interim order, that was passed in May, vacated, despite consistently rising retail prices and awareness of sugar smuggling to Afghanistan via Balochistan. The administration's report on the matter, presented to the Punjab chief minister recently, is self-incriminating at best. Past experience shows that the issue will fade away in the next few days or weeks. The retail rate will also come down to settle at a level matching the increased official support price for the next harvest. Sugar forms only a small portion of household expenses. If the government wants to stabilise the market it should extricate itself from the supply chain. It is incorrect to say that the price of sugar can aggravate or mitigate economic shocks in poor or middle-income families.

If the authorities want to help these families, they should focus on reducing the overall cost of living for them — and not just that of sugar.



Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

Climate change has made the South Asian monsoon evermore unpredictable. Heavy rains in the catchment areas of the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej rivers deep inside India have flooded Pakistan's Punjab province. It has become vital for India and Pakistan to initiate a dialogue on the transboundary impact of climate change, starting with water management between the two countries. The eastern rivers were awarded to India for its exclusive use under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). Their total water at the time amounted to about 33 million acre feet. Over the years, India has developed a complex web of dams, supported by link canals and barrages, to utilise its share almost entirely. They include Bhakra Dam on the Sutlej, the Pong and Pandoh dams on the Beas, Thein (Ranjitsagar) on the Ravi, the Beas-Sutlej Link, the Madhapur-Beas Link, and the Indira Gandhi Canal to Rajasthan. They collectively divert about 95 per cent of water flows — all in accordance with the treaty.

India has additionally planned three projects to bring new areas under irrigation, instead of leaving the balance of about 2MAF for environmental flows. The IWT, though, had not envisioned this, and neither has Pakistan raised it as an option to test the waters. Pakistan has not raised any concerns over India's plans to divert the remaining water of its eastern rivers.

In doing so, while both countries are true to the letter of the treaty, they are violative of its spirit: it was not the treaty's intent to disturb the hydrology, ecology, economy, culture or folklore of the birthplace of the Indus Valley Civilisation that probably originated with the city of Harappa and flourished, according to some experts, between 3,500 and 2,700 BCE.

The construction of the Bhakra and Beas dams was, however, conceived decades before the two countries signed the water distribution treaty in 1960. Bhakra Dam was first conceived in 1916 and the preliminary work started in 1946, a year before independence. It was completed in 1963, within two years of the signing of the IWT. This dam has helped India utilise almost all of its share of the eastern rivers. The Pong and Pandoh dams were conceived in 1926. The second phase of construction began in 1961 and was completed in 1974.

As these projects were completed, the flow of waters to Pakistan decreased to a trickle. In the Sutlej at Suleimanki, the peak of 598,872 cusecs per second in 1955 was reduced to a mere 17,462 cusecs in 2022. In the Ravi, at Ravi Syphon, the flows shrank from a peak of 920,000 to just 63,720 cusecs during the same period. Except for the high floods of 1988, the upstream infrastructure has not allowed any downstream leakage. This has posed monumental challenges to communities living along the Ravi and Sutlej rivers in Pakistan: the recharging of groundwater and flushing of stagnant and polluted waters of dying rivers no longer happens annually. The sedimentation and nutrients that periodic flooding brought to their fields has ceased. Farmers keep up the yield with costly inputs that further degrade the quality of surface water and groundwater.

For illustrative purposes, the Ravi's high floods at Jassar in 1955 crossed 680,000 cusecs, compared to only 71,010 cusecs in 2023. In Sutlej, at Suleimanki, it crossed 598,872 cusecs, compared to 191,053 cusecs during the same period. In other words, the present flooding is nothing when compared to the floods of 1955, in spite of the multiple challenges they posed.

Several conclusions can be drawn from these trends: one, the construction of infrastructure upstream by India, has reduced for Pakistan the risks of frequent floods. Allowances for human error and management practices, however, need to be agreed on with India to mitigate

Pakistan's risks. Two, intense monsoon can still render the existing infrastructure inadequate and unsafe. Pakistan's risks will compound if present thresholds become more frequent.

Three, as India-Pakistan improve their early warning systems and bilateral communication mechanisms, Pakistan will need to undertake a strategic resilience assessment of its infrastructure. A relatively small number of families were recently evacuated to safety. Is it possible to permanently move the settlers in riverbeds to safer locations? In Sindh, this is presently being done under a World Bank project, by granting land ownership documents and extending financial support for flood-proof housing. The present floods in the eastern rivers provide an important turning point to leapfrog towards flood-resilient communities and infrastructure.

Both the Bhakra and Beas dams are located in Himachal Pradesh, bordering Indian Punjab. The changes in precipitation trends there are, therefore, of paramount interest to Pakistan. According to the Indian Institute of Meteorology, the monsoon season is getting longer there, stretching from June to September, giving 10-15pc more rainfall. Further, because of heat spikes, glacial melt is faster and now contributes between 19 to 24pc of the river flows. This is particularly true for the Sutlej-Beas basin that originates in the western Himalayan region in the Tibetan plateau.

These climatic changes have several implications for the duration and severity of the flooding season in Pakistan as well as for cropping patterns and human settlements that have sprung up in the riverbeds. Yet, the treaty is considered to be one of the most successful water-sharing mechanisms in the world. In fact, it has emerged as a global common good that needs systematic global endeavours to protect it from emerging climatic challenges. Article 7 deals with future cooperation regarding the Indus river system. Pakistan needs to request an extraordinary meeting to discuss climate change under Article 7, as it has the inbuilt flexibility and provisions to address emerging issues. -- Courtesy Dawn

**The eastern rivers**

**Let's hold elections**



Hassan Baig

History teaches us that no country can ever grow or develop without following a proper system of governance. Only a strong system that works to achieve something great and worthwhile can help nations grow. Pakistan is passing through a critical phase and has to deal with issues of a complex nature, ranging from a possible economic default to political upheavals. A country's political system ideally provides a firm ground for economic growth, but in the case of Pakistan, its politics is under turbulence. What we should do is to hold elections to get out of this critical situation.

The social contract between citizens and the state provides a basis of trust and confidence in the system. This faith is weakening in Pakistan, and that

is the real threat to the system. We need to restore the confidence of Pakistanis on the system as per their aspirations in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. Any deviation to the constitution means tearing apart the social contract, which has the potential to destroy the entire social structure. Policymakers and the 'bigwigs' have to understand the importance of the electoral system; hyperinflation is already playing havoc with the nation.

Terrorism has once again entered our country, creating a security situation. An inclusive political system can restore the faltering law-and-order situation as well as take care of rising poverty in the country. Developed and progressive countries like China, India, the US and European nations have all followed and practised a rock-solid political system based on their social contract.

US policymakers have always ensured that elections in the country are held on the specified day, date, time and year as per the country's constitution since their independence; they elected their first president George Washington in

1789. Since then, policymakers in the US have ensured that people get to vote for their popular leaders and no war or emergency could ever compel them to postpone elections. This is the way forward to gain the status of a great nation and superpower, and earn respect in the international community.

Contrary to this, wrong policy decisions and mismanagement have marred the political and economic system of Pakistan, disturbing the social fabric of society. Had we practised and protected the electoral system since our independence in 1947, we would have had received the status of an 'Asian Tiger' in the real sense of the word. But unfortunately we have been experimenting with multiple political and economic systems that lack coherence and consistency, and this has pushed the country towards a total collapse.

These adventures need to be avoided as we cannot afford such drastic decisions any more. But what next, then? The real choice is to leave decision-making on the people of Pakistan to promote the democratic process. Other-

wise, the obvious choice is to go for another social contract, which may not be a popular decision.

Currently, the 'caretakers' are doing everything except making arrangements to hold elections. This is strange. Hyperinflation has hit the poor hard, and the caretakers cannot do anything about it except for asking people to wait. But this wait is too long and arduous. And many experts suggest that the ordeal may take an even longer time than expected to end given the situation on ground. The IMF's stop-gap arrangement/stand-by agreement is in place. The document contains plenty of hard and strict conditions to correct the economy, which is the most difficult task of the time to deal with.

The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is also in the process of establishing a full-fledged secretariat to help explore the avenues of foreign direct investment (FDI) in clear terms or in public-private partnership (PPP) mode. We are yet to see the outcome of this initiative.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is apparently more inter-

ested in the delimitation of electoral constituencies instead of holding elections in Pakistan. The ECP is also in the process of consultation with political parties to decide on elections, but what about the constitution that bounds it to hold elections within the stipulated time period as given in the constitution of Pakistan. We do not know much about the constitutional requirement regarding consultation with political parties.

If there is any constitutional obligation regarding delimitation on the basis of the new digital census as approved by the Council of Common Interest (CCI), then at least a date for elections could be announced by the ECP. The delay in announcing the exact date for elections in Pakistan is giving rise to undue speculations, which must be avoided to help save the economy from collapse.

The economic emergency requires a speedy decision on elections to hand over the reins of government to elected leaders, who can take long-term decisions for economic reforms. Economic growth and development needs an immediate policy decision

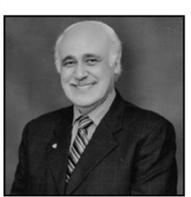
to settle political disputes. Economic security is a new paradigm to rely upon for ultimate security of the state. Economic power now decides whether a country is a strong state/super power, as the time of chivalry has gone into the dustbin of history. Tech powers or chip and semiconductor producers controlling the supply chains of this critical technology are the new realities of economic powers.

The new war is an economic war between tech giants — China and the US — in an attempt to control this world. The most pressing question to ask is: where does Pakistan lie on this list?

Seventh, the IT sector may be given 'industrial status' to boost e-commerce and export of services. Eighth, education be promoted to get all children enrolled in schools, leaving no child behind.

Ninth, we should teach technical skills to our young people to enable them to find good job opportunities. Tenth, short-, medium- and long-term plans be devised to get rid of foreign loans to ensure the sustainable growth of the economy. -- Courtesy TheNews

**Reaching the stars**



F.S. Aijazuddin

The launch by India of its Chandrayaan-3 rocket and space probe on Aug 23, 2023, and, a few days later, its Aditya L-1 observation mission to the sun, have propelled India into another league. They have separated the men from the boys.

Such programmes take nations decades to develop. The commitment to the US lunar mission was announced by president John F. Kennedy in May 1961. It was fulfilled eight years later in July 1969, when Apollo XI sent two astronauts — Neil Armstrong and 'Buzz' Aldrin — to the moon and returned them to earth safely, to be welcomed by Kennedy's successor (and nemesis) president Richard Nixon.

India's Chandrayaan-3 mission, like that of Apollo XI, will scratch the surface of the moon and conduct valuable scientific experiments there. Apollo XI brought moon rocks back to earth. Fragments were distributed by Nixon to every country in the world. (Incidentally, the one sent to us is allegedly on display in the drawing room of president Yahya Khan's grandson, in Dubai.)

It is interesting that these futuristic space programmes draw on antiquity for their names —

Apollo, Chandrayaan, and Aditya. India's two missions, though, belong to a space age where the horizon is infinity.

Chandrayaan-3 is the first of its kind to land successfully on the moon's South Pole. By comparison, Aditya L-1 is even more daring. It will travel 1.5 million kilometers and take four months to reach Lagrange point 1 — the exact spot "where the gravitational forces of two large objects — such as the sun and the earth — cancel each other out, allowing a spacecraft to hover. Once Aditya L-1 reaches this 'parking spot', it would be able to orbit the sun at the same rate as the earth". It can monitor the sun even during an eclipse.

Although Pakistan will never be the direct beneficiary of the scientific data collected by Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L-1, it could learn from their development. The cost of the Aditya L-1 is reported to be \$46 million. By contrast, Pakistan's external debt stands at \$125 billion, with no moon or sun rockets to show for it.

India's Chandrayaan-3 is a moon. Its Aditya L-1 will hover around the sun. It is not inconceivable that India may soon launch a space station that will orbit the earth, with its hardware aimed at sites hidden from the naked eye in neighbouring countries. Hopefully, someone in our National Command Authority responsible for protection of our nuclear assets has anticipated such a possibility.

It should remember, though, US president Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative of 1983, to provide the US with a space-based shield that would detect and destroy enemy (ie nuclear) ballistic missiles as soon as they were launched.

The then USSR, determined not to be left be-

hind, tried to match the US. It took a new leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to admit the idiocy that brought the USSR to the brink of insolvency. The USSR collapsed under the weight of its pretentious, unaffordable ambitions. It conceded defeat. In December 1987, the US and the Soviet Union signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, ending the senseless arms race between the two superpowers.

Its preamble read: "Once the restructuring, corporatisation and privatisation of Wapda/KESC's thermal power generation, power transmission and distribution is complete and Nepra is fully operative, all future investment in power generation, transmission and distribution facilities will become market driven and of no direct concern to GOP. Investors will deal with purchasers, the distribution companies; enter into supply contracts with them, develop their projects under Nepra licence and operate under its oversight."

It continued: "Competitive tariffs will comprise an energy purchase price and a capacity purchase price with adequate provisions for escalation. The GOP will guarantee that the terms of executed agreements, including payment terms, are maintained."

The bureaucrats who designed the scheme enjoy protection here or asylum abroad. The beneficiaries of this largesse are still lorded it within our country. Meanwhile, our public struggles every month to pay the price for their greed.

It takes money and maturity to understand the fusion of science and poetry inherent in Robert Browning's inspirational lines: "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what's a heaven for?" -- Courtesy Dawn

**Pride and prejudice**



Afia S. Zia

Halfway into his term as prime minister, Imran Khan had proudly hyperbolised that, 'I am democracy'. He had praised the military and security agencies for their services and threatened to incarcerate protesting opponents — "not in a VIP jail, but where the poor are sent". Khan may never have 'been' democracy but his fall from elite populist to ordinary victim of state subjugation poses him for a second coming — this time, as a democrat.

As prime minister, Khan spoke with a forked tongue: he condemned Islamophobia internationally but weaponised Muslim pie-ty domestically, tolerated the torment of Ahmehdis and other minorities, and his alleged pilferage was justified while rivals were condemned as dacoits. Rather than tackle institutional corruption or regulatory lapses, he perfected trolling as governance, peddled fake news, fumbled with the bureaucracy, blamed women victims for sexual violence and empowered military hubris.

The army leadership's disenchantment with Khan and his subsequent defiance illustrates how the clash of egos of state male elites shapes history in Pakistan. Khan's biggest achievement to date has been inspired by his deep sulk for being ousted and becoming civilian-patriot versus regime-changing state sellout. This invited the vengeance of the guardians of military hegemony.

Instead of envy, the 'best revenge' from Khan's opponents should have

been more democracy, via elections. Instead, the opportunist PDM served a prince whose unforgiving philosophy is that it is far safer to be feared than loved.

The violent events of May 9 could have been a clumsy coup attempt, or a thwarted Haqiqi Azadi Spring, but the images of moral injury that triggered his young, mostly urban middle-class, outraged, weeping supporters, especially defiant women, are compelling. This adulation has only escalated after his incarceration.

The admirable spine shown by some PTI ideologists, in contrast to the rats who jump-ped ship, could help Khan's democratic conversion. The red line challenge may have been gauche and violent but has yielded rewards that come with genuine resistance movements. The leaders of the Lawyers' Movement sensed this a while ago. But what about the rest of civil society?

Since 2007, the newly coined 'civil society' collective of NGOs, media personalities, rights defenders and public intellectuals have been debating the merits of transition versus transformation; boycotts of elections; and who to blame the most for failing democracy — the military, the parties and praetorians, or the elite that collaborate? The verdicts on these became easier with the signing of the Benazir-Nawaz Charter of Democracy.

Despite decades of debates and intellectual engagement through op-eds, donor-funded consultancy reports and WhatsApp clique wisdom, why does civil society get paralysed at times of political crisis? The main calling for activists is to defend democracy through fair and free elections and to uphold citizens' constitutional rights.

Yes, the dissolution of the Punjab and KP assemblies must be scrutinised and resolved simultaneously

and not shrugged aside. Parties can be held accountable and severely criticised for governance failure, but not punished, cancelled or censored. That's the prerogative of voters via ballot.

A moment of cynical vindication is one thing, but punitive state excesses against all political activists must be robustly opposed, irrespective of motive, class, gender, ideology and political affiliation or their alleged offenses. Due process, fair trials, best defence, free speech and presumed innocence must be advocated by human rights activists without prejudice or partisanship.

For women's rights groups, there can be no equivocation over some women de-serving more de-fence than others, or passive-aggressive resentment over the entitlement or ingratitude of the PTI. Human rights aren't pardons to be dispensed by high priests, nor are they ear-ned. Democrats are often born out of political crises and personal rites of passage.

Admittedly, any principled or intellectual engagement with PTI activists and apologists has been a futile endeavour. Attempts to frame the mistreatment of PTI members in the gendered and class history of such state excesses has been arrogantly dismissed as 'state collaboration'. Instead of forging a common alliance of survivors, the counsels for PTI exceptionalism wanted to stand alone on the moral perch of defending martyrdom. The singular victim-saviour that defines the populist has been perfected by the PTI, but now must be rid of this false pride for a politics of collectivism. Civil society must quit their prejudice, unequivocally oppose the state's excesses and demand immediate elections and, robustly defend the human rights of all party activists, without exception. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Punjab Governor inaugurates 3-day food technology exhibition

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman inaugurated the three-day International Food Technology (IFTEC), Plastics and Pack exhibition at the Expo Centre, here on Thursday.

Addressing the audience, he said promotion of industry and trade was very important for prosperity and development of the country, adding promotion of industry leads to socio economic development of the country and also generates employment opportunities. He said organisation of such international exhibitions had been well for bolstering the industry.

Appreciating contribution of businessmen to society, the Punjab governor said businesspeople were not only contributing to development of the country by paying taxes, but also through their welfare works.

He said that such exhibitions would give an opportunity to people associated with the plastic and packaging industry to expand their businesses. The governor said that such exhibitions would have a positive impact on business development and the country's economy. He said that such event also play an important role in promoting the latest technologies by bringing together diversified exhibitors from all over the world and provide a forum to exchange ideas and cost-effective solutions.

He said he was happy to see that more than 200 plastic and packaging industry stalls had been set up at the three-day international exhibition and companies from more than 20 countries including Canada, Belgium, Russia, Denmark, France, Germany, America, United Arab Emirates were participating in the event.

President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Kashif Anwar, Managing Director Pegasus Consultancy, Aamer Khanzada, GM Projects Pegasus Consultancy, Kashif Waheed and representatives of various companies related to food processing, plastic and packaging industry were present in large numbers.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman cutting ribbon to inaugurate the 18th IFTEC and Plastic & Pack exhibitions at Expo Centre.

## Caretaker CM Sindh says: Street crimes in city, kidnapping for ransom in Riverine area being curbed

**KARACHI (APP):** Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar has said that his government was taking strict measures to curb the menace of street crime in Karachi and kidnapping for ransom in the Riverine area.

"We are establishing the rule of law and nobody would be allowed to take the law in his hands," he said.

This he said while talking to media at M.A Jinnah Road at Sea-breeze where he attended the Chehlum procession. Minister Home Brig (retd) Haris Nawaz, IG Police Raja Riffat Mukhtar, Additional IG Police Khadim Rind, and others.

The caretaker CM said that all the abducted persons, except a few have been recovered. He added that the remaining kidnapees would be recovered shortly. "We have given a clear message to the police that no negligence into the security and safety of the citizens would be tolerated," he said.

Justice Baqar said that the issue of street crime was being solved. He added that the home minister and IG police were taking strict measures to control the situation and its positive results would come out shortly.

To a question, the caretaker CM said that the civilian government was taking measures to improve the economic situation of the country. He hoped that people would witness the improvement.

Earlier, the chief minister attended Majlis at Nishtar Park and then went to CPO where he reviewed security arrangements for the procession at the Command & Control center. The chief minister also attended the peaceful culmination of Chehlum procession at M.A Jinnah Road, Sea-breeze.

## Punjab govt ordered crackdown on power thieves in province

**CS urges citizens to support national drive against electricity theft**

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The caretaker Punjab government, on Wednesday, issued instructions to all the divisional commissioners and regional police officers (RPOs) to launch a full-scale crackdown on electricity thieves.

The instructions were issued by Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman during a video link meeting held at the Civil Secretariat. The Additional Chief Secretary (Home), secretaries of industries, energy department, Additional IG Special Branch attended the meeting while all divisional commissioners, RPOs and heads of Power Distribution Companies participated through video link.

The meeting decided to take stern action against those government employees and officers patronizing electricity theft and to improve the prosecution procedure after registration of FIR against power thieves. The Chief Secretary said that prevention of electricity theft is a national cause. He said that the burden of electricity theft has to be borne by the common consumer, and urged the citizens to support the government in the national campaign against electricity theft. He said that electricity thieves are causing direct damage to the national treasury, adding that it is necessary to punish such elements.

The Chief Secretary said that according to the data, the line losses are highest in the areas managed by LESCO and MEPCO in Punjab. He said that the administration and police would provide full support in the operation against electricity theft while a committee would be constituted at the province level for monitoring.



HYDERABAD: Security high alert on the top of building at Koh-e-Noor Chowk during Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) the grandson of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), martyred along with his family members and companions at Karbala.

## 15k buses needed for public transport, 1029 buses plying on roads in the city

**KARACHI (APP):** The World Bank report has revealed that a total of 15,000 buses are needed for the comprehensive transport system of Karachi while currently only 1029 buses are operational on city roads, including 240 buses of People's Bus Service, 100 buses of BRT, and 689 old buses operated by private sector.

Besides, work is in progress on route feasibility for the procurement of 500 more buses for the province.

The caretaker provincial minister of finance, revenue, and planning and development in Sindh Muhammad Younus Dagha was told these details by the officers of the Sindh transport department during a briefing on projects at his office in the Sindh secretariat here, said a spokesperson on Thursday.

It was informed that in the light of the report of the World Bank, around 13000 more public transport buses were needed in Karachi to meet the gap.

During the briefing, the caretaker provincial minister Mohammad Younus Dagha directed that the private sector should be encouraged under public-private partnership projects to meet the huge gap in public transport for Karachi.

The caretaker minister was informed that a plan to provide easy loans to local private transporters through the establishment of an endowment fund was under consideration by the transport department to bring forward the private sector and in this context, it was also suggested that these loans be provided at the zero markup rate.

## Governor hospitalized due to blood pressure

**ABBOTTABAD (APP):** Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali suffered a mild rise in blood pressure during his stay in Nithia Gali on Thursday.

The spokesperson of the governor confirmed that his team immediately shifted him to the Ayub Medical Complex in Abbottabad earlier this morning. The Governor received immediate medical treatment at the Ayub Medical Complex while the spokesperson also confirmed that subsequently, his blood pressure has since returned to normal. For the last couple of days, Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali was in the Hazara division to attend several ceremonies as chief guest.

## CTD arrests militant in Sukkur

**SUKKUR (APP):** The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested a militant associated with a banned outfit wanted in high-profile terrorism cases in Sukkur.

According to the CTD spokesman on Thursday, the terrorist identified as Farooq Shah was head of the banned outfit's provincial student wing and he was wanted in seven high-profile terrorism cases.

The CTD officials said that the name of the arrested terrorist was also included in the Red Book as he was involved in several abduction cases. Spokesman CTD further said one pistol and several bullets have been recovered from the accused and further investigation was underway.

## 8 held during crackdown against outlaws in Taxila

**WAH CANTT (APP):** Police in different raids on Thursday arrested eight outlaws involved in illegal activities and also recovered narcotics, and liquor from their possession. According to police, during a crackdown, police arrested as many as eight outlaws including two proclaimed offenders wanted in two different cases. Sub-divisional Police Officer said that Wah Sadder Police raided two different drug dens of Danish and Shahbaz.

## Oct 14 Conference to have profound impact on KP politics: JUI-F

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Provincial Ameer, JUI-F Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman said that the historic conference in Peshawar on October 14 will have a profound impact on the politics of the province.

He was addressing a meeting of Central Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the residence of the Senator Dilawar Khan in Mardan on Thursday. Provincial General Secretary Maulana Atta Haque Darwish, Maulana Fazal Ali Provincial Information Secretary Haji Abdul Jalil Jan, former Provincial Information Secretary Asif Iqbal Daudzai also attended the meeting.

Maulana Amanullah Haqqani JUI District Amir Maulana Muhammad Qasim, District General Secretary Maulana Amanat Shah Haqqani, Senator Haji Dilawar Khan, Maulana Qaiseruddin, Hafiz Akhtar Ali and others also spoke.

## Dumper-tractor trolley collision claims 3 lives

**LAHORE (Online):** As many as 3 persons died and 4 were injured when a dumper collided with a standing tractor trolley at Arayan stop Raiwind road Lahore.

Those riding tractor trolley were having breakfast when the dumper collided with tractor trolley.

3 persons died on the spot while 4 got injured.

On information Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the injured to Indus hospital.



KARACHI: Shiite Muslims holds placards against the National Assembly Bill, during Arbaeen procession in Provincial Capital.

## Maliha Husain says: Sexual harassment ruining society

**FAISALABAD (APP):** Maliha Husain, executive director, Mehergarh—a Center for Learning, has said sexual harassment is ruining society as cancer.

"Hence, we all from, parents to teachers, are duty-bound to play a proactive role for rooting out the evil in an effective way," she stressed.

Addressing a seminar on 'Sexual Harassment Act 2010' at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), she said sexual harassment was common phenomenon, but unfortunately, it was not discussed in our society.

"Although the Sexual Harassment Act 2010 safeguards lives of people from the societal evil, yet there is a dire need to provide awareness about it at the public level," she said.

"The discussion on sexual harassment in families is considered as a taboo. We should hold conversation in this regard to create awareness so that we can get rid of the menace," she added.

Maliha Husain said that in our society not only women but also men fell victim to sexual violence. In today's age, friendships start through internet and its videos, sometimes, lead to crimes.

## Hindus celebrate Thadori across northern Sindh

**SUKKUR (APP):** Hindus in across the northern Sindh are celebrating Thadori festival on Thursday.

Thadori is a famous traditional festival, celebrated in Siraman/Saawan month of monsoon season. On this day women decorate the doorways of their houses and do mud plaster to their kitchens.

No cooking activities were done on this day. The sweet roties (mitho lolo) made of pure ghee are offered to Shitla Mata to stay safe from various diseases. Sweet roties are exchanged with relatives and friends, if needed women cook fresh food or tea in the temporary fireplace.

## Chelum of Hazrat Imam Hussain observed in northern Sindh

**SUKKUR (APP):** Like others part of the country, the Chelum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) was observed at Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki, Shikarpur, Jaccababad, K a s h m o r e , Noushehroferoze and other parts including Rohri, Pano Aqil, Kot Diji with religious spirit, devotion and respect on Thursday.

In this connection the Majalis Aza programmes, seminars and conferences were held in the various areas/towns to highlight the sacrifices and the services of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) for Islam.

Speakers paid rich tributes to the Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), and his 72 companions who sacrificed their lives for the holy cause. Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) was the younger grandson of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), and the younger son of the Hazrat Ali (RA) and Hazrat Fatima (RA). In all parts of the northern Sindh mourning processions were taken out to highlight the importance of the day and pay rich tribute to the Karbala martyrs.

On the occasion Chehlum, the prominent speakers said that Azadari is the strongest citadel and most effective spiritual weapon against international colonial powers.

Addressing in Majlis-e-Aza, the participants, and speakers said Azadari is echoes of Zainab (RA) and Zain-ul-Abideen (RA). They said Azadari-e-Imam Hussain (RA) preaches courage and bravery and the lesson of sacrifice with the spirit of sacrifice.

In Khairpur and other districts, speakers said that Nawasa-e-Rasool Al-Saqilain Shahzade-e-Konain Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) sacrificed his life along with 72 near and dear ones in Karbala for protecting Islamic values, supporting human dignity, and defending religion and Shariat rather he took religion.



ABBOTTABAD: A View of the fire eruption in vehicles at workshop of shumalai area of the District.

## PAL organizes seminar on 76years of KP Literature

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) organized a seminar on 76 Years Literature of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Aziz Ijaz and Kalsoom Zeb as chief guests and Dr Mehboob-ur-Rehman as guest of honour.

Addressing the participants of the seminar, the renowned scholar, researcher and poet, Professor Dr Yar Mohammad Maghmoon said that special thing in the beautiful literature of the writers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is that it reflects the culture, civilization and traditions of the people. He said that natural environment and colour of the society is visible in the literature of the province. In his address the guest of honour, Dr Mehboob-ur-Rehman said that both prose and poetry of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is commendable from all aspects as it reflects nationalism, humanity and natural environment of the Pakhtun society.

Professor Aseer Mengal, Malik Arshad Hussain and Resident Director PAL Peshawar, Badshah Nusrat shed detailed light on the literary work in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, so the coming generations utilize it to their benefit.

They said that the literature of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa not only consists of sweet stories, lines, phrases and other segments of the literature, rather also contains reality.

The seminar was also followed by a Mushaira in which Yousaf Ali Dilsooz.



MULTAN: Rescue workers evacuate people from the villages as water from the Sutlej River continued to inundate settlements along its banks, near Multan on Thursday.

## UAJK extends admission deadline for fall semester

**MUZAFFARABAD (APP):** In a significant development, the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), under its esteemed patronage, has extended the regular admission dates for the upcoming Fall 2023 semester.

This extension applies to admission in various programs, including BS, MSc, MPhil, and PhD, at the UAJK. The new deadline for admission submissions is now set for September 15.

In line with this announcement, the UAJK's Public Relations Department has officially communicated that entrance tests for these programs are scheduled to take place on September 20 and 21. Prospective students seeking admission to the University of Kashmir are encouraged to



LAHORE: Deserving people stand in long queues to take free food at G.T Road, in Provincial Capital.

## Tarar wants new schemes for NHA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar wants to focus on undertaking new schemes to increase the revenue level of the National Highway Authority (NHA). The minister presided over the 44th meeting of the National Highway Council (Supreme body of NHA), held here at the ministry on Thursday.

Federal Secretary Communications/Chairman National Highway Authority Capt @ Muhammad Khuram Agha, and high-ups from the Finance Division, Planning & Development Division, Highway Construction Expert, Financial Professionals and the senior officers of the Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the meeting, the minister stressed to focus on undertaking new various schemes to increase the revenue level of the Authority at large. He directed to launch of a comprehensive media campaign for the implementation of hiked violation fines on Motorways and National Highways across the country. He further asked to gear up the pace of work on the construction of residential apartments for NHA employees. Tarar desired to improve the maintenance affairs of Motorways and National Highways and that maximum travelling and civic amenities on service and rest areas be ensured for ease of the travellers.

He also emphasized the beautification of Motorways loops that would ultimately improve environmental conditions and will be practical step forward towards achieving an environmentally friendly roads network in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Former Senator Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasir calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## In upcoming low-flow season Chairman WAPDA for ensuring completion of diversion scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) has directed the contractor to ensure completion of the diversion system during the up-coming low-flow season for diversion of River Swat. The Chairman visited various construction sites of the project to review the progress achieved so far, said a press release.

He witnessed concrete works on upper stilling basin of the spillway; also observed construction activities at left and right abutments of the dam and various components of the diversion system including the diversion tunnels, GM and PD Mohmand Dam Project, the consultants and the contractors were also present during the visit.

Later in a briefing, schedule for diversion scheme, resource loaded programme for quarry development, stock piling and dam filling as well as activity-wise resource loaded programme for the whole project were discussed. The Chairman said that achieving the key milestones on time is inevitable for completion of Mohmand Dam Project in accordance with the schedule. He emphasized upon the project team, the contractors in particular, to make concerted efforts in this regard.

WAPDA is constructing Mohmand Dam Project across River Swat in Mohmand District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is the 5th highest concrete-face-rock-fill dam in the world.

## New Chinese envoy to bolster Sino-Pak friendship

ISLAMABAD (INP): The newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong will work for bolstering the robust friendship and enduring strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan.

"The recently appointed Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday to officially assume his role," the Embassy posted on social media.

In the statement, the Embassy emphasized Ambassador Jiang Zaidong's dedication to bolstering the robust friendship and en-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, and Turkmenistan Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov meet to enhance bilateral trade.

## Govt imposed under agenda drifted country to economic quagmire: Maulana Fazl

LAHORE (Online): PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said the government imposed under an agenda pushed Pakistan to economic quagmire.

"Imran Khan government drifted the country to economic quagmire. The government imposed under an agenda in 2018 was aimed at handing over Kashmir to India and recognizing Israel, he said this while addressing Khatme Nabuwat conference here.

He held "I am not seeing so that any future government will be able to steer us out of this quagmire.

He went on to say first



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications & Railways Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar presiding over meeting of National Highway Council - Supreme body of National Highway Authority.

## MoIB releases details of payments made to media for ads during last 2yrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) on Thursday released details of the payments made to electronic, print and digital media in terms of advertisements during the past two years.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has conducted media campaigns for different initiatives and events including Kissan Package, the PM's Youth Programme, Benazir Income Support Programme, national days, and foreign visits, said a news release.

The MoIB issued advertisements in classified and unclassified (display) categories.

The Press Information Department played its role in paying the advertising bills of 437 federal departments and agencies.

From July 2021 to June 2022, payments of Rs 2,47,50,53,713 were made during the tenure of the Pakistan Democratic Movement government in terms of advertisements issued by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime.

From July 2022 to June 2023, the Ministry of Information made payments worth Rs 2.93 billion in the form of advertisements issued by the MoIB.

From July 2022 to June 2023 which was tenure of the PDM government, the federal ministries and departments paid Rs 98,73,18,074 to print and electronic media.

The PDM government received bills worth Rs 2,74,11,04,091 from print, electronic, digital media and outdoor media. These bills were received in the form of advertisements issued from July 2021 to June 2022.

Under the bills received for the period from July 2021 to June 2022, the MoIB made payments worth Rs 2,47,50,53,713.

## PTA committed to provide support, facilitation to cable industry: Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman PTA, Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman Thursday said, that Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) is committed to providing support and facilitation to cable industry within the legal parameters.

During a meeting with a delegation of the Cable Operators Association of Pakistan (CAP), the chairman emphasized that the authority was proactively reviewing the current CVAS License (Class Value Added Services) regime through a stakeholder consultation process to address issues related to the provision of internet services, considering the ever-evolving dynamics of the digital market and technological advancements. The delegation also discussed the matters of mutual interest. The primary focus of the meeting was to deliberate on regulatory matters and concerns regarding provision of internet services by cable operators in Pakistan.

The chairman PTA extended a warm welcome to the delegation and listened to their concerns.



QUETTA: A delegation led by acting Central Chairman All Pakistan Media Council Nisar Ahmed Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

## World Bank delegation calls on IT minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Bank delegation led by its Country Director for Pakistan, Najy Benhassine called on Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif here on Thursday.

The minister welcomed the delegation on arrival at Ministry of IT and matters of bilateral interest and 'Digital Economy Enhancement Project' were discussed.

Dr. Umar Saif said that the project will be helpful in the provision of online services to the masses at one platform.

He said during the last few years both federation and provinces saw great work done regarding digitalization, but all the systems were not linked; now due to this project, all government systems will be linked and digitally-enabled public services delivery to be through one platform.

It will be very easy for citizens to get domicile, NOC, birth certificate, vehicle registration and other online services in smooth and rapid manner, he added.

## Saudi envoy calls on Caretaker Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, at the Finance Division, today.

Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar warmly welcomed the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia and expressed her appreciation for the long-standing historical, religious, and cultural ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The Minister also apprised the Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of continuation of policies and programmes of the Government to bring economic prosperity in the country.

Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia reciprocated the sentiments and reiterated that the long-term relationships.



ISLAMABAD: Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, at the Finance Division.

## Achakzai expresses sorrow on four martyrs in terrorist attack on Chitral border

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information Jan Achakzai on Thursday strongly condemned the terrorism incident on the Chitral border near the Pak-Afghan border. He said that the terrorists attempted a cowardly attack on the posts of the Pakistan Army on the Chitral border which was foiled by personnel of the Pak Army. He expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of four Army men as a result of the attack. The Information Minister said that 12 terrorists were killed by the timely retaliatory action of Pakistan forces. The soldiers fought the enemy with courage and bravery and made the nation proud.

He said that the blood of martyrs will never go in vain and we paid tribute to our heroes. The integrity and survival of the country is possible thanks to the sacrifices of the martyrs. The nation stands with Pak Army to eliminate of anti-peace element from the country. He said that in this hour of sorrow, we expressed our condolences and sympathy to the families of the martyrs and always prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali inspecting route of Chehnum procession

## 8th Sep marked as Navy Day to pay tributes to valiant sons of soil for bombarding Dwarka: CNS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Thursday said Pakistan Navy celebrated 8th September as the Navy Day to pay tributes to the sacrifices of its Officers and Men who demonstrated self-belief, grit-n- guile and absolute faith in Allah SWT to venture into enemy waters and bombarded coastal town of Dwarka. In his message on the Navy Day, the Naval Chief said that on this day, we acknowledge the sacrifices of our Shuhadas and Ghazis and honour their bravado and valiant spirit which lifted the morale of the nation against a sinister enemy during the 1965 War, a Pakistan Navy (PN) news release said.

During Operation Dwarka, codenamed 'Operation SOMNATH', Pakistan Navy's seven major warships proceeded on an audacious mission inside enemy territory and destroyed significant shore installations including Indian radar station and a radio beacon at Dwarka. PN Flotilla's attack took the enemy by surprise and dealt a severe blow to the morale of the Indian Navy that not only rattled its defences but paralyzed its response.

Furthermore, PN Submarine GHAZI posed an ominous threat to the Indian Navy severely restricting its operations and confining it close to the coast. Pakistan Navy besides ensuring own maritime defence also maintains round the clock presence in the international waters and engages with regional navies to foster interoperability and promotes maritime security at high seas. Therefore, Pakistan Navy is acquiring state of the art capabilities to meet emerging security challenges.



QUETTA: A delegation of Education Parliamentarians Cuscus of Senate led by Senator Sana Jamali meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

## World Literacy Day being observed today: Knowledge only stair to success and development of nations, emphasizes caretaker CM

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has emphasized upon the importance and utility of education and termed it only step to success and development of the nations.

In a message issued on the World Literacy Day being observed today (Friday), the caretaker Chief Minister said that the objective behind observance of the day at international level is to introduce the world to the beacon of knowledge and provide such an environment in which it is possible to impart education and ensure good upbringing of the children.

He noted with concern that millions of children are deprived of education due to poverty and other unavoidable reasons in our country, and most of them can't move ahead from primary and middle level.

He stressed that we would have to pay attention towards the non-formal education along with the formal education. In this regard, the role of non-formal education department is also important, he added.

The caretaker Chief Minister noted with con-



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

## Govt rules out hike in prices of medicines

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government rules out any hike in the prices of medicines.

Pharma Industry wants increase forthwith in the prices of over 250 medicines and it is not possible to increase the prices of medicines immediately.

According to federal health ministry pharma industry wants enhancement in the prices of over 250 medicines but it is next to impossible to raise the prices of medicines immediately. The authorities said that the shortage of medicines is a pretext to pressurize government for hiking prices of medicines.

All the medicines are earning profit to pharma industry except 8 to 10 medicines.

According to authorities prices of medicines were increased from 14 to 20 percent this year. The decision to hike the prices of medicines can be made only by next elected government.

## Religious affairs minister visits Kartarpur, emphasizes cross-border harmony

NAROWAL (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed Thursday visited Kartarpur, and expressed his appreciation for the love and respect shown by the pilgrims, emphasizing the strong bond of humanity that united both nations.

He was warmly received by Abu Bakr Aftab Qureshi, CEO of the Project Management Unit,