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dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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PM Kakar says: Crackdown on smuggling bringing positive outcomes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the crackdown by the government on smuggling during the last 48 hours brought positive outcomes and was also welcomed by the authorities of neighboring countries.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that an operation against the smuggling had been launched across the country, particularly in the border areas.

He said the consultation was underway to promote trade with neighboring countries which had also welcomed the government's crackdown against smuggling.

He said the resolution of business community's problems was among the government's priorities.

The prime minister welcomed the proposals by

the delegation and assured implementation of the practicable ones.

He told the delegation that after assuming the office, he interacted with the business community and listened to their issues.

He appreciated the business community's role for economic development and provision of job opportunities.

Prime Minister Kakar said the government was reforming the taxation system through digitalisation. He said the economic development was not possible unless the tax collection was increased.

He said the government would bring in the economic stability by winning confidence of traders, industrialists and investors.

The reformation process in the power sector was also going on and action was being taken against those involved in the power theft.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

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 Rs 15 billion – aimed at relieving the financial burden on electricity consumers – is a testament to the commendable performance of the FBR.

It underscores the tireless efforts of key figures in the caretaker government, including Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamsah Akhtar, and Caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed along with Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque talking to media persons at Jamaat-e-Islami Center Mansoor.

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.



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.

Participants were briefed on prevalent geo-strategic environment, challenges to national security and own strategy in response to evolving threat.

Forum resolved that all terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on the behalf of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan will be dealt with full might of the state.

The need for speedy development of economic potential of Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and Border Districts of Balochistan for sustainable peace and growth was also emphasised.

COAS stressed on maintaining high standards of professionalism and motivation during operations and achieving excellence during training of the formations.

He commended the commanders for their constant focus on the wellbeing of their soldiers and maintenance of morale which constituted the foundation of Army's operational readiness.

Forum reiterated to continue full support of ongoing efforts in uplifting the socioeconomic growth under the umbrella of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and wholeheartedly assisting the government in curbing all illegal activities which hamper economic stability, growth and investors' confidence.



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

PM Kakar to address UNGA session on Sept 22

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwarul Haq Kakar will address the 78th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 22 (Friday), it was learnt on Thursday.

Kakar will also hold meetings with the heads of state of different countries.

The PM will also attend the dinner hosted by the US President Joe Biden.

The general debate session will begin on September 19. Brazil will declare the session open. President Biden will be the second head of state, who will address the General Assembly on September 19.

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 Khurram 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.

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.

NEPRA okays increase in hydropower tariff

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Thursday approved the increase in tariff for hydropower electricity by 29 percent.

As per details, the average tariff for hydropower is set to increase from Rs 3.85 to Rs 4.96 per unit for 2022-23.

NEPRA also ordered the CPPA to conduct the capacity status of WAPDA hydropower stations.

The power regulatory authority directed that the capacity status should be conducted separately and the report of all the stations should be submitted to NEPRA.

Departmental proceeding can be initiated against a govt employee within two years of retirement: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has remarked departmental proceedings can be initiated against a government employee within two years of retirement.

Detailed decision was written by Justice Musarrat Hilali here Thursday.

It has been said in the decision that Muhammad Afzal Anjum Toor was appointed as executive engineer in Rawal dam division Islamabad. Irrigation department Punjab while initiating departmental proceeding issued show cause notice to the executive engineer after three years of his retirement. The accused was charged with misconduct and corruption.

The investigation team proposed in November 2020 that Rs 55 lakhs be recovered from the pension of executive engineer. Tribunal while nullifying the departmental order in February 2022 ordered to pay pension and all privileges and perks.

The question before the court was this can de-

partmental proceeding be initiated or otherwise against government employee after more than 3 years of retirement.

Under clause 21 of PEEDA act 2006 departmental proceedings can be initiated against the employee within two years of retirement.

SC has resolved principle in a decision that PEEDA laws are designed for ensuring good governance and achieving target of self-accountability in government employees.

The court wrote in its decision this law is related to departmental proceedings against serving employees and those retired employees against whom proceeding has been launched within one year of their retirement.

The said employee was retired on January 10, 2017 while proceeding was initiated against him on February 24, 2020. Proceedings against the employee is violation of PEEDA Act-2006. Service tribunal gave correct decision as per law. Appeal is rejected.



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy called on the Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Saudi ambassador calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Saeed A Al Malkiy called on Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan to discuss issues of mutual interest and further enhancing bilateral cooperation.

The Saudi ambassador congratulated him on assuming portfolio of the Ministry of Health.

The appointment of Global Health Expert is a good omen. "I pray for your success," said the Saudi Ambassador. The minister acknowledged and appreciated Saudi Arabia's deep commitment to Pakistan and the welfare of its people.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had historical and religious fraternal relations, he added.

In every hour of difficulty, Saudi Arabia has supported Pakistan. The hearts of the people of both the countries beat in unison.

The minister elaborated his integrated agenda for development of the health sector as per the vision of the Caretaker Prime Minister.

He shared that Pakistan was the first country in the world to organize the Global Health Security Summit.

"We have formulated an integrated strategy to increase the export of the pharma industry," he added.

Effective measures were being taken to increase the capacity of pharma industry, the minister said.

It was agreed to promote medical tourism in this sector, which has vast potential for investment.



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

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) was 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.

Envoy Masood terms Pakistan's armed forces symbol of strength, security

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan says we are proud of our armed forces and the entire nation is indebted to the martyrs and their families.

He made these remarks while addressing a special ceremony to mark Defence and Martyrs' Day of Pakistan, in Washington.

Paying glowing tribute to their valour, courage and resilience, the Ambassador said Pakistan's armed forces are among the strongest defence forces.

Referring to county's fight against the menace of terrorism, he said our armed forces and nation have paid a disproportionate and exorbitant price in blood and treasure.

The Ambassador reiterated call for the realization of the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in during formative phase of the country, to strengthen its defence capabilities.

On the occasion, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff



accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and international law. He said this is key to peace and stability in the region.

Masood Khan also thanked the United States for its support, especially

Committee General Sahir Shamsah Mirza NI (M), in his video message, reaffirmed unwavering commitment of the Armed Forces to continue defending the sanctity and territorial integrity of the motherland.

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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.

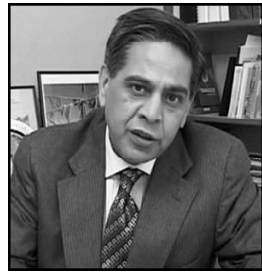
The reason for the recurring 'sugar price crises' is well known: the government's involvement in the sugar economy to protect politically powerful large cane growers and factory owners. The solution is also obvious: withdrawal of the government from the market, and removal of restrictions on free import 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 com-

munities 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

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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

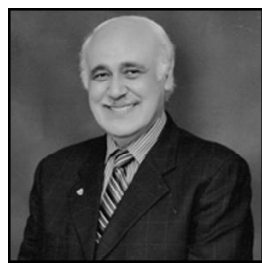
to settle political disputes. Economic security is a new paradigm to rely upon for ultimate security of the state. Economic power now decides whether a country is a strong state/super power, as the time of chivalry has gone into the dustbin of history. Tech powers or chip and semiconductor producers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

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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 a 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-tty domestically, tolerated the torment of Ahmehis 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 ideologues, 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 defining 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 performed 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.

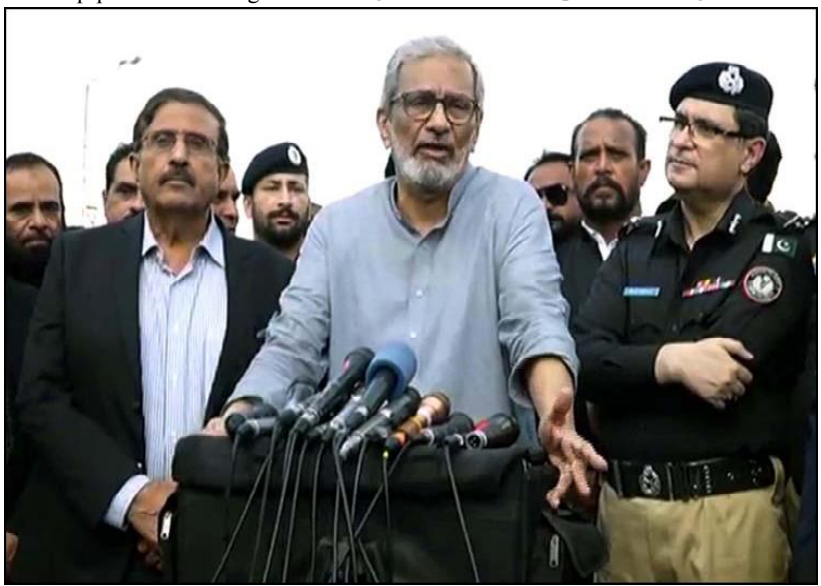
Addressing the audience, he said promotion of industry and trade was very important for prosperity and development of the country, adding promotion of industry leads to socio economic development of the country and also generates employment opportunities. He said organisation of such international exhibitions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

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.



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.



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.

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-Saqalain 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.

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.



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. and augmenting indigenous capabilities to transition into a strong, agile and

reckonable force in the region.

In the present environment, Pakistan Navy has also embarked on nation building initiatives particularly to uplift coastal communities and is making vigorous efforts to prop up Blue Economy. In this regard, Pakistan Navy organised Pakistan's first ever Pakistan International Maritime Exhibition & Conference (PIMEC) in February this year, in collaboration with Ministry of Maritime Affairs. PIMEC witnessed participation of 22 foreign and 121 local exhibitors which is reflective of overwhelming interest towards exploitation of the vast untapped potential of Pakistan's maritime sector. Furthermore, Pakistan Navy has launched the pilot of Pakistan Maritime Science & Technology Park (PMSTP) at Bahria University Karachi Campus, earlier this month. PMSTP aims to focus on maritime education, research, innovation and technology development by bringing together academia, industry, foreign technology firms and state institutions.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Babar Hayat Tarar chairing a high level meeting to review the preparations to observe Kashmir Black Day on 27th October.

ICCPO reviews diplomatic enclave security

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan evaluated the security measures in place at the diplomatic enclave and discussed strategies for their enhancement.

In a meeting held at the Central Police Office, he gave directions to ensure the effective security of residential foreign diplomats, ambassadors, and offices of international organizations.

The meeting was attended by the officers of NLC, Police and CDA. The meeting assessed the complete security of the diplomatic enclave and decided to take measures for its improvement. During the meeting, ongoing construction work in the diplomatic enclave was also reviewed, emphasizing environmentally-friendly construction practices and minimizing damage to natural beauty such as trees and greenery.

The ICCPO further recommended the construction of protective towers and barriers to ensure the effective security of residential foreign diplomats, ambassadors, and offices of international organizations. Additionally, unnecessary decorations and expenditures were discouraged, said a police source. The ICCPO also ordered to record the video of the movement of entry and exit points of the high-security zone through cameras. He further said that cameras will be installed for diplomatic enclave protection which would be linked with Safe City. Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized that Islamabad Capital Police is taking multiple initiatives for the effective security of foreigners adding that the officers would regularly review the progress of the ongoing works and personnel on duty should be briefed on daily basis.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the long queue of passengers at Green Line/Blue Line Bus Station outside PIMS Hospital as according to them the quantity of buses are very rare, which needs to be increased by local administration for the ease of the passengers in Federal Capital.

PIDE roundtable meeting on fixing the fiscal policy

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Macro Policy Lab recently hosted the "Fixing Fiscal Policy" Round Table Conference in Islamabad. The event addressed the persistent challenge of fiscal indiscipline in Pakistan and sought to chart a visionary path for the nation's fiscal policy. Distinguished participants included senior economists, researchers, and fiscal experts from various institutions across the country, such as the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, P&D Baluchistan, QAU, SZABIST, the US Embassy, ADTMA, P&D

Punjab, IUI, NUST, and COMSATS. In his introductory remarks, Dr. Nasir Iqbal, Associate Prof. and Chief of Macro-Policy Lab, PIDE said that the Round Table Conference, "Fixing Fiscal Policy," aims to unite policymakers and thought leaders to foster collaboration and develop local solutions in the fiscal framework of Pakistan. By bringing together academia and policymakers, we seek to chart a visionary path of fiscal policy in Pakistan for the future, transcending from short-term approaches and firefighting.

In his opening remarks speaking at the occasion Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, VC PIDE said that three things need to be fo-

cused on for the fixation of fiscal policy. Firstly, the role of the government is crucial in ensuring effective fiscal management. Secondly, taxation and expenditure must be carried out in a transparent manner with accountability. This includes how to collect taxes, how to spend them, and where to allocate funds. Lastly, debt management is also an important aspect that requires attention. Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Principal of the School of Social Sciences & Humanities, NUST while speaking at the roundtable meeting said that to address economic challenges, it is important to immediately reset the role of the government from being an active player to a facilitator.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Bohra community led by Shahzada Hussain Burhanuddin called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

IHC indicts DC, SSP ICT in contempt case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday indicted Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP Operations) Jameel Zafar and two others in a contempt case pertaining to prolonged detention of PTI leaders Shehryar Khan Afridi and Shandana Gulzar under Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance.

Justice Babar Sattar, hearing the case, also indicted SP Ferooz Buttar and Station House Officer (SHO) of Margalla Police Station Nasir Manzoor in the same case.

Justice Babar Sattar heard the contempt case against deputy commissioner and SSP Operations ICT with regard to abuse of authority in issuance of detention orders against PTI leaders Shehryar Khan

Afridi and Shandana Gulzar. At the outset of hearing, DC Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon and SSP Operations Jameel Zafar submitted their written clarification into the case and extended unconditional apology. Advocate General Ayaz Shaukat also opposed the indicting of the officials and prayed the bench to not indict them as the officers have extended an unconditional apology.

Justice Sattar asked that how can we not indict them, the matter of contempt of court was under way here yet the DC issued another MPO order. Addressing the officials, Justice Sattar said you would be sent to jail if you were convicted. It was a six-month sentence wherein you may also live in jail and see how those who you sent to jail live there, he remarked.

PTA, TikTok sign MoU to encourage safer digital environment for Pak Youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and TikTok here on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote digital safety in government schools across Pakistan through a multifaceted approach. The program includes comprehensive training programs and guidelines for teachers, parents, and students that will be covered through workshops, seminars, webinars, awareness videos etc to shed light on the legitimate use of social media, and tackle associated risks, said a news release. In attendance at this significant event were Chairman PTA, Maj Gen @ Hafeez ur Rehman, Director General (WAD), and Director General (S&D) as well as representatives from MoITT.

Environmental samples from Peshawar, Karachi test positive for wild poliovirus

ISLAMABAD (Online): Health Minister says viruses do not respect boundaries, urges parents to ensure repeated polio vaccination and complete routine immunization for their children.

Four environmental samples collected in August have tested positive for wild poliovirus.

The virus was isolated from a sewage sample collected from Shaheen Muslim Town in Peshawar on August 17, from two samples collected from two tributaries of Naray Khwar in Peshawar on August 22 and from a sample collected from a site in Karachi Keamari on August 17, the Pakistan Polio Laboratory at the National Institute of Health said on Wednesday.

The lab, which also serves as the WHO Regional Reference Lab for poliovirus confirmed that genetic testing has linked the virus in all samples to the cluster circulating in Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan Adam M Tugio posing for a group photo graph along with students after recognition ceremony of a local University in Federal Capital.

Pak & Ethiopia have very important place in terms of trade and economy: Envoy

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Capital Office in Islamabad and called on Vice President FPCCI Umar Masood ur Rehman, Convenor, Syed Asad Mashadi. They discussed wide-ranging trade, industry, and commercial avenues of cooperation, investments,

while Ethiopia is critical to Pakistan's food security in terms of import of pulses, chickpeas and red kidney beans. He urged Pakistani businessmen to explore Ethiopia's potentially lucrative markets. Abdullah said that Ethiopia wants to establish strong economic relations with Pakistan, and there are vast opportunities for Pakistan to promote exports with Africa. "Pakistani textiles, pharmaceuticals and other products are in great demand in Ethiopia, Pakistani business community must try to take full advantage of the opportunities."

Toshakhana case Interim bail of Bushra Bibi extended

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interim bail of Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI has been extended in Toshakhana case.

Toshakhana case against Bushra Bibi came up for hearing before additional sessions judge Tahir Abbas Sipra in district and sessions court Islamabad Thursday.

Bushra Bibi appeared in the court along with her lawyers Suleman Safdar, Intizar Panjtoha and Naeem Panjtoha.

The investigation officer gave a statement in the court saying arrest of former first lady is wanted by him.

IHC removes objections from Imran petition

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has removed objections from PTI chairman Imran Khan's petition seeking court order to restrain authorities from arresting him in other cases besides providing details of cases to him.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq took up chairman PTI petition for hearing with objections Thursday.

The counsel for PTI Suleman Safdar requested the court to restrain FIA, NAB and Police from arresting chairman PTI in other cases. Report regarding the cases and arrests against chairman PTI has not come so far.

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 so-

cial 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. In the meeting, they discussed the matters pertaining to the Ministry for Overseas Pakistanis. The prime minister said the welfare of the overseas Pakistanis was among the government's priorities. He said the expatriates had been making a positive contribution to the national economy through their remittances.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh during meeting.

First Lady for global efforts to overcome mental health issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Alvi on Thursday called for sustained measures, global contributions and support to overcome the issue of mental health and well-being of people in the conflict zones.

The first lady, in her video message for the 3rd Summit of the First Ladies and Gentlemen in Kyiv, Ukraine, urged the need to make efforts to resolve ongoing conflicts in the world.

She said that promoting peace in the world and working together was essential for the mental health, emotional well-being, and peaceful future of the succeeding generations.

The theme of this year's Summit, which was initiated by Ukraine's First Lady Olena Zelenska, was "Mental Health: Fragility and Resilience of The Future". President Volodymyr Zelensky also delivered a speech at the Summit. The Summit also featured messages from the First Ladies and Gentlemen of Japan, Turkey, Albania, Germany, Armenia, Macedonia, Poland, Spain, and Sweden among others. In her message for the Summit, Begum Samina Alvi expressed concern about the mental health

and well-being of people in conflict zones, besides conveying her sympathies to the families in Ukraine who had to face physical, emotional and mental stresses due to war. "We in Pakistan can feel their pain and empathize with the people of Ukraine. We feel that it is humanity that suffers during crises and conflicts", Begum Samina Alvi said.

She highlighted that Pakistan's own experience of hosting millions of Afghan refugees for over four decades and its long battle against terrorism had taught Pakistan that conflict and war severely affected the mental health of people.

First Lady Samina Alvi highlighted that the brutalities against the Muslims of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by India for over seven decades, had badly impacted the mental health of Kashmiris.

She referred to a study by Doctors Without Borders and the University of Kashmir which disclosed that nearly 1.8 million Kashmiri adults, almost 45 per cent of the region's adult population, found themselves grappling with varying degrees of mental distress.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Jawad Sohrab Malik, Strengthens Support for Overseas Pakistanis through Engagements with Community Welfare Attaches.

Islamabad Police crackdown on e-challan violators, warns of impounding vehicles

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) have taken strict action against violators of e-challans, issuing a stern warning to immediately settle outstanding payments or face the impounding of their vehicles.

The ICP Safe City/Traffic police have collaborated with various banks to retrieve the necessary information for e-challan verification. These banks have been tasked with assisting in the identification of vehicles and their owners through high-tech technology, including biometric alerts and Safe City surveillance systems.

In addition, legal actions are underway to enforce traffic laws against violators and e-challan are being issued to those who breach traffic regulations, a police public relations officer said on Thursday.

The citizens can verify their challans by entering their vehicle registration number on the official website of Islamabad Capital Police: www.islamabadpolice.gov.pk, or through the link https://ictp.islamabadpolice.gov.pk/0801/veri/verify_e_challan.php Owners of the fined vehicles can pay their challan using the Jazz Cash mobile app or JS Bank wallet.

The ICP has warned that strict legal action will be taken against defaulters in cases of non-submission of challans. The police force was committed to maintaining peace and security and safeguarding the lives and property of the citizens. The ICP's crackdown on e-challan violators is a welcome move that will help to deter traffic violations and keep the city's roads safe. The citizens are urged to pay their challans promptly to avoid the risk of having their vehicles impounded.