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Situation at borders won't impact elections: PM

Interim govt is ready to assist the ECP for elections; Announcing a date for the election is a prerogative of ECP; Pakistan reserves right to defend itself against terrorists; Pledges to continue raising Kashmir issue at global fora

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a bid to end the uncertainty surrounding the general elections, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday vowed that the interim government will not make any excuse for delay in polls.

In an interview with the Voice of America ahead of his departure for the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York, the caretaker premier affirmed that measures would be taken to ensure that the election process proceeds smoothly without disruptions and emphasised upon the commitment to upholding the democratic process in the country.

"Elections will not be delayed due to the situation at borders or law and order issue," the premier expressed his resolve.



He also expressed the confidence to overcome security threats at the country's borders and complete the electoral process. The premier reiterated that it was the prerogative of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce a date for the general elections in the country and expressed the hope that the electoral watchdog would complete the process honestly as it had already initiated certain steps.

He said that the interim set-up was ready to assist the ECP regarding the provision of financial resources and security for the polls.

Responding to a question about the delay in holding of elections in two provinces in the past, the prime minister observed that there might have been certain issues at that period which were accepted by different forums.

APP adds: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue raising the Indian Illegally Occupied and Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) issue at all the global and regional fora because it had been the oldest and unresolved agenda item of the United Nations Security Council.

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Commander 12 Corps, Lt. General Asif Ghafoor talking with troops during his visit of Wali Tangi check post

Strict drive against power theft yields fruitful results

QESCO continues crackdown against electricity pilferers, defaulters in Balochistan; 1580 connections found involved in power theft; 122 FIRs registered; Rs. 13.5 million recovered from electricity pilferers in province so far

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD/QUETTA: Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali has said that the interim government has launched a strict drive against power theft in the country which is yielding fruitful results and no compromise in the fight against these mafias.

Talking to media, he said effective measures are being taken to improve the power supply system and eradication of power theft is among the top priorities. He said that the government is taking practical steps to ensure the availability of gas in the winter season.

He said the government has established a central control room in the power division to monitor the ongoing campaign against power theft.

Meanwhile the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) continued crackdown against the pilferers and defaulters of electricity in different parts of the Balochistan province including Quetta.

According to the spokesman of QESCO, the action was taken against the power thieves and defaulters in Quetta, Loralai, Pishin, Khuzdar, Sibi and other areas.

The spokesman informed that 42 transformers were removed in Quetta

and different other areas of the province. These were included six transformers which were installed illegally.

The QESCO spokesman further informed that during the campaign, a total of 1580 connections have been found involved in the electricity theft in the province. While at least 944 applications have been registered in all police stations of the province, 122 FIR has been registered against the power pilferers in the province.

At the outset, Rs. 13.5 million has been recovered from the power pilferers on account of the fine, the spokesman of QESCO informed.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) Hashoo Foundation Ayesha Khan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Saudi crown prince will soon come to Pakistan: FM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Care taker Foreign Minister (FM) Jilil Abbas Jilani has said Saudi crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman will soon come to Pakistan.

Addressing a press conference in London he said Basic purpose of his coming to London was to participate in Youth ministers conference of Commonwealth.

He went on to say youths are our future. Several new ideas have come to fore with reference to their education and employment. Prime Minister (PM) Pakistan too has allocated fund amounting to Rs 80 billion for youths.

He stated 50 countries participated in the conference. 40 ministers were

among the participants too. Climate change was accorded special importance in the conference. Task force has been set up for implementation of the recommendations.

He said improvement has come in the situation due to steps by care taker government. Decision has been taken to stop currency smuggling with iron hand. Dollar has started falling now.

The decision to expel those living in Pakistan illegally is appropriate, he remarked. Time has been given to those living in Pakistan illegally to leave the country. He underlined election will take place on time and election commission will give date for election.

CSO of Hashoo Foundation meets Governor Balochistan

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by the Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) of Hashoo Foundation, Ms. Ayesha Khan called on the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar in Islamabad on Saturday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed different matters regarding social development in the province.

The cooperation of Hashoo Foundation was also discussed in the socio-economic development of the province also came up for threadbare discussion.

Rabi-ul-Awwal moon not sighted

ISLAMABAD (APP): Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Syed Abdul Khabir Azad on Saturday announced that the moon of Rabi-ul-Awwal 1445 AH was not sighted.

Announcing a unanimous decision here at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, he said the first Rabi-ul-Awwal would fall on Monday, September 18, however, the 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, the birthday of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him would be celebrated on Friday, September 29, across the nation.

Chairman NAB summons important meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman NAB Lt Gen (Retd) Nazir Ahmad Butt has summoned important meeting of NAB on Monday.

Chairman NAB will preside over this important meeting in NAB Headquarters.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan Jan Achakzai addressing Meet the Press at National Press Club

Radio Pakistan achieves significant milestones in 'digital migration': Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, in his address to an international conference in Amsterdam on Saturday, highlighted the significant achievements made by Radio Pakistan in its digital migration journey.

Addressing the international conference on Radio Resource Control and Management via Zoom, he said Radio Pakistan had achieved significant milestones in its journey of digital migration.

Despite facing numerous challenges and obstacles, Radio Pakistan has been on its path of progress, he said while stressing that the broadcasting landscape was evolving globally, including in Pakistan.

He said digitalization of Radio Pakistan was currently in progress, with efforts were underway to digitize its entire archives.

Heirs protest near Governor House: Police cop gunned down on Jail road

Independent Report

QUETTA: A Head Constable of Police was shot dead by unknown armed men on Jail road, Hudda, here on Saturday night.

According to the police, the Head Constable named Syed Muhammad was on his way when some unknown armed men approached him and shot from a point bank range. As a result of the firing, the police cop died on the spot.

Meanwhile, the bereaved family members of the slain Head Constable protested against his assassination near the Governor House the same night.

They demanded of the government to arrest the killers.

CTD guns down key terrorists in Jaffarabad

QUETTA (INP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Saturday claimed to have killed two terrorists of a banned outfit in the Jaffarabad area of Balochistan.

According to the spokesperson, CTD personnel conducted an operation in Jaffarabad during which the militants opened fire at the law enforcement agency personnel.

During an exchange of fire, two terrorists were killed. The CTD officials also recovered weapons and explosive material from the dead terrorists, the spokesperson said.

Caretaker CM urges AGB to work with dedication for disposing of official matters pending in courts

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Advocate General of Balochistan (AGB) Muhammad Asif Reki had meeting with the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki in Islamabad on Saturday.

During the meeting, the Advocate General discussed with the caretaker Chief Minister about the judicial matters about the provincial government.

Speaking to the Advocate General,

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that the merit should be ensured and kept in view in all judicial matters according to the existing laws and policies for establishing good governance and improving the administrative affairs in the province.

The caretaker Chief Minister also urged the Advocate General to work with utmost dedication and attention for disposing of the official matters otherwise pending in the courts.



ISLAMABAD: Advocate General of Balochistan Muhammad Asif Reki meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Technical team to visit Quetta in 10 days: IPP chief announces to set up modern dialysis unit in Quetta

Caretaker Chief Minister appreciates gesture of Aleem Khan and assures Govt. would extend cooperation for prompt implementation on project

Independent Report

QUETTA: The President of Itehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and former senior Provincial Minister Punjab, Abdul Aleem Khan has announced to establish a modern dialysis unit in Quetta city.

This was announced by the IPP chief while speaking to the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki over telephone on Saturday.

Abdul Aleem Khan called the caretaker Chief Minister and assured that a technical team would visit Quetta and ensure implementation on the

proposed project in next 10 days. On the human gesture, the caretaker Chief Minister welcomed the announcement and appreciated the personal interest and endeavours of Abdul Aleem Khan in this regard.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that the provincial government would extend every possible cooperation for prompt implementation on the proposed project of modern dialysis unit in Quetta.

He said that the patients suffering from kidney diseases would have quality medical facilities with establishment of modern dialysis unit in Quetta.



KARACHI: Former Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani visits hospital to see Leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Hafiz Hamdullah who was got injury in Mastung blast

"Literary services to be written in gold words": Renowned Balochi language poet Qazir Mubarak dies; caretaker CM grieved

Independent Report

QUETTA: The renowned Balochi language poet and writer, Qazi Mubarak passed away in Turbat on Saturday.

According to the family sources, Qazi Mubarak was ill for some time. He breathed his last on Saturday morning.

Qazi Mubarak actually belonged to Pasi Tehsil of Gwadar. He was writer of several Balochi language poetry books and was held in high esteem in the literary circles of the province and country.

Meanwhile, the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has

expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of renowned Balochi language poet and writer, Qazi Mubarak.

In a condolence statement issued here on Saturday. The caretaker Chief Minister said Qazi Mubarak was a great poet of Balochi language and a good human being.

He said that the literary services of Qazi Mubarak would always be remembered. He prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family.

Continued on page 2

Attempts to minus Nawaz put Pakistan's economy in peril, says Maryam

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer, Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had faced political victimization with bravery and steadfastness, and would address all challenges after coming into power.

She was addressing the Party workers and leaders here Saturday. The PML-N leaders of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa vowed to give a historic welcome to PMLN Quaid, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif upon his arrival to his home country on October 21.

Besides Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif, leaders of PML-N including Engr Amir Muqam, PML-N General Secretary Murtaza Javed

Abbasi and others spoke on the occasion.

Maryam Nawaz said that the return of the three times elected Prime Minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to his country would help address the issues of terrorism, shabby economic, high inflation and price hike.

She said that the people of Pakistan including KP were eagerly awaiting to give historic welcome to their beloved leader.

Maryam said Nawaz Sharif was punished for saving people from price hike and load shedding.

She said the country was plunged into price hike after the removal of Nawaz Sharif government through a conspiracy and the people of Pakistan

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Passenger buses seen parked disorderly for closed road during protest demonstration of Muttahida Local Bus Association for acceptance of their demands

95% Pakistanis afraid of unemployment due to country's current economic conditions

KARACHI (INP): A recent survey by IPSOS Pakistan has found that 95 percent of Pakistanis are afraid of unemployment due to the country's current economic conditions. Only 5 percent of respondents expressed confidence in their job security.

The survey also found that the rate of unemployment in Pakistan has increased significantly in the past year. 63 percent of respondents said that they or someone they know had lost their job in the past year.

The survey also found that 99 percent of Pakistanis are struggling to buy basic goods, and 99 percent are not confident about purchasing a house or a car. 96 percent of respondents said that they do not have the ability to save and invest to meet their needs.

The survey's findings are a stark reminder of the economic challenges that Pakistanis are facing. The country is currently experiencing a high rate of inflation, which has made it difficult for people to afford basic necessities. The unemployment rate is also high, and many people are struggling to find jobs.

The survey's findings also highlight the need for the government to take action to address the economic crisis. The government needs to create jobs, reduce inflation, and make it easier for people to afford basic necessities.

GPA's cooperation continues for Clean Gwadar, Green Gwadar

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) is continuing its support in the social sector in the port city of Gwadar.

In this regard, Chairman GPA, Pasand Khan Buledi presented a cheque of Rs. 500,000 to the Chief Officer, Municipal

Committee Gwadar, Maktoom Musa for the Clean Gwadar and Green Gwadar campaign meant for cleaning and beautifying the port city.

Earlier, the GPA had also contributed in the Gwadar book festival, Eid gathering, Girls

sports, special persons, publication of the Baloch book and promotion of the literature and culture. The Chairman GPA on the occasion expressed resolve of the authority for taking part in welfare, educational, cultural and literary activities in future as well.



GWADAR: Chairman GPA, Pasand Khan Buledi presenting a cheque of Rs. 500,000 to the Chief Officer, Municipal Committee Gwadar, Maktoom Musa for the Clean Gwadar and Green Gwadar campaign meant for cleaning and beautifying the port city.

Cipher case: Imran files bail petition in IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI chairman Imran Khan has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the decision of special court set up under official secret act regarding rejection of his bail plea in cipher case.

Chairman PTI has filed his bail plea in IHC in cipher case. The bail petition has been filed through barrister Suleman Safdar.

Imran Khan through his

petition has requested the court to release him on bail.

Special court established under official secret act had rejected bail plea of chairman PTI.

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain had said in his written decision we should not ignore it that it is a top secret case. Irrefutable evidence against Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi are enough to prove their link to this case.

Swat Engineering University hosts Kalam Robo-Tech Competition

Independent Report

KALAM: Swat Engineering University's Summer Campus is abuzz with excitement as the highly anticipated three-day Kalam Robo-Tech Competition gets underway. This prestigious event, organized in collaboration with the University of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Swat, and the Directorate of Science and Technology, has attracted more than 400 talented students from 21 educational institutions across Pakistan, including participants from tribal districts.

Distinguished guests graced the grand opening ceremony, with Prof. Dr. Ifthikhar Hussain, Vice Chancellor of the University of Engineering and Technology, serving as the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Tahir Khan, Chairperson of UET Peshawar's Mechatronics Department, was the esteemed Guest of Honour. Notable figures present at the ceremony included Dr. Taza Gul Khan, Director of Science and Information Technology, Dr. Qasim Jan,

Project Director at the University of Swat, and Engineer Abdul Saboor, the Registrar.

The ceremonial commencement of the Robo-Tech competitions was led by Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Ifthikhar Hussain and Dr. Qasim Jan, officially marking the beginning of this exciting event.

Prof. Dr. Ifthikhar Hussain lauded the event's organizers for their successful execution, emphasizing the diversity of participants from various educational backgrounds. He highlighted the inclusion of students from Naumania Foundation, an organization committed to providing equal educational opportunities to orphaned students.

Dr. Taza Gul Khan, Director of Science and Information Technology, underscored the Directorate of Science and Technology's unwavering dedication to advancing science and technology in the province. He encouraged young minds to actively participate in technological innovation.



QUETTA: Residents of Chaghi District stating a protest for acceptance of their demands

India, Sri Lanka eye Asia crown for World Cup momentum

Sorts Desk

COLOMBO: Rohit Sharma's India faces underdogs Sri Lanka in Sunday's Asia Cup final, a crucial momentum-builder heading into next month's ODI World Cup.

The cricketing giants have 13 Asian titles between them and Sri Lanka have a history of sneaking into the tournament's final — to the consternation of fans keen for any showdown between arch-rivals India and Pakistan.

Bangladesh ended India's unbeaten run in the 50-over tournament after edging them out by six runs in Friday's last Super Four match.

Asian Games Hangzhou to deepen China-Pak cultural and sports exchanges

SHANGHAI (INP): "The upcoming 19th Asian Games, scheduled to be held in the vibrant city of Hangzhou from 23 Sept to 8 Oct, is poised to become a significant catalyst for deepening cultural and sports exchanges between Pakistan and China," said Hussain Haider, Pakistani Consul General in Shanghai in an interview with China Economic Net.

With over 12,500 athletes from 45 countries set to compete in a wide array of sports, the 19th Asian Games has captured global attention.

The event promises to be a thrilling spectacle, showcasing the extraordinary skills, determination and teamwork of athletes from diverse backgrounds.

The Consul General noted that Pakistan is sending a strong contingent of 262 dedicated officials and talented athletes, male and female, who will compete in a wide range of 25 disciplines including cricket, hockey, swimming, badminton, martial arts and many more.

In addition to cricket and hockey, often referred to as Pakistan's national obsession, Pakistan also has a huge competitive edge in e-sports, squash and kabaddi.

Discussing the need for Pakistan's sports industry to get a boost during the games, the Consul General said that as a young coun-



LAHORE: Activists of Awami Riksha Union Pakistan holding a protest against inflation and increase in petrol and electricity prices

Naseem Shah may miss entire World Cup: report

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Owing to a shoulder injury, Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah could miss the entire ICC World Cup 2023, which is set to begin in India next month.

The injury to Shah's right shoulder is worse than what was initially suspected, ESPNcricinfo reported Saturday.

"Pakistan fast bowler Naseem Shah is likely to miss the entire World Cup after scans revealed an injury to his right shoulder that is worse than was initially suspected."

"The PCB is understood to be seeking a second opinion, but scans from tests in Dubai appear to show the injury could rule him out for the rest of year," the report stated.

"Should secondary results back up the initial ones, Naseem, 20, is looking at a layoff spanning several months which means his participation in the Test series in Australia at the turn of the year is in doubt, as well as the next Pakistan Super League also in grave doubt," it added.

On the other hand, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), in a statement, said that their medical team has been monitoring the status of Shah's injury and his return will be decided after further assessment.

"Medical consultations with the experts are underway to provide the best possible care to Naseem. The PCB medical panel will decide on the fast bowler's return to cricket based on further assessments," the national cricket governing body said.

In the 46th over during Pakistan's second game against India at the Asia Cup last week, Naseem walked off the field on the reserve day organised for that game. Soon after, the PCB issued a press release stating that the right-artermer has been ruled out of the rest of the tournament.

Shah suffered an injury to a muscle just below his bowling shoulder and is not a recurrence of any previous shoulder injuries. Zaman Khan, who replaced Shah during

the Asia Cup, could be called up for the World Cup if needed.

The PCB is likely to make the final decision once they have results from Shah's secondary scans in a few days.

The ICC World Cup 2023 will take place in India with 10 teams fighting for the elusive title across 10 venues from October 5 to November 19, with the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad hosting the tournament opener and the final.

The Cricket World Cup will be played in the round-robin format with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches.

The top four teams will qualify for the semifinals, which will be held in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16. The semi-finals and the final will have reserve days.

According to tournament's regulations, all teams must finalise their 15-player squads prior to September 28, with any replacements after this date requiring approval from the ICC.

Ranatunga lashes out at 'toothless tiger' ICC, fears disaster

COLOMBO (INP): Former Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga has lashed out at the International Cricket Council's (ICC) silence over the addition of a reserve day for the recent Asia Cup Super 4 match between India and Pakistan.

The decision was made by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and the tournament's official hosts Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) due to fears of the high-profile match being washed out given the inclement weather in Colombo.

Such situation did arrive and the clash was played over two days. However, no such adjustments were made for other matches of the tournament's stage.

According to Rana-tunga, the International Cricket Council should have jumped into call out the decision, which

he believed was unfair.

"I think they are the ones who should protect cricket," Ranatunga was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India news agency on Friday. "Ultimately cricket should be controlled by the International Cricket Council and not by a country."

"In Asia Cup, you had rules and you changed rules for one game. So where is the Asian Cricket Council? Where is the International Cricket Council?"

Taking another dig at the sport's global governing body, which he called a "toothless tiger", the former batter said he feared the ICC will bend rules for the India-Pakistan game at the upcoming World Cup.

Ranatunga was of the view that the ICC was helpless before the Indian cricket board and its higher officials.

Attempts to minus Nawaz....

Continued from page 1
were deprived of development.

Maryam said that Nawaz Sharif had started and completed record development projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as evident from the Hazara Motorway, Nawaz Sharif Kidney Hospital Swat and others. She said that only Nawaz Sharif can take the country out of existing grave challenges.

She said that Nawaz Sharif had strengthened the federation and economy besides including the people in the development process.

The PML-N Senior Vice President said that Nawaz Sharif was coming to his country for the betterment of people and the development of Pakistan. Pakistan and its people need the services of Nawaz Sharif today, she expressed.

Engr Amir Muqam said that the conspiracy against Nawaz Sharif was in fact a conspiracy against the

people of Pakistan.

After the return of Nawaz Sharif, he said a new era of economic progress and prosperity would start and the price hike would be considerably reduced in the country.

Engr Amir Muqam said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa knew about the 10 years of the looter and plunder elements that deceived the masses in the name of change.

Engr Amir Muqam that the elements that had ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif were responsible for the unprecedented price hike and high prices of petroleum products today.

Murtaza Javed Abbasi said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would give a historic welcome to their beloved leader on October 21.

He said the people and workers of PML-N of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa love Nawaz Sharif and their participation would be historic.



QUETTA: Residents of Kalat District are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Quetta press club

Situation at borders won't...

Continued from page 1
curity Council.

During an interview with the Voice of America (Urdu) ahead of his departure for the United Nations meeting in New York, the caretaker prime minister said that Pakistan had been consistently and regularly defending and advocating the Kashmir issue at all the available multilateral and regional fora and would continue to do till its resolution.

There were gross human rights violations in IIOJK, the entire area had been turned into the largest prison in the world, while Kashmiris' voices were stifled, he maintained.

Dispelling certain rumours, the prime minister said that it was the mandate of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce a date for holding of general elections in the country and expressed the hope that the ECP would complete the process honestly as it had already initiated certain steps.

He reiterated that the interim set up was ready to assist the ECP regarding provision of financial resources and security for the polls.

About delay in holding of elections in two provinces in the past, the prime minister observed that there might have been certain issues at that period which were accepted by different forums.

The prime minister also expressed the confi-

dence to overcome security threats at the country's borders and complete the electoral process.

He affirmed that measures would be taken to ensure that the election process proceed smoothly without disruptions and emphasized upon the communal community at all the relevant forums.

He said that Taliban had made a commitment under Doha agreement that Afghan soil would not be used against any country for terrorism.

He said that they were addressing Afghan transit issues including the illegal trade, adding that trade ties were not only improving with Afghanistan but also with all the Central Asian Republics as they realized the significance of regional trade connectivity.

To a query regarding terrorist attacks from Afghan soil, he said Pakistan reserved the right to defend against any terrorist activity and would take necessary steps to defend its people and land whenever needed. However, when the time arose, they would take appropriate decisions in this regard, he said without divulging further details.

Responding to a question, PM Kakar said that his statement regarding falling of weapons, left behind by the US and NATO in Afghanistan, in the hands of terrorists outfits was not meant to level any allegations against the US or any other country, and the impression in this regard was incorrect.

He also rejected the impression as entirely incorrect that the interim gov-

Pauper PIA borrows Rs1 billion from CAA to make IATA payment

ISLAMABAD (INP): The financial crisis of the debt-ridden Pakistan International Airlines has worsened to such an extent that the national flag carrier could not pay the service charges of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) by itself. The economically struggling PIA borrowed Rs1 billion from the Civil Aviation Authority and made payment to the IATA. The CAA lent money to the national flag carrier on the direction of Ministry of Finance. Sources said that had the PIA failed to make this payment, the IATA would have defaulted it and the PIA could not have sold its tickets all across the world. CAA DG confirmed

that the Civil Aviation Authority has lent Rs1 billion to the PIA on the direction of the Finance Ministry and the airlines would return this money next week. The PIA is in deep financial crunch and it has decided to partially halt its flight operation. It has planned to reduce its flight operations on less profitable routes. The sources revealed that PIA has already started working on a backup Plan B which involves reducing flight operations by 15% to 25%. However, some media reports suggested that the airlines would cease to exist soon. Refuting such rumours, the PIA spokesperson termed these re-

ports baseless, saying that the flight operation was continuing and the airline was also disbursing most urgent domestic and international payments. He said that the PIA has a strong network across the globe and its fleet operates worldwide. Meanwhile, the CCA has initiated the pre-bidding process to outsource the operations of Islamabad International Airport under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. An invitation notice has been issued to the interested parties to attend the pre-bid conference in Dubai on Sept 26. According to the CAA, the interested parties must confirm their attendance through email by Sept 19.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Capt (R) Anwar-ul-Haq planting a plant sapling at Constitution Avenue during "Monsoon Tree Planting Ceremony 2023" in Federal Capital.

DRF celebrates 'Seven Years of Resilient Voices in the Media'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) held a conference titled "Celebrating Resilient Voices in the Media" at a local hotel here late Friday. According to a press release received, the conference was marked as a celebratory event of DRF's work and achievements with women journalists in the country, particularly through its Network of Women Journalists for Digital Rights (NWJDR). The conference brought together journalists, civil society, government representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss the state of media and the challenges that women journalists face in the country and celebrate their achievements despite the difficult circumstances they face working in the field. The conference had an exciting line-up of three panels to delve into DRF's

engagement with the journalist community in Pakistan and showcased an art exhibition of hand-drawn illustrations from DRF's magazine, Digital 50.50. Talking to APP scribe Programme Manager Research at the DRF Zainab Durrani said that today's topic of the event is directly related to our day-to-day works and projects which we are doing for and along with the journalists. Zainab Durrani while giving the details of the conference said that there were three panels of discussion to highlight the work and performances of the DRF to date. She said they had so far published 135 articles with illustration/artwork in their magazine 'Digital 50.50' which defines the idea behind their stories. The contributor Umama Khalida was part of the first panel of discussion.

FIA arrests four human smugglers from Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) anti-human smuggling cell has arrested four human smugglers from Islamabad. As per details, FIA conducted a raid on human smugglers and arrested the ringleader of their group Faisal Lateef from E-11 and Sudais Ali, Osama Khalid and Zaid Abbas from F-8 Sector of Islamabad. The human smugglers were arrested over their involvement in illegally sending citizens to Europe en route Turkey and Iran, said FIA officials. The FIA spokesperson said that more than 12 passports and several stamps were also recovered during the raid. Earlier, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) claimed to have arrested the ringleader of a human trafficking gang from Gujrat.

Rain, wind with thunder shower expected in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD (INP): Rain with wind and thunder shower is expected in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar region, Islamabad, southeast Sindh, northeast/south Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir during the next 12 hours. Isolated heavy falls is expected during the forecast period. Temperature of some major cities recorded this morning: Islamabad and Gilgit 21 degree centigrade, Lahore 26, Karachi 28, Peshawar 27, Quetta 20, Murree 16 and Muzaffarabad 25 degree centigrade. According to weather forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, partly cloudy weather with chances of rain-wind-thundershower is expected in Srinagar, Jammu, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian, Baramulla and Leh. Temperature recorded

this morning: Srinagar, Anantnag and Baramulla 19 degree centigrade, Jammu 26, Leh twelve, Pulwama and Shopian 18 degree centigrade. Meanwhile, heavy rain in Islamabad and Rawalpindi inundated low-lying areas on Saturday. Water accumulated on roads after the rain. Murree and different parts of Azad Kashmir also experienced rain on Saturday. According to the Meteorological Department, more than 66 mm of rain was recorded in the twin cities so far. MD Wasa said that they were ready to deal with any kind of emergency situation. According to the Meteorological Department, rain was likely to occur in various districts of Sindh from September 18 to 20. Rain with strong winds subsided the prevailing heavewave conditions.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the afghan refugee boy arrive at Fruit and Vegetables Market after collecting used sacks from the different areas including garbage dumps, to sell only (02) Two Rupees each, for the livelihood of his family.



ISLAMABAD: Nadeem Aslam Choudry Chief Secretary KP called on Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan.

IHC declares contempt of court plea against IG Islamabad maintainable

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has declared contempt of court plea against IG Islamabad on re-arrest of Pervaiz Elahi non maintainable. Justice Tariq Jahangiri said in his order directive was issued to send the copy of order of release to respective institutions. As per Advocate General Islamabad Pervaiz Elahi was released by implementing the orders of court. It has been said in the court's decision Pervaiz Elahi was arrested on September 01 on the detention

order by district magistrate Islamabad. High court suspended detention order on September 5 and ordered for immediate release of Pervaiz Elahi. Justice Tariq Jahangiri said in his order directive was issued to send the copy of order of release to respective institutions. As per Advocate General Islamabad Pervaiz Elahi was released by implementing the orders of court. It has been said in IHC decision that according to lawyer, CTD arrested Pe-

tionner again from police lines gate. According to lawyer arrest was made in violation of Lahore High Court orders. According to court's decision Lahore high court has issued notice to Islamabad police and administration on contempt of court petition. The counsels for Pervaiz Elahi could not satisfy how order of this court was violated. Therefore, the contempt of court plea against IG Islamabad is declared non-maintainable.

Position of river inflows, outflows report issued

ISLAMABAD (INP): The position of the river inflows and outflows at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoirs levels and the barrages issued. Rivers: Indus at Tarbela: Inflows 142500 cusecs and Outflows 120000 cusecs, Kabul at Nowshera: Inflows 22300 cusecs and Outflows 22300 cusecs, Khairabad Bridge: Inflows 112500 cusecs and Outflow 112500, Jhelum at Mangla: Inflows 16300 cusecs and Outflows 30000 cusecs, Chenab at Marala: Inflows 74300 cusecs and Outflows 43600 cusecs. Barrages: Jinnah: Inflows 138300 cusecs and Outflows 130300 cusecs, Chashma: Inflows: 149500 cusecs and Outflows 145000 cusecs, Tauna: Inflows 141600 cusecs and Outflows 124000 cusecs, Guddu: Inflows 127800

cusecs and Outflows 98500 cusecs Sukkur: Inflows 95000 cusecs and Outflows 44200 cusecs Kotri: Inflows 47800 cusecs and Outflows 6600 cusecs Trimmu: Inflows 25200 cusecs and Outflow 9600 cusecs Panjnad: Inflows 18100 cusecs and Outflows 800 cusecs. Reservoirs (Level and Storage), Tarbela: Minimum operating level 1402 feet, present level 1546.18 feet, maximum conservation level 1550 feet, live storage to day 5.589 Million acre feet (MAF). Mangla: Minimum operating level 1050 feet, present level 1235.70 feet, maximum conservation level 1242 feet, live storage today 6.860 MAF. Chashma: Minimum operating level 638.15 feet, present level 644.10 feet, maximum conservation level 649 feet.

Anzela Abbasi Shares stylish clicks with husband Tashfeen

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad is a cute, stunning and talented Pakistani model and TV actress who has a deep passion for singing as well. The young and pretty actor gained recognition through her roles in popular drama serials like "Laal Ishq," written by Khalil Ur Rehman Qamar, where fans praised her impeccable acting skills. She has also worked alongside the most popular Pakistani actor Wahaj Ali in the start of her career in drama serial "Gila." Anzela Abbasi is the daughter of renowned actors Juvaria Abbasi and Shamoona Abbasi. Recently, she tied the knot with Tashfeen Ansari in early August. Anzela Abbasi frequently shares lovely photos with her husband, Tashfeen Ansari, who is an author and counselor.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the bus stand at Faizabad area as due to the increasing fares after extremely high prices of fuel, common people are helpless to travel anywhere in country.

Pakistan embassy in Brussels observes annual heritage day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels showcased Pakistan's rich cultural heritage on Saturday at the annual Heritage Day event in Belgium. The Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union, Anna Baloch, inaugurated the day-long activities at the Embassy premises. The Ambassador displayed an array of cultural exhibits, such as handicrafts, scenic photographs, traditional costumes, and

top export products, portraying the country's rich heritage and cultural diversity. Visitors expressed their keen interest in various distinctive aspects of Pakistani culture reflected in documentaries, books, and cultural displays. The traditional Pakistani and Kashmiri food stalls attracted many visitors who liked the unique taste of Pakistani cuisine. The Heritage Days have been one of Brussels most highly anticipated annual cultural events.

All set for annual Na'at Khawani contest

ISLAMABAD (APP): The preparations are nearly complete for the upcoming annual provincial Na'at Khawani competition, scheduled to take place at the Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Auditorium of Radio Pakistan Peshawar on Tuesday. The competition is open to participants in four distinct categories, encompassing both male and female contestants.

Islamabad police arrest accused in blind murder of retired police constable

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police have arrested an accused involved in the blind murder of a retired police constable and recovered a stolen car from his possession. According to the details, on September 8, 2023, the Secretariat police station received an application from a citizen named Hameed Ullah, who stated that his elder brother, Haji Muhammad Aslam, was shot dead by an unknown accused and his car, mobile phone, cash, and licensed weapon were stolen. Public relations officer said on Saturday.

Upon receiving the application, the Secretariat police team registered a FIR and formed a special investigation team. The police team utilized all available resources and used technical and scientific methods to arrest the accused, Abdul Qayoum, and recover the stolen car from his possession. Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan directed all senior officials to effectively crack down on criminals and ensure the safety of the lives and property of citizens as a priority.

Teachers Training Workshop 2023 concludes at IST

ISLAMABAD (APP): The three-day Teachers Training Workshop 2023 concluded at the Institute of Space Technology (IST) in Islamabad on Saturday after highly informative sessions with educators from across the country regarding Space Science and Technology. The workshop was organized by the Space Education Research Lab of the National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA) in collaboration with the Office of Astronomy for Education, International Astronomical Union.

The workshop not only aimed at offering innovative teaching techniques and resources but also to establish a deeper understanding of Space Science among educators. It envisions equipping teachers to relay complex space concepts effectively to students of diverse age groups, igniting a passion for space exploration, and building a network of educators committed to advancing science education in Pakistan. The workshop began with an introduction by Dr. Najam Abbas, which included sessions on the Big Bang and the formation of stars and galaxies by Ibtahaaj Hassan, followed by an in-depth look into our solar system through hands-on activities and software simulations by Aqib Khan. The workshop also features an insightful Astrolabe demonstration by Yawer Abbas.

Spanning from September 14-16, this initiative was poised to be a transformative experience for the 30 selected educators from across the country. With a distinguished cadre of seven national and international resource persons, the workshop underscored a commitment to enhance the quality and scope of space science education in Pakistan. The Teachers Training Workshop 2023 is tailored for primary and secondary school science educators, with an ambition to immerse them in the captivating world of Space Science

The workshop also included enriching activities, including talks by eminent personalities like Dr. Tshiamiso of IAU, webinars, hands-on telescope workshops, and sessions dedicated to astronomy.



ISLAMABAD: Capital Police Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducting a search and combing operation at Golra and Sangjani police stations jurisdiction

Islamabad police held 16 outlaws, recover stolen bike, drugs, & weapons

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 16 outlaws during the last 24 hours from different areas of the city and recovered stolen bikes, liquor, drugs, and weapons with ammunition from their possession. A public relations officer said on Saturday that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the police have intensified their crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city. Following these directives, the Secretariat police team arrested an accused, namely Hamad, and recovered one 30-bore pistol from his possession. The Karachi Company police team arrested an accused, namely Haider Ali, and recovered six liquor bottles from his possession. Likewise, the Tarnol police team arrested two accused, namely Shiren Khan and Liaquat, and recovered two 30-bore pistols from their possession. The In-

dustrial Area police team arrested the accused, namely Zaryab, Faizan, Ahmed Khan, Arif, Amir Hayat, and Mukhtar, and recovered a stolen motorbike and pistol from their possession. Similarly, the Shams Colony police team arrested three accused, namely Ibrahim, Hazrat Nabi, and Abdullah, and recovered 680 grams of hashish and one 30-bore pistol from their possession. The Lohi Bher police team arrested two accused, namely Samuel Sagher and Sama Akram, and recovered 110 grams of ice and 10 liters of alcohol from their possession. The Phulgran police team arrested an accused, namely Waseem, and recovered 1120 grams of hashish from his possession. Police said separate cases have been registered against the nabbed accused, and further investigation is underway. Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan directed all senior officials to conduct an effective crackdown against the accused involved in criminal activities.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of local administration are busy in installing overhead pedestrian bridge at Srinagar Highway in Federal Capital.

Scenic valley of 'Mansehra' attracts tourists on weekend

ISLAMABAD (APP): The scenic valley in Northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 'Mansehra magnificent Majestic Siran Valley' have been attracting an influx of seasonal tourists during weekend holidays where they enjoyed the ongoing pleasant weather and take selfies by sharing on social media platforms. The valley is situated in the Mansehra district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and contains numerous mesmerizing peaks that are perfect for hiking, said a report aired by a Private news channel. The tourists who flocked to the valley from within the country and even abroad, said a local. A foreign tourist commented that the valley is a

great spot to unwind and relax away from the rush of city life, adding, we are enjoying every facility and our visit in Siran Valley is excellent. "The beautiful Valley is a well-known location for camping during the summer, he said, adding, we are exploring its lovely surroundings and setting up camp in the valley." "We have moved here to enjoy lush green meadows and cloud-piercing mountains," a tourist who rushed to the Mansehra along with his friends. Hotels are also witnessing a great rush, said a visitor, said another local adding, on every weekend hundreds of tourists are visiting because of its breathtaking beauty.

"Our family was capturing the beauty of Mansehra, whose photo memories will stay with us forever," said a visitor. Countless families are visiting these places to mitigate summer's intense heat and relieve the effects of natural changes with nature's provided means, said a shopkeeper. Mansehra is a district that has a rich and diverse food culture, said another shopkeeper, adding, Chapli Kebab are famous dish of Mansehra which is a spicy and flavorful flat patty made of beef or mutton and seasoned with chili, coriander, and other spices. Mansehra is not generally considered an expensive destination for tourists, said a tourist.

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Mayday

When PIA cancelled several international and domestic flights recently, after grounding five of its Airbus A320 jets because it did not have \$100m to 'immediately pay' its creditors, many wondered how long taxpayers would have to continue to bail out the debt-ridden airline.

A TV channel quoted a PIA director as warning that the national carrier's operations could be suspended if emergency funds weren't provided to pay arrears to creditors, aircraft lessors, fuel suppliers, insurers, domestic and international airport operators and the IATA.

With the company struggling to secure funds, its HR department chief thought it fit to declare during his testimony before a Senate panel that closure of operations and services would "happen only over our dead bodies". His emotional outburst shows the kind of opposition the new plan to privatise the bankrupt airline is likely to face from both its unionised staff and executives with a vested interest in retaining the company in the public sector in spite of its huge costs.

Meanwhile, the aviation ministry wants an immediate cash injection of Rs23bn, as well as the suspension of duties, taxes and service charges to domestic agencies to pull PIA out of its money troubles as Boeing and Airbus are on the verge of discontinuing the supply of spare parts.

The government has no choice but to accede to the demand in order to temporarily bail out the company. However, PIA's problems aren't going to end with this injection. Sooner or later, it will be in need of more cash.

A report in this paper has rightly compared PIA to state-owned power companies, pointing out that the airline serves less than 3pc of its citizens travelling by air but consumes significant public funds.

In contrast, the highly maligned power companies cater to nearly 80pc of the population. It does not justify the losses of the power companies or delays in their immediate disinvestment. Yet it does underline the reality that the government needs to put its money where its mouth is when it is hard up.

PIA's debt and liabilities have soared to Rs743bn, which exceeds the value of its total assets by five times, according to the aviation ministry. Its liabilities are projected to spike to a whopping Rs1.97tr and its annual losses to Rs259bn by 2030.

There is no way the airline can be turned around. Too many unsuccessful attempts have been made in the past. The airline is long dead as a corporate entity and brand. Its expeditious privatisation is the only way to reduce the burden on taxpayers and the government budget.

Interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar's directions to the relevant authorities to fast-track PIA's privatisation is an encouraging development.

However, it remains a rhetorical statement unless followed immediately by concrete actions.



Pervez Hoodbhoy

Thanks to a legion of excellent scientists and engineers trained in Indian universities, India is shooting for the stars.

Here 'stars' is a metaphor for much else: astrophysics, computers, chemical technology, pharmaceuticals, heavy engineering, process management, etc. On this side, led by blind men, Pakistan is heading for the caves. Its space programme from the 1960s has folded up; there's not even a plan for the future.

Our universities are a disgrace. These cesspools of intrigue and corruption breed flies, not thinking minds. That every Pakistani institution has been corrupted isn't breaking news but for sheer depravity, unethicality and incompetence our senior academics

— meaning vice chancellors, deans, chairpersons, and professors — take the cake.

I sincerely apologise to the 10 per cent who are honourable persons; this article is not directed towards them. But the rest outdo our politicians, generals, judges, shopkeepers and milkmen.

Is the system so truly broken, so hopelessly dystopic? Let the reader decide after seeing the everyday, real-life examples below. Each has been verified for authenticity. I have mercilessly trashed many which were brought to my attention within the last one year because, though possibly genuine, my informants did not include enough detailed evidence.

One: X and Y are brothers. X became 'Dr X' after submitting a shoddy piece of research to the department of chemistry of a local university. Some years later, the younger Y wangled a scholarship and applied to a cow college in the American Midwest.

There, no foreign applicant with two legs is ever rejected — nor is any thesis — for those who can pay. Fortunately for Y,

having Big Brother X's thesis in hand spared him the sweat and toil of research. Changing the title page, shuffling subtitles, throwing in a dash from here and a smidgen from there, by the grace of God Y became 'Dr Y' with a doctorate in materials science and engineering. The story gets even better: today both brothers are vice chancellors of public universities under HEC's jurisdiction. Maybe, one of them will someday rise to HEC chairman.

Two: Z was mediocre during school days and couldn't make it to engineering or medical college. Like many other less successful students, he is a Bachelor's in physics and eventually became 'Dr Z'. Thereafter he became assistant professor at a university in Lahore. In due course, he applied for promotion to the next higher grade for which he had to submit his teaching portfolio, including course examination papers, to some committee.

I chanced upon the final exam paper set by Dr Z for his introductory physics class. It left me perplexed. Downloaded from the internet, some ques-

tions were beyond wrong — they were bizarre. Example: Why is cross price elasticity of demand important? This PhD in physics did not know the question actually belongs to economics! He had set new standards of idiocy but the assessment committee, as always, was generous. Dr Z now flaunts his new credentials as 'HEC tenured associate Prof Z'.

Three: W hails from a certain mountainous area where scholarship is little known or admired but power and guns are highly respected. In time W became Dr W and then Prof W. He rose yet further to dean and VC of a university in the area. This entitled him to what every Pakistani VC cherishes most — an official Land Cruiser and armed security staff.

Then along came a problem: the university's faculty accused the VC of kickbacks and corruption in awarding building contracts, making spurious appointments to various faculty and staff positions, etc. In a fit of anger, the VC, accompanied by his armed guards, strode into a group of protesters and hurled vile abuse.

Thereafter 80 teachers signed a petition to the province's chief minister stating he had threatened to shoot them and added a supportive video. They asked for his removal but no action followed and he completed his tenure. He is presently shortlisted by HEC for the post of VC for other universities.

Four: Dr X and Dr Y are husband and wife in different academic fields but teach in the same city. To fulfil HEC criteria for annual increments and promotion, both need to publish a certain number of research papers yearly. Of course, even junk papers need effort and so normally one university professor scours the internet and copy-pastes, perhaps cooks up suitable data, finds references, and then puts it all together. Co-authorship can be sold for a price but is gratis for friends and when there's a happy conjugal relationship. How can persons from very different fields report research in a single paper that bears as many as 10 names? Rarely is the question asked but this time around was an exception. When X, from engineering, was asked what Y, from psychology, had con-

tributed, his reply was straightforward: she gave me peace of mind. Committee members chuckled and accepted his explanation. This pair, among many others, will enjoy upward movement along their career paths year after year.

Higher education in Pakistan is a joke — there's nothing "higher" in it except high pay for professors and VCs. To the garbage pile more junk is constantly added. Just before leaving office, PM Shehbaz Sharif gave the nation a parting kick by ramming through a bill authorising 24 new universities. Why? Could it be because of sudden thirst for knowledge? Pakistan's failure in space is symptomatic of a much broader and wider decades-old systemic failure that extends into industry, governance, foreign relations, and education. The men who run Pakistan are clueless about how to fix what they broke. Lacking imagination and moral strength, they keep doing over and over the only things in their playbook. Is there a solution? Possibly. But not while such men hold the reins of power. -- Courtesy Dawn

The climate-hunger nexus



Sherry Rehman

Pathways to resilience are never easy, but as global and national stock takes suggest, it is the only way forward for countries seeking to save their populations from growing climate stress. The UNFCCC defines climate resilience as a whole-of-society capacity to anticipate climate risks and hazards, absorb shocks and stresses, while reshaping and transforming development pathways.

With COP28 coming up in UAE, the fact that the last G20 meeting in India underplayed climate commitments already indicates that the countries responsible for 85 per cent of global emissions are not ready for transformational action on mitigating their carbon footprint enough for keeping 1.5 alive, or moving towards carbon neutrality. What that means is that in

the near-term at least we will have to expect higher temperatures and higher exposure to the risks climate emergencies bring. If developing countries are to face the future with some degree of wellbeing, then populations will have to be protected from climate disruptions that will only grow. One of the key lessons learnt from the last few years of climate emergencies is that every disaster or slow onset change will impact the vulnerable first, in multiple ways that limit options for shelter, healthcare, and of course enhance fragility. Higher risks of poverty and food insecurity invariably follow.

The National Adaptation Plan Pakistan introduced in July 2023 is, like other such plans, not meant to function as a stand-alone set of actions. It is designed to prioritize interventions that prepare the country for changing its model of development, planning, managing disaster risk and resourcing resilience. It targets agriculture along with water, as principal sectors for substantive reform actions that are long overdue. Why? Because agriculture is still the backbone of

Pakistan's economy, supports 40 per cent of its labour and accounts for 20 per cent of its GDP. It is critical to Pakistan's growth, employment, poverty reduction and food security ambitions.

The entire Asia-Pacific region is facing the stress of growing scarcity, hunger, food price inflation, with agricultural workers living on the edge of poverty compelled to work in the heat outdoors despite rising temperatures. The UN FAO says that 418 million Asians suffered from extreme hunger in 2021, up from 375 million in 2020, which tells us that the entire region has no option but to adapt. Agricultural workers in countries with low or medium human development were among the worst affected by exposure to extreme temperatures, (according to the UN HD index) suffering almost half of the 295 billion potential work hours lost due to heat in 2020. Women remained the most vulnerable and malnourished as in almost all the labour cohorts, while they carried added burdens of transporting water from source to home for their families

and farm use.

Given that Pakistan is already 40 per cent food insecure and projected to be at 60 per cent by 2050 or earlier, it is clear that conventional governance is no longer the path to a sustainable or self-reliant future. Climate change has triggered extreme weather events, droughts, flooding, sea level rise and heatwaves, that have critically impacted agricultural productivity, soil quality and led to shrinking crop yields and poor livestock health. Land, water and labour are all under stress as yields for major crops like wheat and cotton have gone down by 1.5 to 4.2 times below field potential, and 2.1 to 5.6 times below international best practices.

Changing consumption patterns, dietary habits, supply chain disruptions in imported fuel, fertilizer, and growing populations have all challenged both the price and demand for food all over the country. Food inflation, in fact, has defined new levels of deprivation for both the urban and rural poor in Pakistan. At the Sustainability Project's impact findings, a worry-

ing growing year-on-year decline in food systems resilience has been noted for all of the Asia Pacific region. From this author's own findings, Pakistan is clearly in a recovery trap, where countries have little time to recover from climate disruptions before their agri-water systems have little time to sustainably recover, let alone embark on better, yet unfamiliar and locally untested practices.

Despite a few sub-national actions to begin conserving water by blocking inefficiencies in the Indus basin irrigation system, no serious interventions have been made in Pakistan to check the decline in agricultural productivity. Land use changes, mostly rural to urban, have put agricultural land under stress, particularly in Punjab. In the delta region waterlogging and salinity have reduced productivity of the soil by 35 per cent or more, while in extreme cases of sea intrusion the soil is completely unfit for cultivation in what was once a flourishing Indus delta area. The mountain to delta plan for adaptation (NAP 2023, GOP) prioritizes agriculture because growing food,

managing rangelands, livestock livelihoods is fundamental to Pakistan's current economic structure. The context, both globally and nationally, should no longer be defined as anything but a crisis of wide-spread hunger. The 'Hunger Hotspots' 2023 report by FAO, WFP lists Pakistan as a country of "very high concern" along with Kenya, Congo, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, and Syria. Among the recommendations made in the report, strengthening the shock-responsive capacity of existing social protection programmes like the BISP is key. It also calls for building the capacity of the national and provincial disaster management authorities, because in the last climate disaster in 2022 Pakistan had over 10 million people exposed to acute food insecurity. It also pointed to high amounts of external indebtedness as part of the problem, especially related to food imports. The crisis is cross-sectoral, as the NAP says. That is the only way to address it, not in policy and departmental silos. -- Courtesy TheNews

'Deon' dilemma



Muhammad Mohsin Masood

The recent shouts of lawyers at a convention to 'uphold the Constitution and the rule of law' got me thinking of what exactly that means. How does one really uphold the rule of the law when the rules are all muddled? In particular, does a text such as the Constitution really lay down the rules of the game? Or how does any text, legal or religious, create those rules which are to be and, indeed, are followed? What really are the rules of the game in play and are they textual in import?

I acknowledge my own naivety in asking these questions, for the simple answer seems to be yes. That's why we have a Constitution and an attic worth of old laws on a whole host of subject areas. But are they really followed? The essence of this inquiry seems to be on the basis of the worth and impact of a text in creating the rules of conduct. It may be the case that a man simply declares such texts to be mere paper to be chucked away. That we have seen. People wiser than me have done a lot of philosophising to answer such questions of ethics and law.

I am reminded of one of my most influential professors at university who had coined the term 'logo-centric deontology'. It refers to 'deon' — the rules, or obligations emerging from 'logos' — the word, particularly the divine word, from which everything springs. The

force of the ethical rules and as a result, of the law would emanate from the 'logos' — the text in itself. Now this harkens to a worldview (philosophers and my professor love to use the word 'Weltanschauung'), which immerses a society foundationally on the moral validity of textual rules. Ideas of consequentialism and utilitarian principles take a back seat.

The Constitution as the foundational legal text laying down the rules should be afforded the sanctity it deserves. It can be argued that our state is built upon the foundations of Islamic modernism which again referred to a 'going-back-to-the-text' to go forward in social and political life. The chain which goes back to Shaitabi and his use of the Maqasid al-Sharia with a focus on the telos of the text includes Sir Syed and Iqbal. The point being that the text, religious or legal, was to be dominant in laying down the rules of the game. That has not come to be, not in the popular imagination and not in our collective reverence.

For this seems too good to be true in a land where, if the judges of the high courts were to peer out of their courtroom, they would see the people they set free through judicial pronouncement under the Constitution, being arrested: a country which has seen the ups and downs of constitutions and a conspicuous lack of constitutional ethos coupled with flagrant abuses of human rights.

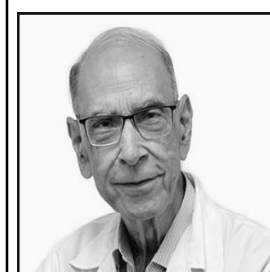
Are the rules of the game not set in stone? They certainly seem not to be. We have treated the Constitution on even a ricketier foundation than an old Ludo board — when you don't like how the game progresses you flip the board. That seems to be one rule we have consistently stuck to. To a

sceptic, this would mean that there are no rules of the game. Power is power after all as Cersie Lannister put it. With the rules as fluid as the ink on the text, power politics takes centre stage. After all, you do need muscles to uphold something. Exactly what you are upholding and how important it is, absurdly depends on the strength of those muscles.

Law indeed deals with power. It creates structures and interconnections of power. There also lies a certain episteme which it creates — a system of understanding and knowledge of why and how law creates these structures. This is a logo-centric episteme. We have a foundational legal text in a society which largely also prescribes to a moral and ethical understanding emanating from textual sources. The words are not just written, they also come out and speak from the text in society and state. Yet their voice is unheard.

In 1957, Justice Javed Iqbal met the then president Iskander Mirza and asked to be placed in the Advisory Islamic Commission — the precursor of the Council of Islamic Ideology. When he expressed his interest in researching Islamic law to aid the lawmakers (as Iqbal had envisioned), he was met with a chuckle and a sarcastic comment by Mirza that we don't want such work to be done. The real law lies elsewhere and not in the text: that seems to be the dilemma at the root of our legal system. For a society and state immersed in that logo-centric tradition of rules and moral authority, how have we stumbled so far as to display such disdain for the foundational text? The apple has fallen far from the tree, unfortunately. -- Courtesy Dawn

Brighter future



Jamsheer Talati

The depression from a layered smothering of citizens — Covid and floods, to inflation and utility bills — is at a stage where it overwhelms our capacity to cope with change. Despair has set in because we are unable to see our own self-worth or find strategies that promise a better future, which paralyzes our ability to develop or act rationally. Consequently, it's difficult for people to expect a sudden, intrinsic development of citizens.

Unquestionably, Pakistan is in the midst of terrible times. But countries do emerge from such tumult: Russia made an admirable recovery following the turmoil that ended Oleg's Ukrainian dynasty, and Britain bounced back after it lost control of America in the 18th century. Similarly, China rose dramatically after its civil war by relying on indigenous expertise rather than foreign assistance — such as when it mended defects in a Soviet-built dam after an aggressive response from the Russians: 'This is your problem, you fix it.'

Taking a cue from history, we should not despair. The streets of Karachi are filled with ingenious public transport that is adapted to purpose and built to suit tighter pockets. At the other end, Pakistan is witnessing a significant revival in sports — the Pakistan Super League facilitated foreign players, which benefited the Pakistan team in terms of interaction and knowl-

edge. Also, almost four decades later, we returned to the game with 17-year-old Hamza Khan winning the World Junior Squash Championship, beating his rival in Melbourne, Australia, in July.

Women athletes and other professionals continue to scale new heights. In the practice of medicine, they secured key positions in nursing and other areas of the field. As mountaineers, they conquered the steepest of peaks and we can also expect success from the women's tent pegging team. There is much cheer to be found in an exceptionally humane and courageous event — Pakistan's mountaineers climbed the savage mountain, K2, to locate the body of an Afghan climber for his relatives.

On the tourism and social fronts, international flights can now top up in Skardu and tours of Gilgit-Baltistan are safe. The elderly and the differently abled have the required assistance to help them stay independent by way of various alterations, such as side-wheels on motor-cycles.

Moreover, our art world is flourishing and is awash with innovative techniques, wherein painters, such as Imran Qureshi in this instance, blended the Mughal miniature technique with action for his mural on the ceiling of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Then, there are Pakistan's filmmakers such as Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy who will soon direct a Star Wars film.

Pakistan has an immensely rich heritage, and its youth has ushered in the era of young entrepreneurship. Besides, we have exemplary IT specialists who can become trailblazers in the age of artificial intelligence. In addition, disciplines such as physiotherapy and laboratory and research promise

work, knowledge and progress to those with basic academic qualifications.

Despair is dangerous and must be shaken off. We can undo our sorry state by focusing on the effort to emerge as a progressive nation, dedicated to health, education and social well-being. Take Finland's example; it leads in the happiness index but isn't that rich. We must devise a system whereby a poor person has free transport to a hospital with cost-free, precise and timely attention and intervention.

So how can we begin anew? To start with, plug the culture of cheating, stealing, bribery and begging. Ensure education, coach adults in interpersonal and public communications, nur-ture an ethical and tolerant environment at workplaces along with team-building and relentless pursuit of excellence in quality. These will increase revenues, create better work conditions and boost financial returns for institutions and the workforce.

Furthermore, trade is a vital component of progress that can thrive despite limitations.

For example, when Poland imposed crippling taxes on transit goods, Russia traded with Germany via Archangel. Our innovative youth have turned rickshaws into cars and Nust students have built an e-racing car. Young entrepreneurs now need loans from perceptive and educated bank loan officers. We should also invest in platforms for debates and foster a liberal exchange of ideas without the fear of conflict. Everyone has the right to air their views and no one has to bear the burden of being 'right' at all times. Such an environment can mark the beginning of a tolerant, moderate, and therefore, successful nation. -- Courtesy Dawn

Won't allow injustices in urban areas in terms of development, employment: CM Maqbool

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar has said that he would never allow injustice in the urban areas of the province in terms of development, employment and importance.

These views were expressed by him while talking to a delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) led by Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui which called on him here at CM House Saturday.

Maqbool Baqar said, "Karachi is my city and other urban areas of the province such as Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur and Larkana will be looked after properly".

The MQM-P delegation was comprised on Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Dr. Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal. They discussed the overall

situation, including general elections during the meeting.

Dr. Khalid Maqbool told the chief minister that they had expressed satisfaction and support when his name was recommended for caretaker chief minister. The CM thanked them and said he would serve everyone irrespective of any consideration.

The delegation raised the issue of urban areas for which he assured them his personal attention to resolve the issue of the urban areas.

The caretaker chief minister added that the main job of his government was to support the Election Commission of Pakistan in holding free, fair and transparent elections. The MQM-P delegation took up the issue of increasing street crime in the city. The chief minister said that he has

directed the city police to control the street crime by enhancing patrolling, vigilance and starting operations against the street criminals and drug mafia.

Baqar said that a major reshuffle has been made in the administration, including the police. "I am sure the new administration would make a difference," he said.

The chief minister said that he would welcome suggestions from all political parties for improving the governance and that their support was essential for holding free and fair elections.

The chief minister added that the main job of his government was to support the Election Commission of Pakistan in holding free, fair and transparent elections. The MQM-P delegation took up the issue of increasing street crime in the city.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar meets with a delegation of Muttahida Quami Movement-P led by Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui at CM House.

CM approves upgradation of Lahore Zoo, Safari Park

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has accorded approval for upgradation of Lahore Zoo and Safari Park in order to provide recreational facilities of international standard to citizens, under which new animals and birds would be brought to these two recreational places.

He was presiding over a meeting at CM's Office on Saturday. The meeting decided that other animals and birds including panda, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, African pigeon, black jaguar, puma and chiltan markhor [screw-horned goat] would be added to the Lahore Zoo and Safari Park.

New species of python and snakes would also be brought to the Lahore Zoo. An elephant, rhinoceros, giraffe, zebra, ostrich and various kinds of deer would be shifted to the Safari Park.

Around 142 kinds of aquatic animals would be placed at the aquarium of Lahore Zoo and Safari Park and cages of an international standard would also be built for animals. African zone, desert and salt range would be made in the Safari Park. Night Safari would also be launched. Citizens could

also stay in the specially built huts of Safari Park.

CM Mohsin Naqvi, while issuing directions for introducing e-ticketing system in Lahore Zoo and Safari Park, said these two recreational places would be upgraded to international standards. Other facilities in the Lahore Zoo and Safari Park would also be increased.

Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Chairman Planning and Development (P&D), secretaries forest, finance, communication and works, P&D, Director General Wildlife and other officials attended the meeting.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi giving directives during inspecting of earth work of Ring road passing from Bahria Town under Loop Three project.

KDA efforts lauded for the promotion of tourism in the region

NARAN (INP): Provincial Minister for Information and Tourism Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel Saturday led a cleanliness campaign in Naran, overseeing the distribution of 200 food and beverage bags to tourists and hotels, in collaboration with the Kaghan Development Authority (KDA).

Furthermore, he contributed to environmental conservation by releasing 500 juvenile trout into the Kunhar River.

The minister was engaged in the activities during a two-day official visit to the picturesque Kaghan Valley, along with Chairman KDA Dr. Emel Zaman Khan, Director-General Tariq Khan, Deputy Directors Sheraz and Amin ul Hassan.

During his visit, the Provincial Minister was

briefed about the Kaghan Development Authority and its ongoing projects aimed at promoting tourism in the region. Mr. Kakakhel also took part in a rafting adventure and engaged with tourists, addressing their concerns with a pledge to resolve them effectively.

As part of his official tour to Naran Kaghan, the Provincial Minister inaugurated 150 benches placed in various locations, enhancing seating facilities for visiting tourists.

Recognizing the increasing number of tourists, he issued directives to the Director-General (DG) of the Kaghan Development Authority to construct additional public toilets, supplementing the existing eight facilities. To maintain cleanliness, 200 dustbins were installed throughout the area.

Earthquake shakes Swat and adjoining areas

SWAT (INP): A moderate earthquake jolted Swat Valley and its adjoining areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday night.

The earthquake measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale created panic as the people came out of their homes reciting verses of the Holy Quran.

No loss of life and damage to property was reported from any part of Swat so far.

According to Islamabad-based National Seismic Monitoring Centre, the epicenter of the earthquake was located near Pakistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan border area at the depth of 83 kilometres. It may be mentioned that on September 6 last an earthquake of 4.7 magnitude also hit the same region. The National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) confirmed that tremors were felt in Swat and the adjoining areas.

Rangers, police seal five illegal water hydrants in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): To curb the water crisis in the city of lights, the Karachi Water Board Authority along with Sindh Rangers have launched an operation and sealed five illegally operated water hydrants across Karachi on Saturday.

According to the details, to control the water crisis across the city, Sindh rangers along with water authorities initiated strict legal action against water theft and sealed a total of five water hydrants in Karachi. During the raid, the operators of illegal water hydrants were arrested while the owners of these hydrants were on the run, meanwhile, the

police officials are still searching to arrest them. The officials claimed that the legal proceedings have been initiated to punish all the arrested individuals, while the efforts are underway to arrest the elements involved in the water theft. The rangers spokesperson revealed that the illegal water hydrant - which was sealed in an operation along with the police - was allegedly stealing water of at least 200,000 person on daily basis. Furthermore, as many as five suspects were arrested from the illegal established water hydrant and handed over to the police.

ECP organizes two-day workshop for master trainers

SARGODHA (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) organized a two-day workshop for providing training to master trainers in Sargodha district.

According to a press release, issued by district election commissioner officer on Saturday, the two-day master training concluded here in which master trainer District Election Commissioner Sargodha Ghulam Abbas, Director Establishment Punjab Lahore Amir Javed imparted training to official from grade-17 to 19 of various departments. The training was held under the supervision.

Pervaiz Elahi arrest: Contempt of court plea against DIG Investigation, DIG operation, SSP operation fixed for hearing

LAHORE (Online): The court has ordered District and Sessions Judge Islamabad to present IG Investigation, DIG operation and SSP operations in matter of arrest of former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi despite court's order has been fixed for hearing.

A single bench of Lahore High Court (LHC) led by Justice Viqas Rauf will hear contempt of court plea filed by Qaisara Elahi wife of Pervaiz Elahi on September 18.

The court has already issued arrest warrants of IG Islamabad for not appearing before it.

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Bilawal should discuss public issues at public forum: Talal

FAISALABAD (INP): A senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Talal Chaudhry said that his party would contest the next general elections to resolve poverty and economic issues.

Nawaz Sharif will arrive in Pakistan in October to lead the election campaign, he said while talking to a private television channel.

In reply to a question, he said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari should discuss public issues at a public forum.

Talal said that all political parties leaders should focus on resolving issues of poverty and economy of the country.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori presides over the meeting to review complaint cell and bell of hope matters.

Hike in prices of petroleum products challenged in LHC

LAHORE (Online): Hike in prices of petroleum products has been challenged.

A petition against enhancement in the prices of petroleum products has been filed in Lahore High Court (LHC).

The caretaker federal government and others have been made respondents in the petition.

The petitioner has taken plea in the petition that the price of petroleum products has been increased by Rs 26 per liter. This hike in prices

will ignite new storm of inflation.

The petitioner pointed out that during one month of care taker government the price of petrol rose by Rs 58 per liter while diesel price surged by Rs 55 per liter.

The petitioner has requested the court to nullify the recent increase in the price of petroleum products. Exorbitant increase has been made in the prices of petroleum products. The price of petrol has been raised by Rs 26 per liter and price of diesel by Rs 17 per liter.

500,000 fine on factories for causing smog

LAHORE (APP): The district administration Lahore imposed a total of Rs 500,000 fine on various factories over release of dangerous chemical substances causing environmental pollution and posing threat to living beings.

In an operation, conducted in different areas of the city, Alyas Steel Re-rolling Mill, Tahir Paper Mill and a brick-kiln were sealed for causing smog and environmental pollution.

A spokesperson for the department told the media on Saturday that the administration was taking action against the environment laws violators.

NAB should not to be used for political victimization: PPP

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party Central Secretary Information Faisal Karim Kundi has emphasized that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) must not be used for political purposes or targeting political parties.

In a press conference at the PPP Central Punjab Secretariat on Saturday, Kundi pointed out that during the PPP's government, there was no political prisoner, highlighting his party's commitment to a fair political environment. He also mentioned that the PPP in Sindh welcomes all political parties and intends to form a political alliance in Punjab with no objections expected.

Additionally, Kundi revealed that Asif Ali Zardari had been assigned the task of establishing contacts with other political parties, while Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would remain in

Laure for a few more days.

He expressed concern over the rise in petroleum prices, "which would overburden the public." Kundi also mentioned a recent Supreme Court decision, expressing hope for justice from the judiciary. He reiterated the PPP's consistent stance that the NAB should not be used to disrupt political parties.

Responding to a question, he urged patience regarding their alliance, as it had recently concluded. Kundi emphasized that the PPP doesn't rely on crutches in politics and questioned the Election Commission's delay in announcing the date of general elections.

Regarding the election date, he mentioned they would wait until November 30 but stressed the importance of timely elections to address the current economic and political instability.



Caretaker Federal Minister for religious affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed meeting with Cardinal St. Patric Church at Karachi.

KP minister for tourism lauds KDA efforts for the promotion of tourism in the region

NARAN (APP): Provincial Minister for Information and Tourism Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel Saturday led a cleanliness campaign in Naran, overseeing the distribution of 200 food and beverage bags to tourists and hotels, in collaboration with the Kaghan Development Authority (KDA).

Furthermore, he contributed to environmental conservation by releasing 500 juvenile trout into the Kunhar River.

The minister was engaged in the activities during a two-day official visit to the picturesque Kaghan Valley, along with Chairman KDA Dr. Emel Zaman Khan, Director-General Tariq Khan, Deputy Directors Sheraz and Amin ul Hassan.

During his visit, the Provincial Minister was briefed about the Kaghan Development Authority and its ongoing projects aimed at promoting tourism in the region. Mr. Kakakhel also took part in a rafting adventure and

engaged with tourists, addressing their concerns with a pledge to resolve them effectively.

As part of his official tour to Naran Kaghan, the Provincial Minister inaugurated 150 benches placed in various locations, enhancing seating facilities for visiting tourists. Recognizing the increasing number of tourists, he issued directives to the Director-General (DG) of the Kaghan Development Authority to construct additional public toilets, supplementing the existing eight facilities. To maintain cleanliness, 200 dustbins were installed throughout the area. Furthermore, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel ensured permanent accommodations for 20 Kaghan Development Authority employees who were previously residing in tents within the camping areas. The Provincial Minister lauded the dedicated efforts of the Kaghan Development Authority and issued directives to enhance a rafting adventure and



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab inspecting the ground of UC-10 Baldia Town.

PU, DRAP sign MoU to enhance cooperation in research, training

LAHORE (INP): Punjab University and Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance mutual cooperation for research and training in the relevant field and to promote mutually beneficial relations between the two organizations.

The agreement was signed by PU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood and Chief Executive Officer DRAP Asim Rauf in a ceremony held at PU here on Saturday.

On this occasion, Principal PU College of Pharmacy Prof Dr Syed Atif Raza, eminent dignitaries from Pharmaceutical Industry, secretary PQCB, community pharmacy, pharmaceutical Consultant, Regulators and faculty members were present.

According to MoU, this collaboration would allow the academia to share its research in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences, for its appropriate utilization by the regulator and other organizations. Main objectives of this collaboration are to support research activities and to equip the future leadership in Pharmacy with theoretical knowledge as well as practical experience in policy and regulatory issues of Pharmaceutical sector.

In his address, Dr Khalid Mahmood said that PU has always been working towards encouraging research activities in all sectors. He said that PU College of Pharmacy has the world class faculty having PhD and experience in various pharmaceutical technologies and Pharmacy practices and have potential to bridge the industry.



RAWALPINDI: A view of the bus stand at Mandi Morr area as due to the increasing fares after extremely high prices of fuel, common people are helpless to travel anywhere in country.

Encroachments removed outside General Hospital

LAHORE (APP): Effective measures have been implemented with Lahore Traffic Police's assistance to ensure smooth traffic flow for patients and healthcare professionals at Lahore General Hospital entrances and exits. A comprehensive operation was conducted on Saturday to eliminate illegal parking and stalls along the LGH service road, following a priority-based policy.

Lahore Traffic Police said it was committed to supporting the hospital administration. Traffic wardens will be on duty around the clock to assist citizens visiting LGH. The

decision resulted from a meeting chaired by Principal Post Graduate Medical Institute & Amiruddin Medical College, Professor Dr. Al-Fareed Zafar, attended by police officers including SP Traffic Police Ikrumul Haq, MS Professor Dr. Nudrat Sohail, DSP Haji Muhammad Aslam, administrative staff, and young doctors.

Dr. Zafar highlighted traffic challenges faced by patients, attendants, doctors, nurses, and staff, which have now been resolved through the active involvement of Provincial Health Minister Professor Dr. Javed Akram.

FIA arrests illegal money exchanger

ABBOTTABAD (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested an illegal money exchanger in Abbottabad, FIA officials confirmed on Saturday.

The raid was conducted by the Composite Circle Abbottabad under the supervision of Deputy Director Sardarullah Babar.

The accused, Wasiullah, was running a money changer business without a license. He was arrested from Batagram with Rs. 13,80,000 (Pakistani currency) and 2517 Saudi Riyals.

Speakers call for following Quaid's principles to steer Pak out of economic crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan organized an event titled "Quaid-e-Azam ka Tasawar-e-Pakistan".

Senator Raja Zafar-ul-Haq and Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain, members of Board of Governors of Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan, Salman Farooq, Prof. Naem Qasim, Engr. Arif Sheikh and Gazala Shaheen Wayn Members of the General

Council and many other dignitaries were present on the occasion, said a press release issued here.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Raja Zafar ul Haq said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had envisioned a Pakistan where people of all religions would enjoy the welfare of life, rule of law, freedom of expression, and a strong economy.

He stressed that all should follow the principles of Quaid-e-Azam in letter and spirit

to steer the country out of the current economic crisis.

Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain said that Quaid-e-Azam wanted an enhanced role for the private sector in Pakistan to make it a strong economy of the region and stressed that the government should take measures for ease of doing business in the country.

He said that Quaid-e-Azam believed in the rule of law and the protection of the human rights of all communities in Pakistan,

which should be ensured in the country.

He stressed that the government should open borders to promote trade with neighbouring countries that would bring progress and prosperity to the region.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI said that Quaid-e-Azam had stressed concentrating on the well-being of the people to make Pakistan a happy and prosperous country, but the current situation was against his vision.



ISLAMABAD: Motorists are refilling the tanks as the fuel prices are on its peak comparing to the 76th years of the history of Pakistan.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Agriculture SM Tanveer presides over the meeting of Punjab Agriculture Research Board.

SDPI, Denmark's Embassy collaborate to spearhead Carbon Market

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), in collaboration with the Embassy of Denmark in Pakistan, has jointly organized a project inception workshop "Unlocking pathways to support implementation of carbon markets in Pakistan".

The project aims to conduct a need assessment for knowledge and capacity gaps for the implementation framework of carbon markets in Pakistan, assess potential regulatory and information barriers, identify potential opportunities and challenges in the implementation of carbon markets across different sectors in Pakistan, and identify potential investment opportunities created by carbon markets

in Pakistan, with a particular emphasis on building public-private partnerships (PPPs), a news release said.

Under this project, the two organizations aim to provide an actionable work plan to effectively implement carbon markets in Pakistan, learning from the best practices of Denmark for SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 17 (partnerships for goals).

Speaking at the inception workshop, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, said that unleashing the potential of carbon credits and financing offers benefits in harnessing the challenge of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions and can also address the foreign exchange deficit crisis for Pakistan.

Cattle farming serves as robust path to rural prosperity, economic resilience: Jamshaid

MULTAN (APP): In a resounding testament to the boundless potential of the livestock sector, Deputy Director (DD) of Livestock Dr Jamshaid claimed that the vibrant sector not only possessed a substantial share in the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but also carried the immense capability to uplift impoverished regions, particularly the culturally rich region of South Punjab (SP).

"About 70 percent of the local populace in this resplendent region is linked to the livestock sector.

Beyond just managing daily sustenance, livestock serves as a financial lifeline during unforeseen emergencies, that can be cashed in at any moment," elucidated Dr Jamshaid.

"Pakistan, proudly standing as the fifth-largest milk-producing nation on the planet, harbors the potential for substantial growth in milk and meat production. This potential can be unleashed by investing in animal genetics, where the quality of semen plays a pivotal role in enhancing animal health, and consequently, milk and meat production."

SBP suspends another foreign exchange company over violation of rules

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has suspended the authorization of M/s Royal International Exchange Company (Pvt) Limited till further orders for violating SBP rules and regulations.

As per statement of central bank issued on Saturday, the exchange company, its head office, branches, franchises and payment booths have been debarred from undertaking any kind of business activity during the suspension period.

Earlier, during last week, the SBP had suspended the authorization of M/s Usman International Exchange Company -B (Pvt) Limited till further orders, with immediate effect. Action has been taken due to serious violations of the central bank's regulations and instructions.

It is pertinent to mention here that a nexus between illegal money exchanges and bankers was exposed in investigations by various agencies.



QUETTA: Chairman of Kissan Itihad Khalid Bath addressing a Press conference.

Govt to provide cheap sugar at utility stores

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab government has decided to provide cheap sugar at utility stores across the province.

As per details, the government will provide sugar at Rs 140 at 2100 utility stores and 750 franchised stores across Punjab.

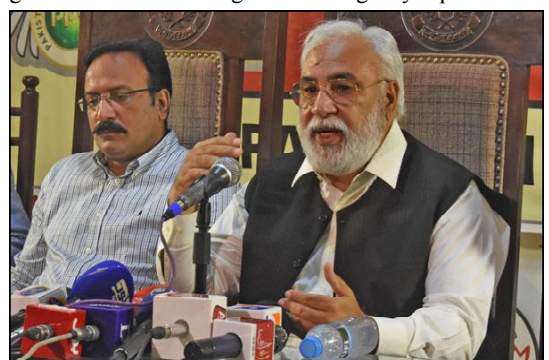
In order to ensure transparency, the consumers are asked to bring their CNIC for buying sugar at utility stores and every family can buy maximum 5 kg sugar in a month.

Earlier, the price and availability of sugar were gradually becoming stable and normal with caretaker government launching a

massive crackdown to curb smuggling and hoarding of essential commodities.

In line with its strategy, the government has also planned prize money (cash reward) for those citizens who would provide information leading to the identification of elements involved in the smuggling and hoarding.

For this purpose, a toll-free number has been set up at the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the Ministry of Interior to call and share the required information against the elements involved in illegal activities, causing a dent in the national economy, the state news agency reported.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Poultry Association Chaudhary Nusrat addressing press conference along with others at press club in Provincial Capital.

First Pak pharmaceutical company gets license to expand operations in UAE

ISLAMABAD (APP): Searle Company Limited (SEARL) has become Pakistan's first pharmaceutical company to register its manufacturing facility in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) market.

The company received approval from the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention and registered its manufacturing facility in the United Arab Emirates.

This significant achievement positions Searle as the first pharmaceutical company from Pakistan to have its manufacturing facility registered in the UAE.

"Yet another achievement. Pakistani pharma is now entering

stringent markets. Searle's recent certification is testimony to our commitment to boost pharma exports," Chief Executive Officer, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), Asim Rauf said in a tweet.

"This is a great breakthrough and important development that will bring not only revenue and jobs but opens international drug business avenues for Pakistani industry."

Earlier, the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention notified that a manufacturing site of SEARL has been registered till September 10, 2028, per Article 65 of Federal Law No. 3 of 1984.

According to the



ISLAMABAD: Wholesale traders are busy in arrangements of bidding of sweet melons at Fruit and Vegetables Market at Sector I-II.

Sweeping crackdown: 3,792 power pilferers apprehended in Mepco

MULTAN (APP): Multan Electric Power Company (Mepco) claimed to apprehend a total of 3,792 electricity pilfering during the intensive campaign within last week.

According to official sources, in a resolute effort following the directives of Prime Minister Pakistan, an extensive operation against electricity theft in the Mepco region has produced remarkable outcomes.

From September 7th to September 15th, law enforcement agencies and Mepco teams have been relentless in their pursuit of curbing this illicit practice. The culprits

facied a collective fine exceeding Rs 172 millions, signifying the government's determination to recover losses incurred due to theft.

Authorities have also taken a stringent stance against the perpetrators, with 2,458 cases registered against them, emphasizing the importance of accountability. In a commendable show of swift action, 1,887 cases have already been lodged, and the legal process is well underway. Collaboration between Mepco teams and law enforcement personnel has led to the arrest of 63 electricity pilferers in Multan.

PBF utterly rejects Rs 40 per litre hike in POL prices in September

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has utterly rejected the 40 rupees per litre jump in petroleum prices in the month of September which will further squeeze the industry, agriculture sector and common man of this country. It said though institutions were trying their best to curb the artificial price of dollar but at this point, increase of 24 rupee per litre was not at all justified move by the finance division. In the last few days dollar was on decline in the open market and we appreciated the

commendable efforts of the institutions.

In a statement on Saturday, PBF Chief Organizer Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad said that at present Rs. 60 per liter was being charged from the public on per litre already in the name of surcharge. On the other hand, high electricity bills have left the public and the business community in debt. The business community and the people were currently on the streets challenging the government's helplessness.

Jawad stressed the

need for implementing structural reforms for good governance, curbing unproductive expenditures, expanding the tax base, fostering public-private partnerships, and reallocating resources to critical sectors to stimulate sustainable growth, as the country was facing with daunting economic challenges, posing a serious threat to the viability of the industry, in this regard the role of SIFC was appreciated to shape up the country's economy at the right direction.

3-day poultry expo from 21st

LAHORE (APP): A 3-day International Poultry Expo (IPEX) 2023 will be held under the auspices of Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA) at Expo Centre Lahore on Sept 21.

This was announced by IPEX 2023 Chief Organizer Abdul Haye Mehta during a press briefing here on Saturday. He expected the show would be attended by more than 300 foreign delegates from different countries, while over 6,000 business entrepreneurs, policy making authorities of the government and 30,000 general public was expected to visit the event daily. The PPA has been holding IPEXs regularly since 1998, with the objectives of creating awareness amongst the farmers.

SCCI rejects historic increase in fuel prices

PESHAWAR (Online): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) rejected the historic increase in fuel prices and called it detrimental for the country's economy, businesses and industries.

According to a statement here on Saturday, Ijaz Khan Afridi, acting president of the SCCI said the unprecedented hike in prices of petroleum products will bring a new storm of inflation that would adversely affect the business community and poor masses.

Urging the interim government to withdraw the gigantic hike in fuel prices in the best interest of the national economy, businesses and industries,

he warned that the chamber along with traders will be forced to launch an agitation movement against it. Criticizing the government's anti-business policies, Ijaz Afridi said business community had pinned high hopes from caretakers that they will take measures for putting the ailing economy on right track but instead doing that they have endorsed the steps of previous coalition government and multiple problems of the traders' community, which is strongly condemnable.

"How can the national economy improve when the business community will face an uncertain situation and no remedial or corrective measures were taken place.



ISLAMABAD: President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari addressing Quaid-e-Azam ka Tassawar-e-Pakistan event at ICCI.

FIA raids PSX to arrest organized hawala hundi gang

KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) conducted a crackdown against illegal hawala transactions on Saturday and apprehended three members of the organized hawala hundi group operating in the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

According to the details, the FIA officials carried out a raid in the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) against the organized hawala hundi gang and arrested three suspects.

During the raid, the authorities seized Rs 9,000,000 Pakistani currency, \$3200 US dollars, 26,420 dirhams, 12,289 riyals, bonds worth more than Rs 2400, and deposit slips from the possession of the suspects.

Meanwhile, the messages related to foreign currency - referring hundi - were found from two mobile phones recovered from the arrested accused.

The arrested accused - identified Abdul Ahad, Shehzad Javed - were allegedly doing business of hawala hundi, against whom a case has been registered.

LESCO recovers Rs 31.77m from 977 defaulters on 4th day of recovery campaign

LAHORE (APP): On the fourth day of the recovery campaign, Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), with the help of tehsildars (recovery), recovered a total of Rs 31.77 million from 977 chronic defaulters, here on Saturday.

According to a LESCO spokesman, Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal, with the help of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun, recovered outstanding dues of Rs 4.43 million from 81 defaulters in Northern Circle, and Rs 4 million from 162 defaulters in Eastern Circle, respectively.

Similarly, LESCO Manager (Material Disposal) Engineer Anwar Wattoo, along with Tehsildar Model Town Rana Arsal and Tehsildar Cantt Sajjad Qureshi, recovered Rs 5.23 million from 110 defaulters in Central Circle and Rs 3.15 million from 88 defaulters in South Circle, while Manager (Technical) Engineer Muhammad Farooq, with the help of Tehsildar Nankana Sahib

Muhammad Iqbal Rasheed and Tehsildar Sheikhpura Muhammad Aslam Gujjar, recovered Rs 1.49 from 41 defaulters in Nankana Circle and Rs 3.66 million from 88 defaulters in Sheikhpura Circle.

The spokesman said that LESCO Manager E&S (PMU) Engineer Abbas Ali, in collaboration with Naib Tehsildar Kasur and Okara Mirza Zahid Baig recovered outstanding dues of Rs 2.17 million from 128 defaulters in Okara Circle and Rs 7.64 million from 279 defaulters in Kasur Circle.

LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider said that the company is facing loss due to chronic defaulters, and vowed to continue action against them.

Lahore Divisional Commissioner had assigned additional charge of Tehsildar Recovery to relevant tehsildars, while LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider had also been designated four senior officers to assist them in the dues recovery from defaulters.

'No agreements' signed during Kim visit: Kremlin

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin said that no agreements had been signed during North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's ongoing visit to Russia, amid Western concern that the two isolated countries could be preparing an arms deal.

Kim is on a rare trip out of his reclusive country in the Russian Far East, where he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier this week.

Moscow is believed to be interested in buying North Korean ammunition to continue fighting in Ukraine, while Pyongyang wants Russia's help to develop its missile programme. Western countries have warned Russia and North Korea against striking an arms deal, which would defy sanctions on Pyongyang.

"No agreements were signed and there was no plan to sign any," Kremlin

spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

After meeting Kim on Wednesday, Putin said he saw "possibilities" for military cooperation.

As part of his extended tour of the Russian Far East, Kim visited a Russian military aviation factory Friday in Komsomolsk-on-Amur, a key Russian engineering hub, Moscow said.

He saw the production of Russia's Sukhoi Su-35 and Su-57 fighter aircraft and watched a demonstration flight of an Su-35.

"We see the potential for cooperation both in the field of aircraft manufacturing and in other industries," said Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov after accompanying Kim around the factories.

"This is especially important for achieving the tasks facing our countries to achieve technological sovereignty," said

Manturov, also the trade and industry minister.

Russia has said that Kim will continue his visit for several more days, without giving a specific time frame.

A top Japanese government official said on Friday that Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was willing to meet Kim "without preconditions".

Kishida had previously said he was ready to hold talks with Kim, but the repeated invitation comes as regional concerns around the Putin talks grow.

"We would like to hold high-level discussions under direct control of the prime minister to achieve a summit meeting as soon as possible," Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

Kishida "has been expressing his determination to directly face" Kim at "any time and without preconditions", Matsuno said.



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un and Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu inspect Russian military aircraft and missiles put on display at Knevichi aerodrome near Vladivostok in the Primorsky region, Russia.

North Korea's Kim views Russian nuclear capable bombers, hypersonic missiles

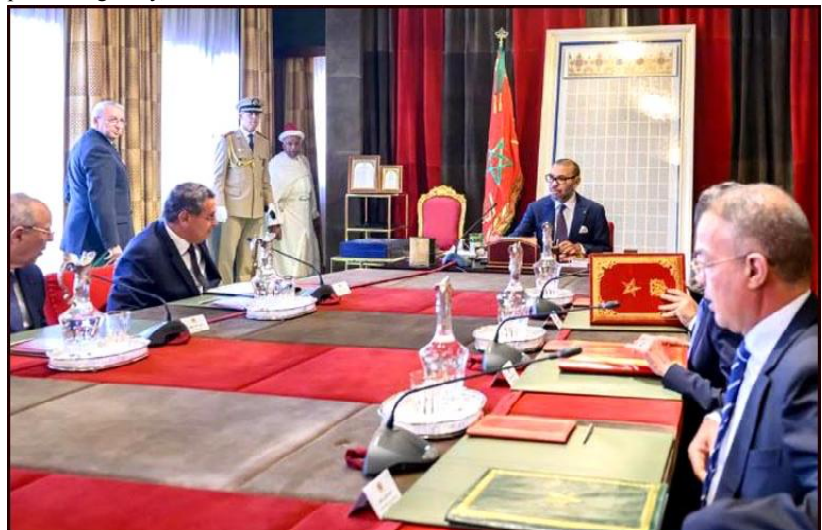
Monitoring Desk
RUSSIA: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected Russian nuclear-capable strategic bombers, hypersonic missiles and warships on Saturday, accompanied by President Vladimir Putin's defence minister. A smiling Kim was greeted in Russia's Knevichi airfield, about 50 km (30) miles from the Pacific city of Vladivostok, by Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who saluted Kim. The North Korean leader then inspected a guard of honour.

The United States and South Korea fear the revival of Moscow's friendship with Pyongyang could give Kim access to some of Russia's sensitive missile and other technology while helping arm Russia in its war in Ukraine.

Shoigu showed Kim Russia's strategic bombers - the Tu-160, Tu-95 and Tu-22M3 - which are capable of carrying nuclear weapons and form the backbone of Russia's nuclear air attack force, Russia's defence ministry said.

"It can fly from Moscow to Japan and then back again," Shoigu told Kim of one aircraft. Kim was shown asking about how the missiles were fired from the aircraft, at times nod-

ding and smiling. Shoigu showed him the MiG-31I supersonic interceptor aircraft equipped with "Kinzhal" hypersonic missiles. The Kinzhal, or dagger, is an air-launched ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear or conventional warheads. It has a reported range of 1,500 to 2,000 km (930-1,240 miles) while carrying a payload of 480 kg (1,100 pounds). It may travel at up to 10 times the speed of sound (12,000 kph, 7,700 mph). After the aircraft and missiles, Kim inspected the warship of Russia's Pacific fleet in Vladivostok, where he was due to watch a demonstration by the Russian navy.



Morocco's King Mohammed VI chairs a meeting at the Royal Palace in Rabat, following a powerful earthquake in Morocco.

France agrees to work with Italy on stemming migrant crisis

Monitoring Desk
LAMPEDUSA: France agreed on Friday to work with Italy to get European Union support to stem a migrant crisis that has overwhelmed the Italian island of Lampedusa.

The island, situated in the Mediterranean between Tunisia, Malta and the larger Italian island of Sicily, has become a first port of call for many migrants seeking to enter the EU.

Around 7,000 have landed there this week, more than the island's permanent population, overwhelming its ability to respond.

French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters: "I want to say very sincerely to all our Italian friends that I believe it is the responsibility of the European Union, the entire European Union, to stand

by Italy."

His interior minister, Gerald Darmanin, tweeted that he had spoken to his Italian counterpart, adding: "We agreed to work together within the European Union in the coming hours to strongly reinforce the prevention of immigrant departures and the fight against people traffickers."

The arrivals are a political problem for Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's right-wing government, which has pledged to control immigration. Nearly 126,000 have been reported so far this year, almost double the figure by the same date in 2022.

Other right-wing politicians have picked up on the issue, with Marion Marechal, niece of French far-right leader Marine Le Pen, visiting Lampedusa on Friday.

Mexico extradites son of drug cartel kingpin 'El Chapo' to US

Monitoring Desk
COLORADO: Mexico on Friday extradited the son of Sinaloa Cartel kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman to the United States to face narcotics charges. US Attorney General Merrick Garland said.

Ovidio Guzman Lopez, also known as "El Raton" or "The Mouse," was indicted earlier this year on drug trafficking charges linked to the fentanyl crisis plaguing the United States.

His father was convicted in 2019 of running what was believed to be the world's biggest narcotics syndicate and is serving life in a supermax prison in the state of Colorado.

Garland hailed the extradition as "the most recent step in the Justice Department's effort to attack every aspect of the cartel's operations."

Beijing sanctions two US defence companies over Taiwan arms sales

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Beijing sanctioned on Friday two US defence companies, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, over their roles in supplying arms to Taiwan. The United States Congress, under the Taiwan Relations Act, requires the supply of weapons to the self-governing democracy for its defence.

President Joe Biden's administration has recently announced a slew of arms sales to the island.

"Despite China's firm opposition, the US government is determined to provide weapons to Taiwan... seriously harming China's

sovereignty and security interests, and going further and further on the wrong and dangerous road of arming Taiwan," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said at a regular press briefing.

She said that Lockheed Martin was the prime contractor in US arms sales to Taiwan that took place on August 24, and that Northrop Grumman had taken part in sales "many times".

"According to the Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law of the PRC, China has decided to impose sanctions on the above two US military companies."

Ukrainian minister vows more drone strikes on Russian ships

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine will be able to conduct more attacks on Russian ships, a Ukrainian minister who has played a key role in building the country's drone industry told Reuters after a recent series of sea raids.

"There will be more drones, more attacks, and fewer Russian ships. That's for sure," Digital Transformation minister Mykhailo Fedorov said in an interview on Friday, answering a question about recent attacks near Crimea. This week, Ukraine has made several attacks using sea drones and missiles on Russia's Black Sea.

EU faces deadline on extending Ukrainian grain ban as countries threaten to pass their own

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The European Union faced a Friday deadline to decide whether to extend a ban on Ukrainian food from five nearby countries that have complained that an influx of agricultural products from the war-torn nation has hurt their farmers.

Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria still allow grain and other Ukrainian food to pass through on the way to parts of the world in need.

The five EU members have said food coming from Ukraine has gotten stuck within their borders, creating a glut that has driven down prices for local farmers and hurt their livelihoods. The issue has threatened European unity on supporting Ukraine as it fights Russia's invasion.

The leaders of Poland and Hungary have called for a renewal of the import ban on Ukrainian agricul-

tural products, threatening to adopt their own if the EU doesn't act.

"For the moment, it seems that the bureaucrats in Brussels don't want to extend it," Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said in a Friday radio interview. "If they don't extend it by today at midnight, then several countries banding together in international cooperation — the Romanians, the Poles, the Hungarians and the Slovaks — are going to extend the import ban on a national level."

Earlier this week, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said that if the ban wasn't renewed, "we will do it ourselves because we cannot allow for a deregulation of the market." Government officials reiterated that Friday. Poland's governing Law and Justice party is trying to attract farmers' votes in an Oct. 15 parliamentary election.

Ukraine sea drone damages small Russian missile ship Kyiv source

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A Ukrainian sea drone damaged a small Russian missile ship off occupied Crimea, a Ukrainian intelligence source said on Friday, contradicting a Russian account that said the attack was repelled.

Kyiv, which is trying to ramp up strikes on Russia in the Black Sea region, has said its attacks this week destroyed a Russian air defence system in western Crimea, badly damaged two naval vessels and struck two patrol ships.

The Ukrainian source told Reuters that another attack with a sea drone hit the rear right part of Russia's "Samum" small missile ship on Thursday at the entrance to Crimea's Sevastopol Bay and inflicted "significant damage".



A police motorcycle burns during a protest over the anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death, in Tehran, Iran.

Hurricane Lee nears New England, Canada

Monitoring Desk
CANADA: After churning for more than a week over the Atlantic Ocean, Hurricane Lee closed in on New England and Atlantic Canada on Saturday, and is likely to make landfall as a tropical storm with drenching rains, powerful winds and a dangerous storm surge.

The Canadian Hurricane Center projected Lee would make landfall in Nova Scotia some time after 3 p.m. ADT (1800 GMT) or perhaps later in New Brunswick with winds below hurricane force.

The potential path could take the storm right into the Bay of Fundy, which separates the two

provinces and has one of the highest tides in the world, with the difference between high and low tide as much as 12 meters (39 feet), or 16 meters at the head of the bay.

Bands from the storm could still be over the bay during a high tide early Sunday morning.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center issued a tropical storm warning for hundreds of miles of coastline from Massachusetts to Nova Scotia, affecting some 9 million people.

Surges of 1 to 3 feet (30 to 90 cm) are expected for much of New England, according to the National Hurricane Center.

India approves purchase of defence equipment worth \$5.4 bln

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's Defence Acquisition Council on Friday approved nine proposals to buy defence equipment worth a combined 450 billion rupees (\$5.4 billion) from domestic vendors, a government statement said. The Defence Acquisition Council, the top government body for capital acquisition approvals for the Indian military, approved procurement of survey vessels for the navy, plus 12 Su-30 aircraft and Dhruvastra short-range air-to-surface missile for the air force.

Climate panel backs moratorium on tech to dim Sun

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Former political leaders and heads of international organisations called on Thursday for national moratoriums on deploying technologies to slow global warming by dimming the impact of the Sun.

The Climate Over-shoot Commission said research and experiments into so-called solar radiation modification (SRM) should move forward, but only under international supervision and in jurisdictions with strong environmental safeguards.

Currently, there is no formal global governance for the development or deployment of such technologies, and an incomplete understanding of the risks they carry.

"We need a moratorium," commission member Laurence Tubiana, head of the European Climate Foundation and an architect of the Paris Agreement, said. "We know the risks — this is not a silver bullet solution." The failure to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that drive global heating has led to suggestions that solar geoengineering

Sweden's Carl XVI Gustaf celebrates 50 years as king

Monitoring Desk
STOCKHOLM: Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf celebrated 50 years on the throne on Friday with ceremonies throughout the capital, including gun salutes, speeches and a lavish dinner with other heads of state.

Friday is the culmination of a four-day celebration and the public was invited to the Stockholm palace courtyard to congratulate the 77-year-old king, the Nordic country's longest-sitting monarch. "I think it's important to honour our king, he has had 50 years on the throne today," Charlotta Gillersten, 59, a Stockholm resident.

G77+China summit seeks 'new economic world order'

Monitoring Desk
HAVANA: The G77+China, a group of developing and emerging countries representing 80 per cent of the global population, gathers on Friday in Cuba seeking to promote a "new economic world order" amid warnings of growing polarisation. United Nations chief Antonio Guterres, who arrived on the island on Thursday, will join some 30 heads of state and government from Africa, Asia and Latin America at the two-day summit in Havana.

The meeting should conclude on Saturday with a statement underscoring "the right to development

in an increasingly exclusive, unfair, unjust and plundering international order," the foreign minister of host Cuba, Bruno Rodriguez, told reporters on Wednesday.

A draft of the closing statement underlines the many obstacles facing developing nations, and includes "a call for the establishment of a new economic world order," he said.

The bloc was established by 77 countries of the global South in 1964 "to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity."

UN launches \$71m urgent appeal for Libya flood victims

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: The United Nations is urgently seeking more than \$71 million to assist those most in need after deadly flash floods swept Libya over the weekend.

Hurricane-strength Storm Daniel slammed into Libya on September 10, killing at least 4,000 people, with thousands more still missing.

In a flash appeal on Thursday, the UN humanitarian agency OCHA said it expects the toll to rise.

The city of Derna, one of the hardest-hit locations, was reduced to a wasteland after two upstream dams burst on Sunday.

OCHA said estimates suggest 30 per cent of the city may have disappeared and with most roads collapsed local authorities are calling for a sea corridor to be established for relief and evacuations.

The entire seaside town of Sousse meanwhile remains submerged.

Calling the situation "catastrophic", OCHA said its humanitarian partners need \$71.4m to respond to the "most urgent needs of 250,000 people targeted out of the 884,000 people estimated to be in need".

On Wednesday, UN OCHA head Martin Griffiths had announced an immediate emergency fund of \$10m. "Entire neighbourhoods have been wiped off the map. Whole families, taken by surprise, were swept away in the deluge of water," he said in a statement.

Emergency teams on Friday kept up their search for the thousands still posted as missing from the tsunami-sized flash flood that swept the Libyan port city of Derna. A journalist in Derna said central neighbourhoods on either side of the river, which normally dries up at this time of year, looked as if a steam roller had passed through, uprooting trees and buildings and hurling vehicles onto the port's breakwaters.

US, UK issue Iran sanctions ahead of anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The U.S. and Britain on Friday imposed sanctions on Iran ahead of the one-year anniversary of the death of Kurdish Iranian woman Mahsa Amini whilst in Iran's morality police custody, which sparked months of anti-government protests that faced an often violent crackdown.

Amini, 22, died on Sept. 16 last year after being arrested for allegedly flouting the Islamic Republic's mandatory dress code. Her death sparked months of anti-government protests that marked the biggest show of opposition to Iranian authorities in years. Iranian security forces have been deployed in her hometown in anticipation of unrest this weekend.

The U.S. States and Britain, along with the European Union, have announced multiple rounds of sanctions against Iran, citing the widespread and often violent crackdown on protests after the death of Amini.

"Mahsa's tragic and senseless death in the custody of Iran's so-called 'Morality Police' sparked demonstrations across Iran

that were met with un-speakable violence, mass arrests, systemic internet disruptions and censorship by the Iranian regime," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

"We will continue to take appropriate action, alongside our international partners, to hold accountable those who suppress Iranians' exercise of human rights," he said, adding that Canada, Australia, and other partners were also imposing sanctions this week. The U.S. Treasury Department in a separate statement said it imposed sanctions on more than two dozen people and entities it said were connected to Iran's "violent suppression" of protests in the wake of Amini's death its crack down on dissenting voices and restrictions to internet.

The action targets 29 people and groups, including 18 key members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Iran's Law Enforcement Forces (LEF), as well as the head of Iran's Prisons Organizations, the department said. They also target officials linked to Iran's internet blockade and several media outlets.

Romania plan to boost Ukraine grain transport achievable

Monitoring Desk
BUCHAREST: Romania's plan to double the monthly transit capacity for Ukrainian grain through its Constanta port to four million metric tons in the coming months remains achievable, the country's Transport Minister Sorin Grindeanu said on Friday.

Constanta on the Black Sea has become Kyiv's largest alternative export route, with grains arriving by road, rail or barge across the Danube.

Ukraine, one of the world's biggest grain exporters, has already exported more grain via Constanta than it did in 2022, though volumes have fallen recently as Russian attacks on its Danube river ports prompt Ukrainian exporters to turn to road and rail routes.

Russia, which abandoned a deal that lifted a de facto Russian blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports in mid-July, has since repeatedly

struck Ukrainian river ports that lie across the Danube from European Union and NATO member Romania.

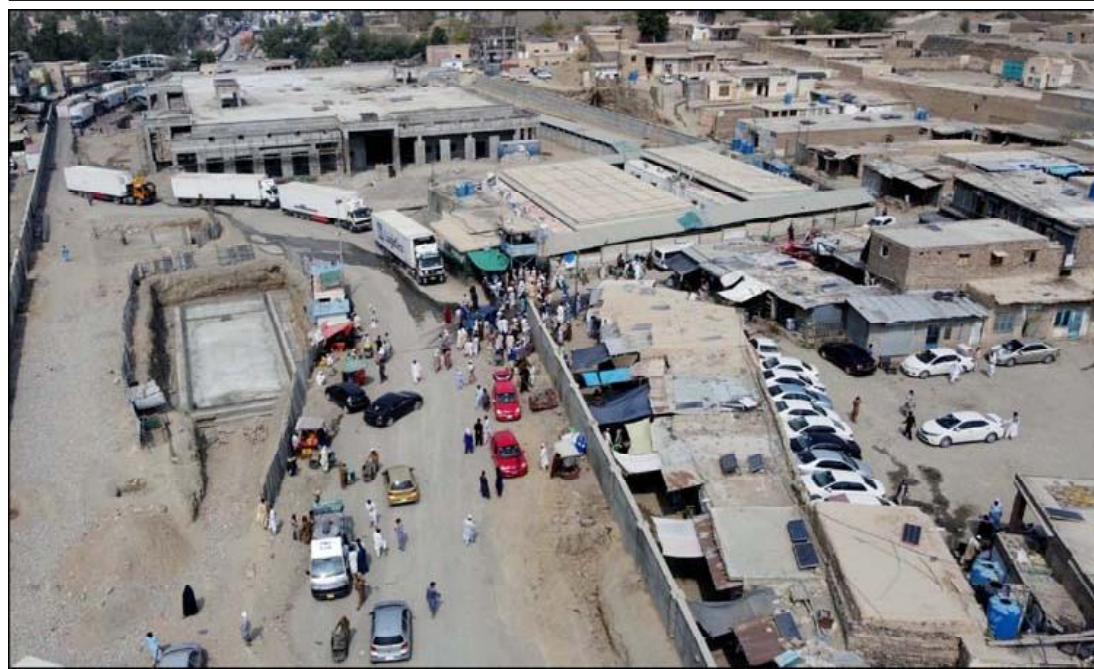
"The level of transit we want to reach in the coming months is four million tons and such a thing is possible," Grindeanu said after meeting with officials from Ukraine, Moldova, the European Commission and the United States State Department.

He said measures that will boost capacity included a staff increase to ease the passage of vessels into the Danube's Sulina canal and an EU-funded project to make the canal navigable round the clock, which should be finished by November. The Sulina Canal goes to the port of Constanta on the Black Sea.

Grindeanu said the ship-to-ship transfer of grains in Constanta would also help to increase capacity by 500,000 tons monthly.



Libyan resident Saad Rajab al-Hassi and his children are seen outside their destroyed house, in the aftermath of the floods in Susah.



LANDIKOTAL: View of business activities seen reopened at Torkham border after closed due to an exchange of gunfire between Afghan and Pakistani forces, at Torkham Border in Landikotal.

Aneeq pledges to take up issue of private hajj organizers with Saudi govt

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed has vowed to take up the issues of the private Hajj organizers with the Saudi government.

While addressing the Sindh Hajj Workshop organized by the Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan at a local hotel here, he said that the Saudi Hajj Minister, during his recent visit to Pakistan, had verbally said that there was an issue managing Pakistani Hajj Operators and their number would be decreased

from 901 to 200 or 250. He said that the Saudi Minister could have raised the reduction issue due to internal matters.

He said that they had not received any official letter from the Saudi government regarding the reduction of the private hajj operators so far and hoped that the matter would be resolved before

Aneeq said, 'I am going to Saudi Arabia tomorrow and will take this issue with the Hajj Minister.' The Minister said that he wanted to provide the best facilities to the pilgrims

during the Hajj of 2024 and would make all-out efforts for them.

Earlier, the Central Chairman of the Private Hajj Operators of Pakistan, Jamal Khan Tarakai, raised the issue of the reduction of private hajj operators with the Interim Minister and urged him to take it up with the Saudi Hajj Minister during his visit and get it resolved.

The Interim Minister, in the morning, visited Jamia e Rashid. Later, he paid a visit to Jamia e Naeemia and met Mufti Munibur Rehman.



ISLAMABAD: DG National Vocational & Technical Training Commission Dr. Khalid Mehmood meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Polio to be rooted out from Pakistan by end of 2023: Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan has said that health ministry was providing and utilizing all resources to make Pakistan polio-free country by end of 2023.

Talking to a private news channel on Saturday, he said that "Polio-free Pakistan" was a national goal which is now close to our mission of ending polio.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the caretaker government was making all out efforts to root out the polio virus from the country and these endeavors will produce positive results. The citizens need extend full cooperation with polio teams for the complete eradication of the crippling

disease from the country, he added. "The Health Ministry has been actively involved in the Polio Programme in the past few months and we will ensure that the focus on polio remains unwavering. We are regularly holding awareness drives and religious workshops in which we are collectively working with religious scholars to build community trust and convey vaccine safety and efficacy in communities around Pakistan," he added.

The minister also called upon the federal, provincial and district administrations to address the challenges of persistently missed children and also encourage the people by raising awareness.



QUETTA: Central President Government Teachers Association Haji Habibur Rehman Mardanzai, Muhammad Younis Kakar, Gul Baran Hassani photographed with Caretaker Provincial Education Minister Qadir Bakhsh after a meeting

Grand protest sit-in by NP in Turbat against restrictions on border trade activities

Jan Buledi, Maulana Hidayat and other leaders of different parties demand legal status for border trade

QUETTA: The grand protest dharna was staged and a rally was taken out by National Party against the alleged restrictions made on the border trade and other related activities in Pak-Iran bordering areas on Saturday. The protest sit-in and rally was actually against the ban on Iranian petrol and diesel and other border trade in which the leaders and workers of National Party and other parties and traders organizations participated in large number. Prominent among them the Secretary General of NP, Jan Muhammad Buledi and other party leaders.

The protest gathering was also joined by the Haq Do Tehreek leader, Maulana Hidayat Rehman as well

as leaders and representatives of the Balochistan National Party, Pakistan Peoples party, JUI, BNP-Awami, Kech border alliance, Border Trade Union, Border Tabta Committee, Kech Bar Association, Anjuman Tajran and others.

The plea of NP was that livelihood of the people living in bordering areas is associated with the border trade. But, the opportunities of border trade are being closed, which is uncalled for, the NP leaders charged.

The participants of dharna and rally were carrying out the placards and banners inscribed with the slogans against closure of the border trade.

trade at the boarder and charged that they are not going to accept the closure of business at the border. They said that protest movement is not just for single day, rather it would remain continued in future.

Meanwhile, a resolution adopted on the occasion slammed the ban on border trade activities and termed it a conspiracy against people of the province. The resolution demanded of the federal government and other concerned authorities to restore the border trade.

It was stated that the border trade is national need of our people with which their livelihood is linked while on the other hand, it is being dubbed as smuggling.

PM takes notice of Pakistan's 'participation' in Miss Universe pageant

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has taken action regarding an allegedly unauthorized beauty contest that has selected a contestant in the upcoming Miss Universe pageant.

The prime minister has directed the Foreign Office to contact the UAE government in response to this matter.

Previously, Kakar had instructed the Intelligence Bureau (IB) to conduct an

investigation into the organization responsible for arranging the beauty contest and using Pakistan's name in connection with the Miss Universe pageant.

The Intelligence Bureau has since submitted its report to the PM.

Earlier, caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi had clarified on X, formerly Twitter, that the government and state of Pakistan were represented by state and government institutions.

Secretary RTA says: Crackdown continues against illegal rickshaws in Quetta

QUETTA: The Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA), Waheed Sharif Umrani has stated that the crackdown is continued against the illegal and unauthorized rickshaws in Quetta city on daily basis.

The Secretary RTA was speaking on occasion of the inspection of the illegal rickshaws on Spinnery road, CPEC Chowk on Saturday.

During the action, give illegal rickshaws were impounded and 24 drivers were challaned on running three wheelers without

valid driving license. Also present on the occasion were the Superintendent of RTA, Hameedullah Muhammad Hassani, officials of RTA and Traffic Police.

The Secretary RTA said that the illegal rickshaws are being impounded with support of Quetta district police and Traffic police. He directed the rickshaw drivers to keep the original documents including permit and driving license with them while riding rickshaws, otherwise legal action would be taken against them.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed talking to media persons after meeting with the Mufti Muneeb ur Rehman and Ulema at Jamia-e-Naimia

Indian minister dismisses Pak-India bilateral series till resolution of border issues

NEW DELHI: Indian Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has ended all hopes of a bilateral series between India and Pakistan, emphasizing that any such event hinges on resolving border issues among the neighbouring countries.

Cricketing ties between the two arch-rivals have remained suspended in the wake of ongoing diplomatic tensions, restricting their encounters to fixtures backed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

Thakur, the former head of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), expressed his views in an interview with Indian media, sharing the BCCI had already made a firm decision in the past not to engage in bilateral matches with Pakistan until border relations stabilise.

"I understand that this is the sentiment of every ordinary citizen of the country," he said. It should be noted that in a recent Asia Cup match, Pakistan lost the second match against India by 228 runs. Later, the Green Shirts faced a defeat against Sri Lanka in the same tournament, which led to the national team's exit with its dreams to reach the finals shattered during a decisive and thrilling last over on Thursday.

Meanwhile, owing to their spectacular form in One Day Internationals (ODIs), India has jumped ahead of Pakistan in the ICC ODI team rankings. Pakistan, who were previously ranked number one, have slipped to number three in the rankings while the Blues have jumped to number two.

India is ranked two with 116 ratings and 4,516 points while Pakistan is at third with 115 ratings and 3,102 points.



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan Bar Council Khalid Ahmed Panzezi, Mir Attaullah Lango, Abdullah Kakar and Fakh Khan photographed with senior judge of Supreme Court of Pakistan Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail

FIA foils attempt of smuggling thousands of Saudi Riyal

QUETTA: The Federal Investigating Agency (FIA) foiled an attempt of smuggling some 18,000 Saudi Riyal to Dubai from the Quetta International Airport on Saturday.

According to the FIA sources, a passenger was attempting to carry 18,000 Saudi Riyal to Dubai by a private airlines when he was spotted during the search at Quetta airport.

The passenger accused of smuggling huge Saudi currency abroad was arrested and sent to FIA thana for further investigation.

The Saudi currency was seized and further investigations are in progress.

Imran moves IHC for bail in cypher case

ISLAMABAD (INP) Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Saturday seeking bail in the missing cypher case, two days after a special court rejected his bail plea.

The former prime minister filed an application through his lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar, requesting the court to release him on bail. Imran is currently in Attock Jail.

The PTI chief, in his petition, stated that the prosecution filed a malicious and fabricated case.

Muhammad Shabbir wins 27th Chief of Naval Staff Open Golf Championship

KARACHI: Muhammad Shabbir won the title of 27th Chief of the Naval Staff Open Golf Championship. The Closing and prize distribution ceremony of Championship was held at Karachi Golf Club (KGC), Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi at closing ceremony of 27th CNS Open Gold Championship 2023

The four day long Golf championship held from 13-16 September has become a major event in golfing circles since 1995. The categories in the championship included professionals, amateurs, veterans, ladies and juniors. 72 holes matches were played for professionals, 54 holes for amateurs, 36 holes for KGC professionals, 18 holes for seniors and ladies whereas 9 holes matches were contested among juniors category 'A' and 'B' and veterans. The event continues to be the highest prize money golf event of the country.

While speaking at the ceremony, Chief of the Naval Staff commended the untiring efforts of KGC staff and organizers for seamless conduct of the championship and congratulated the winners for their remarkable success. Naval Chief lauded the high standards of the game that provided exciting and qual-

ity entertainment to the participants. He also appreciated the sponsors in supporting the game of golf and conduct of the championship. The four day long Golf championship held from 13-16 September has become a major event in golfing circles since 1995. The categories in the championship included professionals, amateurs, veterans, ladies and juniors. 72 holes matches were played for professionals, 54 holes for amateurs, 36 holes for KGC professionals, 18 holes for seniors and ladies whereas 9 holes matches were contested among juniors category 'A' and 'B' and veterans. The event continues to be the highest prize money golf event of the country.

He lamented that the government was seeking approval from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) even to allow struggling consumers to pay their hefty bills in installments, asserting that the nation's sovereignty had been compromised at the hands of international lending agencies and foreign powers.

The JI chief criticized the former government for implementing power generation projects solely for political gain, disregarding their cost implications on the financially vulnerable. He questioned the rationale behind choosing imported

Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan says: Govt. to extend full support for prompt implementation on proposed projects of NVTTC

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NVTTC) is playing an effective role in imparting training and skills to youth in different sectors.

He said that the interim provincial government would extend every possible support for implementation of the proposed projects of the NVTTC in the province.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to the Director General of NVTTC, Dr. Khalid Mehmood in Islamabad on Saturday.

During the course of meeting, different projects of the NVTTC being executed in the province were discussed.

In addition to this, the proposed projects of the Commission were also discussed during the meeting.

The caretaker Chief

Minister said that it is an important need of the hour to provide jobs to youth of the province, make them economically independent by imparting modern training to them in different sectors.

He on the occasion expressed satisfaction over functioning of the NVTTC and said that prospects of technical training for youth would be increased with mutual cooperation of the NVTTC and provincial government.

Moreover, whole-

hearted steps are being taken to provide equal opportunities of development and employments to youth of the province at the national level thanks to the personal interest and attention of the caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar.

He hoped that it would be easier to get the desired goals with close coordination between the federal and provincial government institutions established for the technical training.



ISLAMABAD: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq addressing National Energy Conference organized by JI Islamabad

Sirajul Haq says: Govt needs to reconsider its costly agreements with IPPs

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Siraj-ul-Haq has urged the government to reconsider its agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and, if necessary, take the matter to the international court of justice in the event of any hindrances.

While addressing the "National Energy Conference" in Islamabad on Saturday, he also declared the JI's intention to approach the Supreme Court to challenge these costly agreements.

The conference organized by JI was attended by power sector experts, economists, and engineers. They highlighted challenges and forwarded recommendations.

Sirajul Haq emphasized the urgent need to complete the IP Gas Pipe-

line and expressed disappointment over the government's inability to resist external pressures, particularly from the United States, which have impeded the import of affordable fuel from neighboring countries.

He lamented that the government was seeking approval from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) even to allow struggling consumers to pay their hefty bills in installments, asserting that the nation's sovereignty had been compromised at the hands of international lending agencies and foreign powers.

The JI chief criticized the former government for implementing power generation projects solely for political gain, disregarding their cost implications on the financially vulnerable. He questioned the rationale behind choosing imported

Govt determined to rationalize power sector: PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said the accountability system is necessary for a functional democracy to keep a vigil on public office-holders, but any accountability process should not paralyse the system. In an interview with a private news channel, he stressed the need to synchronize the functions of different layers of accountability and to define terms of reference for their powers. Calling the NAB law amendments made by the previous parliament and struck down by the Supreme Court a "good legislation", he said the government would decide its future course of action on the basis of law department's recommendations.

About the crackdown against power theft and smuggling, the Prime Minister said a whole of government approach has been adopted with the provinces' collaboration and the policy is bringing in positive outcomes.



Muhammad Shabbir received the winner's trophy from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi at closing ceremony of 27th CNS Open Gold Championship 2023

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KARACHI: Muhammad Shabbir won the title of 27th Chief of the Naval Staff Open Golf Championship. The Closing and prize distribution ceremony of Championship was held at Karachi Golf Club (KGC), Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi at closing ceremony of 27th CNS Open Gold Championship 2023

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While speaking at the ceremony, Chief of the Naval Staff commended the untiring efforts of KGC staff and organizers for seamless conduct of the championship and congratulated the winners for their remarkable success. Naval Chief lauded the high standards of the game that provided exciting and qual-

ity entertainment to the participants. He also appreciated the sponsors in supporting the game of golf and conduct of the championship. The four day long Golf championship held from 13-16 September has become a major event in golfing circles since 1995. The categories in the championship included professionals, amateurs, veterans, ladies and juniors. 72 holes matches were played for professionals, 54 holes for amateurs, 36 holes for KGC professionals, 18 holes for seniors and ladies whereas 9 holes matches were contested among juniors category 'A' and 'B' and veterans. The event continues to be the highest prize money golf event of the country.