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Shutter down strike observed against increase in electricity tariffs, highest inflation in Quetta, other parts

Independent Report
QUETTA: Shutter down strike was observed against the record increase in tariffs of electricity and overall inflation in Quetta and different other parts of the province on Saturday.

The call for shutter down was given by the Jama'at-e-Islami, which was also endorsed by the traders organizations, different lawyers bodies and bar councils besides social activists.

The shops and business concerns remained closed on Jinnah road, Liaquat bazaar, Shahrah-e-Iqbal, Majid road, Abdul Sattar road and different parts of the provincial me-

tropolis. The flow of traffic also remained below the normal.

The Jama'at-e-Islami leaders and the traders organizations expressed deep concern over the increasing tariffs of electricity and rates of petrol and petroleum prices. They said that the increase in the electricity tariffs and price of the petrol and diesel have been causing inflation in the country while the government and its concerned departments have miserably failed to grip it.

They demanded of the government to immediately reduce the tariffs of electricity and rate of other daily used items particularly the

petrol and diesel.

ISLAMABAD: The public took to the streets while thousands of traders across the country shuttered their shops on Saturday to register protests against soaring energy and fuel bills stirring widespread discontent ahead of national elections.

The recent hike in electricity bills further frustrated the consumers and traders who are already, heavily burdened by the soaring inflation in the country. Despite the protests and refusal of the public to pay hiked bills, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has ruled out any possibility of immedi-

ate relief. He has, instead, said there is no option for consumers but to pay their bills, while the interim government tries to negotiate with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the issue.

"The electricity bills will need to be paid and IMF conditions will be implemented," Kakar said.

Meanwhile, the public and traders have joined the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) in supporting its call for a shutter-down strike during which small and large commercial shops and businesses have been closed in cities including Karachi, Peshawar, Sargodha and Sheikhpura, among others.



QUETTA: View of business activities seen closed during the shutter down strike called by trader community against inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information & Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Federal Secretary Information & Broadcasting and Principal Information Officer were also present during the meeting

FM Jalil Abbas, foreign envoys discuss issues of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani was called on by Turkish Ambassador Dr Mehmet Paçacı and Kuwait Ambassador Nassar Abdulrahman Almutairi and discussed with him matters of mutual interest.

Taking to Dr Mehmet, the caretaker foreign minister reviewed Pakistan-Turkiye ties and reaffirmed commitment to further strengthen cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. He expressed satisfac-

tion at the convergence of views on all major regional and global issues.

Meanwhile, during his meeting with Ambassador Nassar, the interim foreign minister took up salient aspects of bilateral cooperation to further strengthen relations between Pakistan and Kuwait.

He aims to improve the country's relations with the Middle Eastern countries to maintain better relations with the Muslim world.

Caretaker CM inquires about health Sarfraz Domki in Dubai

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inquired about health of his



cousin and former Minister, Sardar Sarfraz Khan Domki admitted in a private hospital of Dubai.

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inquired about his health condition and prayed for his early complete recovery from the illness.

It may be mentioned here that caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan reached Dubai the other day.

Meeting chaired by Commissioner decides: Comprehensive plan to be prepared for cleanliness, encroachments, price control & tree plantation

Independent Report
QUETTA: A comprehensive plan would be prepared by district administration and Metropolitan Corporation for ensuring removal of encroachments, cleanliness, control of the prices and tree plantation in Quetta city.

The decision to this effect was made during a meeting chaired by the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat here on Saturday.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Saad Bin Asad, Administrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, Abdul Jabbar Baloch and officers of other concerned departments. The meeting reviewed

the situation of encroachments, price control and tree plantation in Quetta city. It was also decided to take effective steps by the concerned departments with mutual understanding and cooperation to resolve the civic issues.

In this regard, the public hardships would also be mitigated, it was decided further.

The general public was also urged to inform the administration to inform about the issues of cleanliness through social media.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner sought cooperation of all stakeholders for improvement of Quetta city and restoration of its traditional beauty.

PM to pay three-day official visit to Kenya from Monday

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will pay a three-day official visit to Nairobi, Kenya from Monday to participate in the Africa Climate Summit.

According to Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will accompany the Prime Minister in the visit. The visit is taking place at the invitation of President William Ruto of Kenya. At the Summit, the Prime Minister will articulate Pakistan's perspective on the global climate crisis and highlight our national efforts to rebuild in a climate-resilient manner after last year's devastating floods.

PTI chief's bail plea in cipher case adjourned till Sept 4

ISLAMABAD (INP): The hearing on PTI chairman's bail application in the cipher case was adjourned till September 4.

Judge of the court established under Special Secrets Act Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain conducted hearing on PTI chairman's bail application in the cipher case.

According to sources, Babar Awan and Salman Safdar, the lawyers of PTI chairman, advanced arguments on the bail application. Salman Safdar said the lawyers of PTI chairman should not be obstructed in Attock Jail.

Lawyers had to walk one and a half kilometers every time they went to Attock Jail. A petition has been filed against the trial in Attock Jail.

During the hearing, Shah Mahmood Qureshi's lawyer Ali Bukhari also appeared in the court and said that he would like to present arguments on his client's bail application today.

Murtaza Solangi calls on Caretaker PM; briefs over functioning of his ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Saturday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Secretary Information and Broadcasting Zahoore Ahmed and Principal Information Officer Muhammad Asim Khichi were also present during the meeting. PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The minister apprised the prime minister of the matters related to his ministry.

During the meeting, they also deliberated upon the proposed strategy for

the effective presentation of Pakistan's positive narrative at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNG-78) session.

Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Saturday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

During the meeting, the minister apprised the prime minister of the matters pertaining to his ministry, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Proposed measures to promote Pakistani art and culture were also discussed during the meeting.

Death anniversary of Sardar Attaullah Mengal observed: Akhtar Mengal calls for running movement for recovery of missing persons in democratic manner

Political leaders pay rich tributes to Sardar Attaullah Mengal

Independent Report

QUETTA: The President Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sardar Akhtar Mengal has emphasized that all political parties of Balochistan would have to run a campaign on single point for recovery of the missing persons. The campaign would have to be launched for recovery of the missing persons in democratic manner.

Sardar Akhtar Mengal stressed this while address-

ing public gathering organized by BNP to mark 2nd death anniversary of Sardar Akhtar Mengal, at the Railway Hockey Ground on Saturday.

The political leaders of different other parties besides the leadership of BNP also participated in the public gathering and addressed.

They also paid rich tributes to the veteran Baloch nationalist leader on his political and democratic struggle in the country.

Sardar Akhtar Mengal

said that he is asked that why he does talk about the missing persons, then he asked them that about whom he may talk then, if not about the missing persons.

He said that how is it possible that the loved ones of some are disappeared, and we would not speak about them.

The BNP chief alleged that our people don't get justice from the courts

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: President of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal addressing a public gathering on eve of 2nd death anniversary of veteran politician and founder of BNP Sardar Attaullah Mengal

Move to link US aid to Pakistan with democracy

WASHINGTON (Online): A Republican lawmaker has introduced an amendment to the House of Representatives' annual appropriations legislation that would cut off funds to Pakistan to discourage the "crackdown on political dissent".

Republicans are a majority in the House.

The amendment, proposed by Tennessee Republican Andy Ogles, would bar the US Department of Defense from providing assistance to Pakistan in the wake of an ongoing crackdown by the country's military establishments and its civilian allies.

The Intercept, a news site that last month published a report about a cipher that led to the ouster of the PTI government, noted in its report on the amendment that "military cooperation between Pakistan and the US has increased again since Imran Khan's ouster, with the Pakistani military now emerging, by European accounts, as a significant supplier of military aid to Ukraine".

The report described the proposed amendment as "an extreme long shot", but pointed out that "its introduction reflects increasing concerns about democratic backsliding in Pakistan across party lines."

During the debate over the National Defence Authorisation Act earlier this summer, Democratic Rep. Greg Casar of Texas pushed an amendment that would direct the State Department to study backsliding of democracy in Pakistan, but it wasn't ruled in order for a vote on the floor of the House.

The annual appropriations legislation allows the continuation of foreign military financing for Pakistan to support counterterrorism, counterinsurgency capabilities in the country as well as bilateral economic assistance, but prior to the obligation of funds, the US Secretary of State shall submit a report to congressional committees detailing the amount of financing and other support, by the government of Pakistan to schools supported by, affiliated with, or run by the Taliban or any domestic or foreign terrorist organisation in Pakistan.

Amanullah Kanrani meets Chairman Senate, Ex-CJP

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Prosecution, Amanullah Kanrani called on the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in Islamabad on Saturday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed matters about Balochistan and of national importance.

Later, Amanullah Kanrani also had meeting with the former Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice (Retd) Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhary.

Pick up-truck collision claims 5 lives in Thatta

THATTA (Online): As many as 5 persons were killed and 3 injured in collision between pick up and truck on Keenjhar Lake highway.

According to media reports, the dead bodies and injured were shifted to civil hospital by the locals.

Inflation driven by food prices hikes to 27.83% in August

ISLAMABAD (INP): Inflation in Pakistan mainly driven by food prices spiked to 27.83% in the month of August, reported on Saturday.

The rate of inflation is continuously on the rise in Pakistan. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, inflation increased by 1.72% in the month of August.

Inflation rose to 27.38% during a period from July to August. During this period, prices of tomatoes increased by 75.3%, spices by 16.9%, eggs by 16.2%, and sugar by 9%.

In a week, the rate of sugar has increased by Rs11.54 per kg. The maximum price of sugar has increased to Rs 190 per kg.

In August, the prices of Daal Mash and dry milk increased by 5.5%, wheat products by 5%, potatoes by 4.3%, rice by 2.6%, liquid fuel by 14.6%, motor fuel by 8.2%, electricity charges by 1.37%, transport fares by 22%, and postal charges by 20%.

According to the PBS, the Sensitive Price Index for

the week ended on 31st August, 2023 increased by 0.54%.

Major increase is observed in the prices of food items, sugar (7.17%), Gur (2.11%), pulse Masoor (1.50%), and pulse Mash (1.39%).

On the other hand, a decrease is observed in the prices of tomatoes (3.36%), bananas (2.49%), onions (2.01%), chicken (1.23%), garlic (0.58%), vegetable Ghee 2.5 kg (0.31%), vegetable Ghee 1 kg (0.19%) and mustard oil (0.04%).

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 20 (39.22%) items increased, 08 (15.68%) items decreased and 23 (45.10%) items remained stable.

The year-on-year trend depicts an increase of 24.39%, wheat flour (126.26%), gas charges for Q1 (108.38%), cigarettes (101.29%), sugar (94.06%), tea Lipton (93.94%), rice basmati broken (89.04%), chilies powder (86.05%), rice Iri-6/9 (81.82%), gur (67.02%), gents sponge chappal (58.05%).



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law Amanullah Kanrani meeting with former Chief Justice of Balochistan Iftikhar Ahmed Chaudhary

8 terrorists killed in exchange of firing with CTD

QUETTA (Online): As many as 8 terrorists were killed in an operation by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in district Washak Balochistan.

According to CTD, operation was conducted in Basima areas on a secret information.

CTD conducted raid on a house on the information of presence of terrorists therein. The terrorists opened firing.

As per CTD spokesperson 8 terrorists were

killed in an exchange of firing while other accomplices of terrorists escaped.

During search of the house, CTD recovered weapons and ammunition in huge quantity.

Spokesperson further said one Abu Bakar was recovered from hideout of the terrorists who was abducted one month before.

The process of identification of killed terrorists and search of their escaping accomplices is under way.



QUETTA: Secretary Local Government briefed Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan about departmental affairs

Asia Cup: Pakistan qualify for Super Four after rain washes out India match

Pakistan, India share points as rain plays spoilsport; Shaheen Shah spearheads Pakistan bowling department by bagging four wickets

Sports Desk

KANDY: The Pakistan and India match was washed out due to rain at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Sri Lanka, on Saturday.

Both teams have been awarded one point each as the match ended in draw. After achieving the one point, Pakistan have become the first team to qualify for the Super Four round.

Earlier Hardik Pandya's scintillating 90-ball 87 and Ishan Kishan scintillating 81-ball 82 powered India to 266 in the third match of the

Asia Cup at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

When the thriller between the two teams began, the rain had interrupted the match. But Pakistan were dominating India with the bowler, India four down at one stage. Shaheen Shah Afridi applied coup de grace against the Indian heavyweights - Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill.

But, Kishan and Pandya showed great resilience and help their side to post a challenging total for Pakistan at

the placid track. On the other side, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf were absolutely lethal with the leather and bundled out India for 266, with seven balls to spare.

Pandya and Kishan racked up 138-run partnership off just 141 to rebound their team.

For India, Rohit Sharma (11), Shubman Gill (10), Virat Kohli (4), Shreyas Iyer (14), Ravindra Jadeja (14), Shardul Thakur (3), Kuldeep Yadav (4) and Jasprit Bumrah (16) failed to show any significant re-

sistance with the bat.

Pakistan bowling department was ably spearheaded by Shaheen Shah Afridi (4-35), who gave the Indian batters no room whatsoever and bagged four wickets.

Naseem Shah (3-36) and Haris Rauf (3-58) picked up three wickets apiece.

There was nothing special for the spinners as none of them managed to pick up a wicket. Shadab Khan (0-57), Mohammad Nawaz (0-55) and Agha Salman (0-21) remained wicketless.



Ground staff covers the field after heavy rain stop match between Pakistan and India at Pallekele



QUETTA: A representative delegation of Musakhail led by Malik Haji Fateh Muhammad Buzdar meeting with Secretary Education Abdul Rauf Baloch

GB govt decides to deploy Pak Army to ensure lives, properties of GB people

GILGIT (APP): The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Government has decided to deploy the Pakistan Army to ensure the protection of the lives and the properties of the people of the area.

A high-level meeting, chaired by the Chief Minister, reviewed the current situation in GB. They also decided to deploy Rangers, GB Scouts, and FC personnel in major cities of these northern areas.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister of GB, Minister of Home, Minister of Law, Chief Secretary, Secretary of Home, police officials, and officials from other law enforcement agencies (LEAs).

The Home Department has immediately imposed Section 144 to prohibit illegal gatherings and road blockades.

The meeting also decided to take stern action against those who insult the beliefs and holy persons of any religion in public gatherings. The meeting decided to take all necessary measures to maintain law and order and ensure the continuity of business and tourism activities in all circumstances.

The meeting appealed to the public to support the government by demonstrating unity and harmony.

Pakistan's top service enterprises participate in CIFTIS in Beijing

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's prominent service-oriented enterprises showcased their accomplishments at the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) opened here on Saturday.

Pakistani firms including Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEI, National Bank of Pakistan, National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises and others set up their booths at Pakistan Pavilion to attract Chinese investors.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque officially inaugurated the pavilion. The representatives of the companies attended the inaugural ceremony.

"For the first time, we have a meaningful participation of Pakistan's top

service-oriented companies which briefed visiting enterprises about the incentives and investment-friendly environment in Pakistan," Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Ghulam Qadir told APP.

He said that the response of the people was phenomenal and wonderful as they thronged to the Pakistani pavilion and were briefed by the representatives of the companies specializing in IT, telecommunications, logistics and traveling, and financial services.

"It is beginning and hoped that more services companies would come to China and attend in the similar events in China and build business relations with the Chinese counterparts," he added.

Ghulam Qadir said that

the traders of handicrafts have also set up their stalls at the pavilion and displayed their products which attracted a lot of customers.

He expressed confidence that the participation of Pakistani companies would help enhance trade between the two countries and increase the regional connectivity.

The themed "openness leads development, cooperation creates a win-win future," the fair takes place in the Chinese capital from September 2 to 6.

As the world's sole state-level and comprehensive fair with international reach dedicated to trade in services, the event has attracted more than 2,400 enterprises to participate in its offline exhibition, including over 500 global top 500 and industry-leading companies.



QUETTA: Players of Turbat Football Academy photographed with Inspector General Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh

Akhtar Mengal calls for running....

Continued from page 1

even. He said that it is responsibility of all nationalities living in Balochistan to create the spirit of rendering sacrifices like our elders did.

He said that we have to fight all cruelties together. He also criticized the arrest of Eman Mazari and Ali Wazir questioning that what's their sin?

The BNP also pointed out that it was just informed that shelling has been started in Wadh again. He said that our elders have shed their blood for this land, and so we are loyal to it.

Sardar Akhtar Mengal also criticized the country's

economic situation saying that such is the state of economy that no one is ready to give alms even what to talk about the financial aid.

He said that the country has been isolated due to the wrong policies of the rulers.

About his father and eminent Baloch nationalist leader, Sardar Akhtar Mengal said that Sardar Attaullah Mengal rendered great sacrifices for the land and its people.

Earlier, the provincial President of Awami National Party, Asghar Khan Achakzai, BNP leader, Agha Hasan Baloch and others also addressed the gathering and paid rich tributes to late Sardar Attaullah Mengal.

Some resolutions were also adopted in the public gathering condemning reduction of 7 million population of Balochistan in the meeting of CCI, running cases of civilians in the Army trial court, besides demanding recovery of missing persons, release of Eman Mazari and Ali Wazir.

The resolution also demanded conduct of elections within 90 days, cease easeiness in the border trade, withdraw increase in the rates of petroleum products and electricity.

Speakers praise Syed Ali Gilani's stance on Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (INP): While addressing a seminar organized by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Jamaat-e-Islami to mark the second martyrdom anniversary of veteran APHC leader and icon of Kashmir freedom movement, Syed Ali Gilani, speakers described him as real hero of the Kashmir freedom movement for his undaunted resistance against the Indian illegal occupation and injustice throughout his life.

Despite all the difficulties and sufferings, Syed Ali Gilani demonstrated unprecedented determination and courage and never compromised on his principled stand, the speakers said. He was a true Pakistani who believed in attaching the political destiny of Kashmiris with Pakistan as per the two Nation Theory and he remained committed to this ideology till the last breath of his life, they asserted.

The speakers in a seminar in Islamabad on the JI-AJK Islamabad office including Ameer JI-AJK, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad; APHC-AJK Convener, Mahmood Ahmad Saghar; senior APHC-AJK leader, Ghulam Muhammad Safi; APHC-AJK General Secretary, Sheikh Abdul Mateen; and AJK leader Abdul Rasheed Turabi said Syed Ali Gilani fought throughout his life to free the Kashmiri people from Indian subjugation and his unprecedented struggle and spirit of resistance will continue to inspire the coming generations of Kashmiris.

They said that Syed Ali Gilani, who entered the politics of Kashmir in the 1950s, waged a peaceful political struggle for 37 years for the settlement of the Kashmir dispute, but

ultimately he realized that India, the claimant of the world's largest democracy will not grant the Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination through democratic means.

Despite all the difficulties and sufferings, Syed Ali Gilani demonstrated unprecedented determination and courage and never compromised on his principled stand, the speakers said. He was a true Pakistani who believed in attaching the political destiny of Kashmiris with Pakistan as per the two Nation Theory and he remained committed to this ideology till the last breath of his life, they asserted.

The speakers said that Syed Ali Gilani coined the slogan "We are Pakistanis and Pakistan is ours" under the bayonets of the Indian army, proving that he was a true Pakistani. They maintained that the success of the freedom movement remained the sole objective of Syed Ali Gilani's life-long struggle despite spending a large part of his life in jails and concentration camps where he was subjected to physical and mental torture. Despite all cruelties and tyranny he never compromised on the demand for self-determination for his enslaved people, they added.

LO, Labour Federation for joint efforts to secure life, health of miners

ISLAMABAD (INP): Supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO), a consultative workshop in Quetta concluded that the ratification of ILO Safety and Health in mines Convention will ensure the rights of Pakistan's 300,000 mine workers.

During the consultation organized by the All-Pakistan Labour Foundation (APLF) and Pakistan Central Mines Labour Federation (PCLMF) on Saturday, the representatives of government departments, workers and employers' organizations, examined ways to promote occupational safety and health in mines. The participants agreed to intensify the campaign for the ratification of ILO Convention No. 176, to ensure workplace safety and social security coverage for Pakistan's mine workers. 34 countries have so far ratified Convention 176 which came into force in 1995, but not Pakistan.

"The ratification of Convention 176 is central to achieving decent work in a sector that is particularly prone to accidents and injuries. It is an essential tool for resolving the challenge of occupational safety and health in Pakistan's mining industry," said Geir Tonstol, Country Director of ILO in Pakistan.

Without education, dream of development will not be fulfilled: Nail

Independent Report

QUETTA: Without education, the dream of development will not be fulfilled.

Nation that pay special attention to education. Societies determine the path of development. Former member of the Provincial Assembly, Qadir Nail, expressed these thoughts in Government Girls High School Hazara Town, recycling and scientific. On the occasion of the event organized regarding the exhibition. Special Secretary Education Noman Shah District Education Officer Masood Rind and DOE female Samina Salim participated in the event.

The participants addressed the event and said that education with skills is very important. Students should pay full attention to education and respect teachers. The education department will provide all possible facilities to the schools and students.



The young generation is the capital of the country and the architects of the future. The role of teachers is important in the formation of a better society and the development of the country.

A grand reception was given and the students presented bouquets of flowers. On this occasion, the honored guests saw the various scientific models made by the students in the recycling and scientific exhibition and appreciated the performance of the students. The students also presented various charts to the classrooms.

The efforts of science teacher Zara Ibrahim in organizing the scientific exhibition are commendable. Prizes were distributed among the first, second and third position students. All the guests appreciated the performance of all the teachers including the headmistress. Appreciation. In the end, the headmistress Kineez Zahra thanked the guest for participating in the event and encouraging the students.

Cristiano Ronaldo named in Portugal squad for Euro 2024 qualifiers

PARIS (INP): Cristiano Ronaldo named in Portugal squad for Euro 2024 Qualifiers:

Goalkeepers: Diogo Costa (Porto/POR), Jose Sa (Wolves/POR), Rui Patrício (Roma/ITA) Defenders: Diogo Dalot (Manchester United/ENG), Nelson Semedo (Wolves/ENG), Joao Cancelo (Manchester City/ENG), Danilo Pereira (Paris Saint-Germain/FRA), Ruben Dias (Manchester City/ENG), Antonio Silva (Benfica), Goncalo Inacio (Sporting Lisbon), Toti (Wolves/ENG).

Midfielders (6): Joao Palhinha (Fulham/ENG), Ruben Neves (Al-Hilal/KSA), Bruno Fernandes (Manchester United/ENG), Otavio (Al-Nassr/KSA), Vitorino (Paris Saint-Germain/FRA), Bernardo Silva (Manchester City/ENG).

Forwards (7): Ricardo Horta (Braga), Rafael Leao (AC Milan/ITA), Joao Felix (Atletico Madrid/ESP), Cristiano Ronaldo (Al-Nassr/KSA), Pedro Neto (Wolves/ENG), Goncalo Ramos (Paris Saint-Germain/FRA), Diogo Jota (Liverpool/ENG).

"I can tell you I'm very happy to have Cristiano Ronaldo in my team." The 38-year-old Ronaldo, who now plies his trade in Saudi Arabia, celebrated his 200th international appearance with the winner in a 1-0 victory over Iceland last time out for Portugal in June.

Martinez also included Saudi-based midfielders Otavio and Ruben Neves in his squad and called up uncapped Wolves full-back Toti.



ISLAMABAD: Cricket fans watch the Asia Cup 2023 one-day international (ODI) match between Pakistan and India at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, on a screen in Islamabad.

Ex-CM Parvez Elahi challenges re-arrest under MPO

Islamabad (INP): Former Punjab chief minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has challenged his arrest under the MPO. Elahi filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court through his lawyer Abdul Raziq.

The petition has sought to annul the arrest under the MPO on Friday shortly after the court granted him bail and directed the authorities against arresting him in any other case. The petition further stated that the PTI president was being targeted for taking revenge on political grounds.

The MPO order of September 1 is illegal, should be declared null and void and Parvez Elahi ordered to be released, the petition has requested. On the other hand, Parvez Elahi's wife has filed a contempt of court petition in the Lahore High Court for not shifting her husband home safely despite court orders.

The petition has made

the DIG operations, DIG investigation and SP high court security parties in the petition. The petition was filed on behalf of the former chief minister's wife Qaisara Elahi. She has requested the chief justice of the Lahore High Court to schedule the petition for hearing to day.

Despite the court's order, Parvez Elahi was not shifted home safely by the police officers deputed for the purpose, the petitioner said. She has urged the court to initiate contempt proceedings against the DIG operations and DIG investigation.

The PTI president and former chief minister, who was rearrested shortly after the release order from the Lahore High Court in a corruption case, was shifted to Attock Jail later on Friday. The Islamabad police arrested Elahi on Lahore's Canal Road when he was heading towards his home following his release by the court.

CTD arrests five woman terrorists of Daesh

LAHORE (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested five women terrorists of Daesh from Lahore and Sheikhpura on Saturday.

According to the CTD spokesperson, the terrorists were arrested in Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) in Lahore and Sheikhpura. Three women were arrested from Lahore while two were arrested from Sheikhpura.

Banned literature, cash, weapons and mobile phones were also recovered from them.

Pakistan outplay Bhutan in opening match of SAFF U16 C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan downed Bhutan by 2-1 in the opening match of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U16 Championship 2023 at Bhutan on Saturday.

According to details, Pakistani Skipper Obaidullah Khan scored the first goal in the 17th minute

while the second goal was scored by Subhan Karim in the 30th minute.

Bhutan's lone scorer was Tandan Phantsu who scored the goal in the 13th minute of the game.

Pakistan team would play their next match against Maldives on September 4.



LAHORE: Workers of Jamat-e-Islami holds protest at Mall road against the surge in electricity and fuel prices and unbearable inflation across the country

Journalists pledged to work with govt closely to ensure Polio-free Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Journalist community has pledged to work with the government to ensure a polio-free Pakistan at a local hotel of Muree, the other day.

The assurance came at a workshop organized by the Directorate General Public Relations (DGPR) in collaboration with the Punjab Emergency Operations Centre, themed "Last Mile, Reaching Last Child".

Officials of international partners of Pakistan in polio eradication belonging to WHO and Unicef participated in the workshop. Journalists from key organizations were also in attendance.

The workshop was

held in the backdrop of positive environmental samples reported in Lahore and Rawalpindi.

The journalists were informed that two environmental samples had been reported positive from Rawalpindi and three from Lahore this year.

Although, no polio case had been reported in Punjab for more than three years now but presence of the virus in polio samples was indicative of persistent virus risk to the children.

Dr Nauman, the polio focal person of a Rawalpindi tehsil, disclosed that environmental samples are taken from 31 sites across 19 districts of Punjab.

"Virus found in

Rawalpindi is linked to the cluster YB3A which is active in Afghanistan. While the virus found in Lahore is linked with Kandahar", he added.

"It is a matter of satisfaction that no indigenous circulation has been found in Punjab. This means Punjab is at risk of importation", he explained.

Referring to the steps taken to prevent virus re-introduction in Punjab, Dr Nauman underlined that a mass campaign with a component of community engagement had been rolled out.

The tehsil focal person assured that all communities were being registered so that the child would remain unvaccinated.

Swiss govt announces scholarships for Pakistani students

LAHORE (APP): The Government of Switzerland in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced an "Excellence Scholarship Programme" for Pakistani students for the upcoming academic year 2024-25.

Higher Education Commission (HEC) local chapter sources told APP that one-year post-master's research, three-year post-master's, PhD and one-year Post-Doctoral Programmes (PDP) have been announced for the aspiring candidates. The last date for submission of applications with the Swiss embassy is September 30. More details are available on the official website, the HEC local sources.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the closed shops and Markets at Karachi Company area during a nationwide strike by traders against the surge in electricity and fuel prices and unbearable Inflation across the Country.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Civil Society holds cycle rally at Jinnah Avenue in Federal Capital.

India using range of brutal, inhuman tactics to silence Kashmiris in IIOJK: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Husseini Mullick Saturday said that India was trying to change the demography of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by settling non-Kashmiri people in the valley and using a range of inhuman tactics to silence Kashmiris.

Talking to the PTV news channel, she said, "Kashmiri people have been facing atrocities at the hands of occupying forces for decades but it has failed to suppress the truth."

She said, "Draconian laws are being used in IIOJK to silence the voice of Kashmiri youth and journalists."

"The international community needs to come forward in a big way and hold New Delhi accountable for its war crimes and crimes against humanity in the occupied territory," she added.

She also demanded that it was high time the Modi-led government released all the political prisoners instantly and let the Kashmiri people decide the fate of their free will.

Mushaal Mullick appealed to the United Nations (UN), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and international human rights organizations to take cognizance of human rights violations by India in Kashmir and take immediate and concrete steps to stop Indian state terrorism.

AC Rural takes action against illegal polythene bag usage, seals store

ISLAMABAD (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Rural here on Saturday paid a surprise visit to several areas of the Rural Sub-Division on the advice of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon to address public complaints.

During the visit, the AC Rural inspected the illegal usage of polythene bags and checked the prices of essential commodities to make sure they adhered to official rates.

He also sealed a store for violating the price list and detained the store owner, who was later released on bail.

The AC Rural said that he would not tolerate any violations of the law and that he would take strict action against those who break the rules.

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IHC orders not to arrest Shireen in any case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered not to arrest Imaan Mazari daughter of Shireen Mazari in any case.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb has issued 2-page written order on the petition of Imaan Mazaari.

The court maintained in the written order that interior secretary, IG Police and DG FIA would not arrest Imaan Mazari. Interior secretary, police and FIA would not assist in any case.

It has been said in the written order Imaan Mazari be not taken outside Islamabad limits. Secretary interior should provide details of the cases against Imaan Mazari till Monday.

According to SSP operations 3 cases are registered against the petitioner in Islamabad.

According to police Imaan Mazari is on bail in two cases.

NA Speaker inaugurates provision of transportation facilities to women college

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Saturday said that education was an essential factor for women empowerment and providing basic facilities to women would enhance their literacy rate across the country. He added that the provision of transportation facilities to girls students in Gujar Kahn who travel 40 km to reach the college would encourage them to complete their

education.

He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering in connection with the provision of transport services to Government Associate College for Girls.

It is pertinent to mention here that Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf visited Government Associate College for Girls Manghot on 30th May 2023. During the visit, the students and faculty members raised the issue of transport problems to girls students.

The Speaker, on the occasion, assured them provision of transport facilities.

The provision of these buses will resolve the traveling difficulties faced by the students coming from far-flung areas. Now, they will be able to participate in their educational activities more enthusiastically.

Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani as the National Plantation Day, but unfortunately, it was limited to announcements and the importance of this day was never understood and implemented at scale. In this regard, she said that the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar should announce the National Tree Plantation Day and ensure that every citizen of the country plants at least one sapling and protect it so that the country can get rid of the effects of climate change.

Mrs. Farooq said that one of the main reasons for Pakistan's economic problems was the increase in population and insufficient resources.

The government should take effective measures to control the growing population in the country. We are increasing the problems for ourselves by increasing the population immensely, she added. She stated that most of the areas of Pakistan were facing water shortage and very soon the same situation was going to happen in other cities and villages of the country as well.



ISLAMABAD: Core Member of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Mian Muhammad Aslam talking to media persons at Karachi Company in Federal Capital.

Govt plans multiple initiatives to promote 'culture literacy activities'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah Saturday said that government has planned multiple initiatives to promote 'culture literacy activities' for youngsters to enable them to be future leaders and effective contributors for society.

"Cultural competence is essential for teachers and educators to effectively work with students from diverse cultural backgrounds", he said while talking to a private news channel.

He said that the country could make progress if every citizen realized and performed its responsibilities.

Minister further emphasized the need to effectively promote cultural and tourism activities at the local, national, and international levels.

Replying to a question, he said the current government is determined to highlight the heritage, civilization, language, art and culture of the province in a creative and constructive way.

He said that the government has also planned to introduce state-of-art museums in elsewhere in the country and as the initiative spans out, we expect every city will soon have its own archaeological museum.



ISLAMABAD: CDA staff installing trash containers along the roadside.

78th 'I-Day' brings economic development, prosperity to Vietnam: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong on Friday acknowledged that this year's 78th 'Independence Day' of Vietnam has brought economic development and prosperity to Vietnam.

The ambassador said this in his special message on the occasion of the 78th, National Day of Vietnam today.

He said that under the visionary leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, "Vietnam today is on the path of development and prosperity, which was possible due to the economic reforms of our leadership".

On the occasion he mentioned, "I would like to quote the affirmation of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Prof. Dr. Nguyen Phu Trong at 13th Party Congress in Jan 2021: 'With all humility, we can still say that: Our country has never

enjoyed such fortunes, potentials, international status and prestige as they are today. All this combined constitutes a pride, a driving force, an important resource, and a conviction for our entire Party, people and armed forces to overcome whatever difficulties and challenges, continue with firm steps on the road of comprehensive and concerted renewal; and develop the country expeditiously and sustainably".

He said the achievements of 35 years' implementation of the renewal process have continued affirming our Party's renewal line as judicious and creative.

Vietnamese envoy said such great achievements of historic significance crystallize the creativeness of our Party and people, and assert that our country's road to socialism is suitable with Vietnam's reality and the times' development trend, and confirm

that the Party's judicious leadership represents the primary determinant of the Vietnamese revolution's success".

The Ambassador said that after 37 years (1986-2023) of reforms/renovations/renewal/ Doi Moi (in Vietnamese), Vietnam's spectacular economic development is crucially and decidedly attributed to the Communist Party's successful leadership.

He said that nowadays, Vietnam has become a socialist-oriented market economy enjoying an immense breadth and depth of economic connectivity, having acceded to 17 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including three next-generation FTAs of very high standards, and participating in an extensive network of economic linkages with major economies in the world.

While only 30 years ago we only had economic and trade ties with some 30

Shahida Kausar for urgent change of habits to resolve current crises in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned social worker Shahida Kausar Farooq has said the solution to the current crises lies in adopting austerity measures and the change in our habits. Responding to the severe inflation in the country and the alarming increase in electricity bills, Shahida Kausar Farooq said that we as a nation urgently need to change our habits by adopting conservation practices such as saving water.

She said that in most areas of Pakistan, there was abundant sunlight throughout the year and we should take advantage of it to switch over to renewable energy as a long-term solution to our perennial energy issues. She said that the caretaker Prime Minister had thought of becoming the Prime Minister for a short period of time, however, by taking steps for the betterment of the country, he could write his name in the history forever, said a press release issued here Saturday.

Mrs. Farooq, who is actively involved in the environment friendly activities, said that 18th August was approved by then

Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani as the National Plantation Day, but unfortunately, it was limited to announcements and the importance of this day was never understood and implemented at scale. In this regard, she said that the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar should announce the National Tree Plantation Day and ensure that every citizen of the country plants at least one sapling and protect it so that the country can get rid of the effects of climate change.

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ISLAMABAD: People are filling the drinking water from Water Filtration plant at Sadiqabad area of the City.

Parents demand revised grades to Cambridge students

ISLAMABAD (APP): The parents of Cambridge students have demanded revised grades instead of re-taking exams which according to them is the solution to all problems.

The parents have requested the Cambridge International to reschedule the May 9-11 canceled exams at a later date but they refused.

They complained that the Cambridge International

failed the students in Pakistan by what they called the "unjust grading and assessed grades".

Showing disagreement with the suggestion that the students sit for retakes, they asked, "Why didn't they listen to the parents earlier when they requested to reschedule the canceled exams".

Parents pointed out that the government has proposed the schools to

pay 80 percent for the re-checks to which they are not agreeing.

"Nearly 45000 Pakistani students have been affected by the unjust grading by Cambridge International" a mother of a student said.

She said that the exams components that were canceled had been marked Us and Es and those not canceled had been marked the same way too.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in building the shops for vendors at Fruit and Vegetables Market in Federal Capital.

Governor chairs meeting to discuss construction work in historic schools of city

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Saturday chaired a meeting to review ongoing work in historic schools of the city including Hasnain Shaheed High School City 1, Usama Zafar Shaheed City 2 and Lady Griffith High School. The meeting was also

attended by District Education Officers and representatives of the planning and archaeology department.

The meeting was told that work is underway in Hasnain Shaheed City School 2 with an estimated cost of Rs 36 million while construction work is underway in Lady Griffith

School with an estimated cost of Rs 14 million.

It was said that 80 percent of renovation work in these historic schools have been completed and the remaining work would be completed in the next month.

The Archaeology Department is also assisting in the renovation

process to maintain the historic status of these buildings.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor stressed to complete the construction and renovation work according to the historic significance of these educational institutions and assured his cooperation.



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Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed Khan meeting with Allama Razi Jaffar Naqvi and other Shia Ulama & Mashaikh at Karachi.

Caretaker minister promises better health facilities

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram has said that the Punjab government is making sincere efforts to provide better health facilities to people.

He was addressing an awareness seminar, organised by the CCL Pharmaceuticals on Gut-Brain connection at a local hotel on Saturday.

Dr. Javed Akram appreciated the CCL and other stakeholders for holding an awareness seminar on a very important topic. "We have to adopt a healthy lifestyle to lead a healthy life," he said.

The minister said that Pakistan's Society of Internal Medicine is going to hold an international conference from Sept 22 to 24 at PC Bhurban in which experts from all-over the world would participate. He said: "Population of the country is growing by every passing hour so we

will have to provide better health facilities to people in the same ratio."

Every 50-year-old person in Pakistan is suffering from high blood pressure. "To protect people of Pakistan from various dangerous and deadly diseases and epidemics, we will have to resort to modern technology," he said. The minister distributed commemorative shields among speakers at the end of the seminar.

Prof. Dr. Aftab Mohsin, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran from King Edward Medical University, Dr. Junaid Rasool, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan from Allama Iqbal Medical College, Prof. Dr. Tariq Wasim, Associate Prof. Dr. Soma Iqtdar from King Edward Medical University, Assistant Professor Dr. Wafa Qaiser from Gulab Devi Hospital and a large number of doctors participated.

ANF recovers 1619 liters chemicals, 21 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country, managed to recover 1619 liters of prohibited chemicals, 21 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday.

He informed that in an operation in Bahria Town Rawalpindi, 100 intoxicated tablets (Ecstasy) were recovered from the possession of an accused, resident of

Khyber. Three suspects were arrested during a raid at a house in Murad Memon Goth area, Karachi and ANF recovered 1.9 kg heroin and 200 grams Ice drug from a vehicle.

In the third operation, two bikers were netted from Godhpur Chowk in Sialkot and ANF seized 1.2 kg hashish. In the fourth operation, ANF raided at a house in uninhabited area of Fort Abdullah and recovered 1619 liters of prohibited chemicals of various types.

DC Lahore inspects dengue measures

LAHORE (APP): The anti-dengue drive initiated by the district administration is in full swing under which surveillance is being carried out at various points in the provincial capital.

Lahore Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider on Saturday visited Union Council UC-119, where she inspected anti-dengue arrangements and informed house owners about dengue preventive

measures. The deputy commissioner visited the house of a dengue patient at DHA-EME Housing Society and reviewed the case response in the house and nearby area. She also inquired about the health of the patient and the field teams' response.

She inspected houses, empty plots and commercial markets of the area and assessed dengue larva elimination.



PESHAWAR: Members of Peshawar Bar Association are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held nearby Provincial Assembly building in Peshawar

Govt aware of people's problems, Baqar reacts to strike

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar while reacting to the strike, has said that the federal and provincial governments are well aware of the people's problems.

He said we understand that the people were very worried because of inflation.

Baqar said that the federal and provincial governments were working

together to provide relief to the people.

He said that protest was everyone's democratic right but it should not cause inconvenience to others.

The Interim Chief Minister said that the protesting people must take care of people's lives and property.

He directed that the administration should take all necessary steps to make the protest peaceful.



BHITSHAH: Folk artists going back after visiting the shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai on the occasion of 280th urs celebration

People of KP welcome millions of foreign, local tourists this year: Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Minister Tourism Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Saturday said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) had welcomed millions of domestic as well as foreign tourists this year.

"Unlike last year, the number of foreign tourists has decreased this year, probably due to financial crunch being faced by people across the world, however, the number of domestic tourists has increased this year," the data compiled by Police, Lives Officials, Official of the District Administration revealed.

This year 2546 foreigners visited various tourist places all across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and last year 2947 foreigners visited KP tourist places. This year 9.7 million people from all over the country visited KP and in the year 2022, the number of domestic tourists was

recorded as 88,59,636.

"Local and foreign tourists visited Galiyat, Dir Upper, Malam Jabba, Chitral, Upper and Lower Kaghan and Naran. Special measures are being taken for the security of domestic and foreign tourists," said Caretaker Minister Tourism Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah.

"A special bus service has also been started for the convenience of tourists." "Initially bus service has been started for Khanpur Dam, Takhtbhai Ruins and Peshawar, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah said. There is a plan to extend the bus service to more tourist spots," Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah told APP.

Giving complete data, he said 208 foreign tourists visited Dir Upper and Dir Lower, and 847,5730 local tourists recorded in Dir Lower and Dir Upper, Malam Jabba 323 foreign.



KARACHI: Disinfected spray being carried out by District Health Office (DHO) officials at Karachi Press Club.

Critical vigilance imperative to safeguard youth from clutches of ice, drug addiction

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): In a concerted effort to combat the escalating threat of drug addiction among the youth, the police department and Sardar Koray Khan School jointly organized a seminar, here on Saturday. The event was chaired by Commissioner Salman Khan Lodhi and attended by teachers, civil society activists, students and people from different walks of life.

Deputy Commissioner Lodhi addressing the seminar, emphasized the peril of drug addiction on future generations. He stated that people from all walks of life must unite in the battle against drugs, not only to monitor their children but also to shield them from the

influences that lead to addiction. Quoting a reference from an international organization's report, he revealed alarming figures - a staggering 280 million individuals worldwide had succumbed to drug use by 2022, with almost 7 million in Pakistan alone, predominantly comprising youth.

Deputy Commissioner Lodhi urged collective involvement to counter this crisis and revealed the establishment of a dedicated center for drug addicts at DHQ Hospital, equipped with four expert doctors.

DPO Syed Hasnain Haider also addressed the audience, underscoring the police force's pivotal role in the anti-drug campaign.

Naqvi pays tribute to bravery of martyred Major and Sepoy

Independent Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has paid tribute to the bravery of martyred Major Amir Aziz and martyred Sepoy Muhammad Arif for fighting in an operation against the terrorists at Miran Shah. CM Mohsin Naqvi remarked that the martyred Major Amir Aziz and the martyred Sepoy Muhammad Arif by laying down their precious lives foiled nefarious designs of the terrorists.

Mohsin Naqvi acknowledged that we salute the brave sons for sacrificing their precious lives for the sake of peace of our dear

homeland. Mohsin Naqvi lauded that the martyred Major Amir Aziz and martyred Sepoy Muhammad Arif sacrificed their today for the better tomorrow of the nation.

CM Mohsin Naqvi remarked that the whole nation holds in high esteem the immortal sacrifices of the martyred and the sacrifices of the martyred cannot be forgotten. CM Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolence with the heirs of the martyred Major Amir Aziz and martyred Sepoy Muhammad Arif.

Meanwhile, Caretaker

Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of precious human lives in a traffic accident at Sargodha-Lahore Road. Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolence with the heirs of the deceased.

CM Mohsin Naqvi directed the administration to provide best treatment facilities to those getting injured in the traffic accident. CM Mohsin Naqvi by seeking a report about the sorrowful incident has ordered a legal action against the driver responsible for committing the negligence.

Father kills son over domestic dispute

ATTOCK (APP): A man has shot dead his son over domestic dispute in Kachha more area near Burhan interchange in the limits of Hassanabad Police station on Saturday, police and hospital sources said.

Quoting the family of the victim, police said that Usman Shah was trashing his mother over some domestic dispute in his house. When his father Shabbir Shah entered the house, he saw his wife in distress and took out his pistol and fired multiple bullets on his son. As a result, his son died on the spot. Shabbir managed to escape from the scene successfully after killing his son.

Wife of Ch Pervaiz Elahi files contempt of court plea on arrest of former CM

LAHORE (Online): Wife of Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has filed habeas corpus and contempt of court petition in Lahore High Court (LHC) on arrest of her former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab and president PTI.

Care taker government Punjab, chief secretary, IG Police Punjab and others have been made respondents in the petition. Wife of PTI president has taken plea in the petition that Pervaiz Elahi was arrested illegally.

It has been said in the petition high court had stopped from arresting Pervaiz Elahi and ordered

DIG operations and SP Security to take former CM Punjab Pervaiz Elahi safely to his home. Arresting Pervaiz Elahi despite court's order is contempt of court.

The petitioner requested the court to order to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the responsible persons. It is pertinent to mention here Islamabad Police had arrested Pervaiz Elahi from Lahore under 3 MPO.

Islamabad police said that Pervaiz Elahi has been arrested under 3MPO on the order of district magistrate.



KARACHI: The care taker Minister of Home and Prison, Bring (rtd) Haris Nawaz in a group photo with Indonesian Consul General in Karachi Kuncoro Hadiningrat during the event Diplomatic Reception organized by the Consulate General of Indonesia at Pearl Continental Hotel.

QWP announces schedule for holding intra party election

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Election Commissioner of Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Muhammad Jamil Advocate on Saturday announced the schedule for holding the intra-party election.

He also extended the party membership drive to September 10 to facilitate those who joined the party recently and received their party membership card.

He added that the ongoing membership drive would continue while the existing members' cards would be valid for four years.

Smoky vehicles to face action

SIALKOT (APP): Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Secretary Muzaffar Hayat has said that smoky public transport will not be allowed on roads.

He directed all transport owners, drivers and staff of the general bus stand to get their vehicles tuned, change engine oil on time and use quality fuel so that their vehicles do not emit smoke.

He said that an anti-smog squad had been formed on the direction of the Punjab transport secretary, which is inspecting the engine of vehicles at different bus stands.

Edhi Foundation provided free treatment to 10,395 patients last month

LAHORE (APP): The Edhi Foundation provided medical aid and medicines to 10,395 patients at its free dispensary in August.

According to a spokesperson, 9,655 patients and bodies were shifted to their homes by Edhi ambulances.

Forty-four people, who died in accidents in different areas of the city, were shifted to different places free of charge by the Edhi ambulances. Some 273 people, who were injured, were shifted to hospitals while 8,217 patients were shifted from

homes to hospitals and from hospitals to homes. Over 1438 bodies were shifted from hospitals to homes. About 356 people were admitted to Bilqis Edhi Home Gulberg in which 194 were shifted to their homes by Edhi ambulances.

Edhi Foundation buried 87 unidentified bodies. The foundation provided one-time meal to 11501 people at Edhi Free Lunch. The Edhi spokesperson has appealed to the public to report any emergency on Edhi emergency number 115.

Lahore CCPO visits police stations

LAHORE (APP): Lahore CCPO Bilal Siddique Kamyana visited Barki and Hadyara police stations last night. During his visit, the CCPO reviewed the sanitation and other administrative aspects of both police stations and issued directives to improve their conditions.

During this inspection, police officers provided the CCPO with insights into the prevailing crime situation and public order. Kamyana also scrutinized various departments, including the

front desk, daily register, and warehouse. He closely monitored the progress of citizen applications at the front desk and emphasized prompt action on the applications. The CCPO, while issuing instructions, urged all divisional officers to regularly visit police stations within their respective divisions.

He stressed that there should be no pending application at any police station and SHO's should diligently address complaints in accordance with the rules.

Masood Khan urges boost in trade ties between Pakistan and US State of New Mexico

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan Friday underscored the need for people-to-people relations and stepped up trade with the U.S. state of New Mexico when he met Mayor Tim Keller of Albuquerque, the state's largest city.

During the meeting, he proposed a sister city relationship with Albuquerque, citing Punjab-California and Sindh-Georgia sister-province relations as well as Karachi-Houston sister cities ties already in place.

The ambassador also thanked the mayor for the swift arrest of the culprit involved in the murder of Pakistani-American Muhammad Afzal Hussein, who was shot and killed outside his Albuquerque apartment

complex last year. The individual, later named as Muhammad Syed, a 51-year-old Afghan origin man, had also carried out three other killings of a sectarian nature.

"Your support, the message by the President of the United States and the diligence shown by Albuquerque administration helped restoring the confidence of Pakistani community," Masood Khan told Mayor Keller, according to a press release issued by the Pakistani embassy.

Welcoming the Ambassador, Mayor Keller said the killings were tragic and such violent actions had no place in Albuquerque. He expressed appreciation for the contributions of Pakistani diaspora and termed them as an integral component of New

Mexico's diverse society. The Police Chief of Albuquerque Homicide Department added that the swift apprehension of the culprit was the result of joint efforts of the police and community.

The Ambassador said that the two sides could also explore the untapped potential of cooperation in mining, agriculture, telemedicine, pharmaceuticals, and other important sectors that were a priority for Pakistan.

Referring to the existing trade volume between New Mexico and Pakistan currently standing at about \$4 million, Masood Khan termed it far below the actual potential.

Masood Khan also invited Mayor Keller to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience, the press release said.



PESHAWAR: Members of Traders Community are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, held at Saddar road in Peshawar.

Pakistan possess monumental potential in organic cotton production

MULTAN (APP): The country's top agriculture scientists, academics, and experts joined brainstorming sessions at an online conference acknowledging the big potential Pakistan possesses in organic cotton and the way forward to translate it into action toward growth excellence and bring foreign exchange earnings home.

The event was organized by Sawie, a climate-smart agriculture digital platform providing real-time advisories, and the country's ace cotton research body Pakistan Central Cotton Committee

(PCCC) on Aug 31 at Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) Multan, CCRI spokesman said on Saturday.

The 2nd Annual SAWIE Conference on Organic Cotton Pakistan was themed around knowledge dissemination and best practices sharing and it attracted a diverse audience including policymakers, industry experts, farmers, and researchers.

It sought to bridge gaps and promote collaboration across the organic cotton value chain, fostering a holistic approach.

Dr Khalid Mahmood from SAWIE and Prof Dr Rana Iqar Khan, Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad opened the conference and emphasized the need to improve soil health through improving organic matter.

Dr Yusuf Zafar, the former Chairman of PARC and CABI, highlighted Pakistan's immense potential in the organic cotton sector.

Citing the findings of a Textile Exchange report, he said, "Pakistan has the capacity to achieve a staggering 40.5% growth in organic cotton production."

Protest against current inflation, leveling of huge taxes in electricity bills

DIR LOWER (APP): A protest demonstration against current inflation, exorbitant increase in electricity bills and taxes organized by Anjuman Tajran Bazar in Chakdara Tehsil with hundreds and thousands of marchers chanting slogans and carrying banners.

President Anjuman-e-Tajran Bazar Chakdara, Khawaja Faizul Ghafoor led the protest with other

local leaders in Tehsil Chowk Chakdara against the current inflation in the country, the brutal increase in electricity bills, taxes and the exorbitant increase in the prices of petroleum products in which hundreds of protesters participated.

Among the protesters were Bahadur Zeb, leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Shirani Group, Ali Bacha.

Younus Dagher says: Sindh interim govt to promote IT sector as much as possible

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning & Development Muhammad Younus Dagher has said that the interim provincial government will promote the IT sector as much as possible.

This was stated by him while speaking after inaugurating the 23rd ITCN Asia Summit at Expo Centre, here Saturday.



ISLAMABAD: A large number people in a long queue in front of Utility store to purchase groceries on subsidised rate.

MoU signed to establish state-of-the-art Expo Centre in Capital

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and the Intelligence Bureau Employee's Cooperative Housing Society (IBECHS) on Saturday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a state-of-the-art Expo Centre in the Federal Capital.

President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Secretary IBECHS Shujaat Ullah Qureshi signed the MoU on behalf of concerned organizations during a ceremony held in a local hotel here.

Speaking on the occasion, President IBECHS Tariq Mehmood said that by establishing an Expo Center in the Federal Capital, we would be discharging an important national responsibility. He said that the Expo Centre is the backbone of an economy and a joint venture between ICCI and

IBECHS for this important project would go a long way in improving the economy. He said that this project would make the region a hub of business activities. He stressed the value addition of products to boost exports and revive the economy. He thanked ICCI for signing a MoU with IBECHS for this key project and assured that his organization is ready to start more projects with ICCI on a joint venture basis.

President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that joint venture between ICCI and IBECHS is a step in the right direction to improve the economy as the Expo Centre would showcase the exportable products of Pakistan and boost exports. He said that China and Turkey have increased their exports and tourism by organizing expos and hoped that this expo center would also help enhance exports and tourism in Pakistan.

Mian nominates chairman MWMC

MULTAN (APP): Punjab government has nominated independent members of board of directors of eight waste management companies across the province including Multan waste management company as President MCCI Mian Rashid Iqbal appointed chairman MWMC.

The BoD members of the companies were appointed under section 165 (3) of the companies act, 2017 for the term of three years. The President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Mian Rashid Iqbal was nominated as the chairman of Multan waste management company while its other four independent members included Sheikh Hassan Tariq, Dr Zehra Waheed, Muhammad Sammie Ullah Khan and Muhammad Khawaja Usman.

Tokyo stocks extend winning streak to 5th straight day

TOKYO (APP): Tokyo stocks closed higher on Friday, extending its winning streak to a fifth day, while the market awaited the key U.S. employment data to be released later in the day.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei stock index, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average, hit its one-month high by adding 91.28 points, or 0.28 percent, from Thursday to close the day at 32,710.62.

The broader Topix index, meanwhile,



BHITSHAH: A vendor displaying urs related stuff to attract the devotees at the shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai on the occasion of 280th urs celebration.

Large number of people of Chitral stages a protest against illegal mining

CHITRAL (APP): Besti Valley is a beautiful area on one side, on the other side, nature has also hidden a treasure of precious stones and like emeralds in these mountains, from where precious stones worth billions of rupees come out, but despite this, the people of the area are poor.

The people of the area staged a protest rally for their legitimate rights and demanded the authorities to give them their legitimate rights.

According to the details, the area of Chitral is very beautiful because of its natural beauty, on the other hand, there is also a natural treasure of precious stones in these mountains, but despite the extraction of emerald stones worth billions of rupees from this mountain, the people of Basti valley are still very poor and have no employment or any sort of benefit from

such mining. The people of Basti held a protest rally against the injustice of the non-local leaseholder and blocked the roads for all kinds of traffic.

Addressing the protest rally, the speakers said, "A non-local leaseholder has taken a lease in the name of some cheap mineral in the mountains of Besti Valley, but the emerald precious stone comes out from here and so far they have extracted an emerald worth a hundred billion rupees."

They said that the leaseholder had initially entered into a written agreement with them that they would pay them royalty and service charges as well as repair roads and bridges in the area damaged by their trucks, but now they will go back on their word. The speakers said, "The leaseholders do not even employ local youths

and because of the non-local workers, our Chadar and the Wall are also affected because often our women take the cattle to the fields."

They said, "The leaseholders in these mountains do gunpowder blasting, due to which the wildlife from this area also migrated to Afghanistan and the glaciers that have been in our area for hundreds of years are also melting rapidly, which is having a very negative impact on climate change."

The speakers alleged that the contractor had taken the lease in the name of common and cheap minerals, but emeralds and other precious stones were being extracted from there. They suspected that the collusion of the leaseholder with a few officers and people of the institution might be causing damage to the national treasury.



ISLAMABAD: Vendor are arranging Sugar Canes to prepare for bidding at Fruit and Vegetables Market in Federal Capital.

PBF terms strike against inflated power bills, inflation as successful

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has said the countrywide strike against the inflated and excessive electricity bills which is unbearable now on the pocket of the common man remained successful. Traders participated properly and markets were shut down in all cities.

Talking to media persons on Saturday, PBF Spokesperson Zainab Jatoi said the purpose was not to further destabilize government but to call upon stake holders in order to find solution.

Although it's against PBF policy but we had to intervene as the collapse of the businesses is at verge; she said.

Zainab Jatoi also

briefed that the main reason of soaring energy cost is the power purchase agreements signed with the power producers.

She observed that the rising interest rates, the uncertain rupee value, soaring fuel prices, higher gas and power tariffs, and unabated food inflation were extremely serious issues that needed to be addressed by the government on a priority basis. She said that since the arrival of the caretaker government, dollar has gone out of control now.

The new finance minister should call on the real stakeholders to finalise policies.

PBF Spokesperson stressed that the government should change

the basic tariff of IPPs in rupee instead of US dollars as this change would save billions of rupees of the national exchequer and provide electricity at affordable cost to the trade and industry, making exports competitive in the international market.

Right now business community cannot compete with the international market in the current price of electricity. It is impossible to do business in the current conditions and businesses are closing down, in this regard the government should focus on alternative sources of energy to provide cheap electricity, create a conducive investment environment for tax collection.



QUETTA: Vendor sells grapes to earn his livelihood for support his family, on his pushcart at a roadside in Quetta

Pak Pavilion inaugurated at CIFTIS, top Pakistani service enterprise participated

BEIJING (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin ul Haque officially inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) here Saturday. The pavilion showcases the diverse range of service-oriented enterprises from Pakistan, highlighting the country's commitment to fostering international trade partnerships.

Representatives from top Pakistani service-oriented enterprises participated in the event, including companies specializing in IT, telecommunications, logistics and traveling and financial services.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the Pakistan Pavilion at CIFTIS provided a platform for Pakistani businesses to

showcase their capabilities and explore new avenues for trade and investment. He said this initiative reflects Pakistan's dedication to strengthening economic ties with China and other countries by further positioning the country as a hub for service-oriented enterprises in the region, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

"This exhibition will support Pakistan in increasing services exports, especially in IT, e-commerce, finance and logistics. It will also help promote regional connectivity with the presence of NLC and PIA in the exhibition. This year, 75 countries and international organizations are participating in the CIFTIS with almost 1,868 exhibiting companies", he added.



QUETTA: Unemployed labors are sitting worried at a roadside as they are waiting for their employment, located on Bacha Khan Chowk in Quetta.

American Business Council celebrates first ESG Excellence Awards

KARACHI (APP): The American Business Council (ABC) in Pakistan announced the 1st Annual Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Awards ceremony to commemorate companies that have made strides in sustainability and social impact.

The winners included Coca Cola Pakistan (Environment - Nature Saviour), Pepsico (Environment - Response to Climate Change), PMI (Social), KFC (Social) and McDonald's (Environment), said a news release on Saturday.

With more than 60 member companies that are

US-backed, ABC's network contributes about \$1 billion in taxes annually and employs over 1 million Pakistanis.

This event was attended by 100+ of the leading multinational CEOs, business leaders, government officers, and climate change experts. Senator Fawzia Arshad was the chief guest. She said, "The alarming rise of climate disasters in our country can only be mitigated if the private sector and the public sector work together. This is not a one institution job."

Stable market to leave positive impact on cotton supply chain

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Secretary Ifikhar Ali Sahoo has said that the current year is "the year of revival of cotton".

He said this while presiding over the meeting held in Multan and Bahawalpur to monitor the current situation of cotton and floods in South Punjab, according to a press release issued here on Saturday.

It is encouraging that the cotton market remains stable this year as it would have a positive impact on the cotton supply chain, he added. He further said that there was a need to pay special attention to nutritional management in order to get full production of the cotton crop during

this month. Ifikhar Ali Sahoo said that measures should continue on a priority basis for cotton surveillance, monitoring and prevention of harmful insects.

The secretary was told that the overall condition of cotton was satisfactory in the province and priority measures were being taken for better care of the crop.

However, in some areas the attack of whitefly, millybug and pink bollworm has been observed. On receiving the report, agricultural extension and pest warning teams are spraying agricultural poison with advanced chemistry.



MULTAN: Shepherds guiding their herd of goats heading towards the grazing field.

Minister links progress to livestock, agriculture uplift

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Livestock Ibrahim Murad has said that revolutionary changes will be made in the Livestock and Dairy Department.

He said this during a meeting with a delegation of the Veterinary Doctors Association Punjab which met him here on Saturday. The minister also took notice of pending cases of promotion of veterinary doctors. He said, "It is necessary to ensure the provision of rights to

people who work hard and perform their duties with commitment." He said that the Livestock Department would play its role in stabilizing the country's economy by using latest technology and implementing modern farming methods. "Initially our target is to lift the country's export from 5 million dollars to 15 billion dollars," he added. He said it was important to focus on projects which could yield maximum results in a short period of time.

North Korea fires cruise missiles into the sea after US-South Korean military drills end

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea launched several cruise missiles into the sea Saturday, South Korea's military said, extending its weapons testing activities in response to the United States-South Korea summer military drills.

South Korea's military detected the launches early Saturday morning off the North's west coast, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The statement said South Korea and U.S. intelligence authorities were analyzing details of the launches. It said South Korea has boosted its surveillance posture and maintains a firm military readiness in close coordination with the United States.

The launches came two days after the U.S. and South Korean militaries wrapped up their 11-day training exercises that North Korea regards as a

rehearsal for invasion. Washington and Seoul officials maintain their drills are defensive.

A day before the U.S.-South Korean training ended, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea in a launch it said was meant to simulate "scorched earth" nuclear strikes on South Korea. The North said it was separately holding a command post exercise aimed at rehearsing an occupation of South Korea's territory in the event of conflict.

On Aug. 21, the day when the U.S.-South Korean drills began, North Korea's state media said its leader Kim Jong Un observed cruise missile launches.

North Korea's second attempt to place a military spy satellite in orbit failed Aug. 24, but the country said it will make a third attempt in October.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has performed more than 100 weapons tests — many of them ballistic launches, which are banned by United Nations Security Council resolutions. North Korea's cruise missile tests aren't prohibited, but they still pose a threat to its rivals because they are designed to fly at a lower altitude to evade radar detection. Analysts say the main missions of North Korean cruise missiles are striking incoming U.S. warships and aircraft carriers in the event of war.

Foreign experts say Kim uses U.S.-South Korean military drills as a pretext to expand his missile and nuclear arsenals to boost leverage in future diplomacy with the United States. They say Kim seeks an international recognition as a legitimate nuclear state to get U.N. sanctions on the North lifted.



Chinese President Xi Jinping is seen on a screen during a video address for the Global Trade in Services Summit, at the media centre for China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing, China.

Ukraine says troops breach Russian lines, heavier defences lie ahead

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine said on Friday its troops had broken through Russia's first line of defences in several places, though they then encountered even more heavily fortified Russian positions.

Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar said Kyiv's troops, in a much-awaited counteroffensive against Russian forces, were advancing in the Zaporizhzhia region. Washington also said on Friday that Kyiv had made notable progress on the southern front in the last 72 hours.

"There is an offensive

in several directions and in certain areas. And in some places, in certain areas, this first line was broken through," Maliar told Ukrainian television.

She added, however, that Kyiv's troops who have been battling to advance through heavily mined areas for almost three months had now run into major defensive Russian fortifications. "Our armed forces have to overcome a lot of obstacles in order to move forward," she said.

Heavy fighting swept the villages around Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, captured in May

by Russian forces after months of battles, Maliar said but added it was difficult to determine whether any advances had been made.

"In the course of a single day, positions between the two sides can change several times."

The General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces in its evening report on Facebook said that Russian forces had made no headway in attempts to advance in five different sectors of the front—from Kupiansk in the northeast to different parts of Donetsk region.

Russia deploys ICBM that Putin says will make enemies 'think twice'

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The head of Russia's Roscosmos space agency said Friday that the country has deployed an advanced intercontinental ballistic missile that President Vladimir Putin once said will make Russia's enemies "think twice."

Agency head Yuri Borisov said Sarmat missiles have been placed on combat duty, according to Russian news agencies. Further details were not reported.

The Sarmat is one of several advanced weapons whose development Putin announced in 2018. The silo-based

missile, capable of carrying multiple nuclear warheads, is intended to replace the R-36 ICBMs that are known by the NATO reporting name of Satan.

The Sarmat reportedly has a short initial launch phase, allowing little time for surveillance systems to track it.

In 2022, about two months after sending troops into Ukraine, Putin said "reliably ensure the security of Russia from external threats and make those who, in the heat of aggressive rhetoric, try to threaten our country, think twice."

Biden administration proposes rule that would require more firearms dealers to run background checks

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The Biden administration is proposing a rule that would require thousands more firearms dealers to run background checks, in an effort to combat rising gun violence nationwide.

The proposal comes after a mandate from President Joe Biden to find ways to strengthen background checks following the passage of bipartisan legislation on guns last year.

People who sell firearms online, at gun shows or other places outside brick-and-mortar stores would be required to be licensed and run background checks on the buyers before the sales under the rule proposed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

A firearm-industry trade group swiftly raised concerns about the proposal, though, and said it could face a court challenge if finalized in

its current form.

The bureau estimates that the rule would affect anywhere from 24,500 to 328,000 sellers. It is aimed at those who are in the business of gun sales, rather than those with personal collections.

Background checks help prevent guns from being sold to people convicted of crimes, teenagers and others who are legally blocked from owning them, said the agency's director, Steve Dettelbach. Federally licensed firearm dealers are also required to keep records and sell guns with serial numbers, both of which help law enforcement trace weapons used in crimes.

"Unlicensed dealers sell guns without running background checks, without keeping records, without observing the other crucial public safety requirements by which the (federally licensed firearm dealer) community abides," he said.



WEST BANK: Palestinians inspect a damaged house following an Israeli military raid in the village of Al Aqaba.

US urges end to deadly clashes in east Syria

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: The United States called on Friday for an end to deadly fighting between the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and Arab armed groups in a region of eastern Syria.

The arrest on Sunday of the head of the Deir Ezzor Military Council, a local Arab armed group affiliated with the US-backed SDF, has triggered clashes which have since left dozens dead. The US embassy for Syria, which is based outside the country, called on "all parties to de-escalate and peacefully resolve the situation".

"The violence in northeast Syria must cease," said the US military's Operation Inherent Resolve. In a statement, it urged a renewed focus on efforts to bring "peace and stability in northeast Syria, free from the threat of Daesh". "We remain focused on working with the Syrian Democratic

Forces to ensure the enduring defeat of Daesh, in support of regional security and stability. Distractions from this critical work create instability and increase the risk of Daesh resurgence."

The SDF spearheaded the offensive that defeated the IS group's self-declared caliphate in Syria in 2019.

The US-backed force controls a semi-autonomous Kurdish zone in Syria's northeast, including large parts of the Deir Ezzor province.

The recent fighting has taken place near the Conoco gas field. The US-led coalition maintains bases there as well as in Syria's largest gas field, Al-Omar. The Britain-based monitoring group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported on Friday that overnight fighting had claimed the lives of five supporters of the arrested head of the Deir Ezzor Military Council.

Russia's Putin says he will meet China's Xi soon

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that he expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping soon, following earlier reports that he planned to visit China in October.

Russia has turned increasingly to China as its most powerful ally since alienating the West last year with its decision to launch a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, what it calls a "special military operation".

China has declined to blame Moscow for the war and condemned Western sanctions on Russia, even as it has profited by securing discounts for oil and gas that Russia can no longer sell to Europe.

Greece rescues 25 migrants from deadly fire

Monitoring Desk
EVROS: Greece on Friday rescued a group of 25 migrants trapped in a wildfire which has been burning in the north-eastern region of Evros for almost two weeks, authorities said.

The wildfire in Evros, Europe's deadliest this summer, burned for a 14th day after killing at least 20 people, destroying homes and livelihoods and scorching lush forests.

All but one of the dead in the Evros fire are believed to have been migrants who crossed over from Turkey, evading police in the forest. Evros is a popular crossing into

the European Union for thousands of migrants and refugees every year.

Aircraft and hundreds of firefighters battled the blaze in the Dadia Forest amid fast-changing winds on Friday.

A video showed migrants sitting on a road next to a field, with trees engulfed in thick grey smoke in the background, before authorities drove them away on an open-backed truck.

"While operating between the villages of Giannouli and Dadia, 25 people were found and taken to a safe place by the fire brigade and police," Greek fire brigade spokesperson Ioannis Artopoios said.

South African police say 18 suspected robbers killed in shootout

Monitoring Desk
JOHANNESBURG: Eighteen suspected robbers were shot and killed during a shootout with South African police in the Limpopo province, the police said on Friday.

Addressing the media from the crime scene in Makhado in South Africa's northernmost province, national police commissioner Fannie Masemola said the suspects were allegedly planning a cash-in-transit (CIT) heist and were responsible for similar crimes in other provinces.

Canada shut its land border to asylum seekers. More refugees came anyway

Monitoring Desk
TORONTO: A deal Canada struck this year to stem the flow of asylum seekers entering from the U.S. was, at first glance, a quick success: Within days, the number of people caught at unofficial crossings along the border dwindled to a trickle.

But five months later, the overall number of people filing refugee claims in Canada has risen instead of falling. Many now come by air, while others sneak across the border and hide until they can apply for asylum without fear of being sent back, people working with migrants told Reuters. The numbers show how hard it is for countries to shut the door on desperate people and the challenge unexpected numbers of asylum seekers can pose: In Toronto, hundreds slept on the streets this summer as they struggled to find beds.

"The basic reality is that closing a border doesn't

do anything to solve the need for protection," said Shauna Labman, an associate professor and acting director of the Human Rights Program at the University of Winnipeg.

"It only increases the desperation."

Canada prides itself on welcoming immigrants and aims to bring in a record half a million new permanent residents in 2025 to deal with an acute labor shortage. But it has sought to discourage those applying for asylum, chiefly through an agreement with the U.S. under which each country turns back asylum seekers.

Still, last year alone, more than 39,000 asylum seekers entered Canada via unofficial crossings — mostly into Quebec via a dirt path off Roxham Road in New York, prompting the province to complain it could not handle the arrivals.

Israeli forces kill another Palestinian in occupied West Bank

Monitoring Desk
AL AQABA: Israeli forces on Friday killed a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said, as a surge of deadly violence in the occupied territory shows no signs of abating.

The ministry said Abdul Rahim Fayed Ghannam, 36, was "shot by live occupation (Israeli) fire in the head" in the village of Al-Aqaba in the northern West Bank.

An AFP photographer saw black smoke billowing from a building during the military raid.

The Israeli army said in a statement a firefight broke out between militants and soldiers and "a hit was identified on one of the gunmen". Troops also "used shoulder-fired missiles and grenades" in the violence, and subsequently found improvised explosive devices and other weapons in the building, the statement said. After Israeli forces withdrew, Palestinian residents inspected bullet marks and a gaping hole left in the wall of a house.



Protesters hold a flag depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin during a rally supporting Milorad Dodik, pro-Russian leader in Bosnia, in Lukavica, Bosnia.

Iran FM rebuffs Macron remarks over Lebanon 'interference'

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Iran's foreign minister on Friday rejected accusations from France over Tehran's interference in Lebanon, urging President Emmanuel Macron to focus instead on his own country.

Macron had told a conference of French ambassadors earlier this week that a "key element" to resolve Lebanon's political crisis was "the clarification of regional interference, including that of Iran".

"I advise Mr Macron to focus on the situation inside France instead of paying attention to ques-

tions of interference in other countries," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said during a visit to Beirut.

Mired in a grueling economic crisis since 2019, Lebanon has been governed by a caretaker cabinet for more than a year and without a president since late October. Lebanese lawmakers failed 12 times to elect a successor to former president Michel Aoun amid bitter disputes between the powerful Iran-backed Shiite movement Hezbollah and its opponents. "Iran has always played the most constructive role in helping Lebanon."

Nasa spots new crater on Moon

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Nasa has spotted a small new crater on the Moon that was likely caused by a Russian probe crash landing on the surface around two weeks ago. The finding was made by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) by comparing before and after images of the estimated impact point, provided by Russian space agency Roscosmos.

The Luna-25 probe crashed on Aug 19.

LRO, which has been in orbit over the Moon since 2009, took its most recent "before" image in June 2022.

Strongest typhoon in decades barrels towards Hong Kong, Shenzhen

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Tens of millions of people in Hong Kong, Shenzhen and other southern Chinese megacities hunkered down indoors late on Friday as Super Typhoon Saola threatened to become the strongest storm to hit the region in decades.

Over 880,000 people were evacuated across two Chinese provinces ahead of Saola making landfall, hundreds of flights were cancelled across the region, and trees were uprooted around the rain-battered streets of Hong Kong.

China's national weather office predicted Saola "may become the strongest typhoon to make landfall in the Pearl River Delta since 1949", referring to a low-lying region that includes Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong province.

With a direct hit possible, authorities in Hong

Kong raised the warning level on Friday evening to the city's highest — "T10", which had only been issued 16 times since World War II before Saola.

"Do not go outside... Stay away from exposed windows and doors because glass, already under strain from wind pressure, will shatter easily if hit by a flying object," the Hong Kong Observatory warned in a bulletin released after the highest alert was issued.

Hong Kong residents struggled with flailing umbrellas as they ran under the unrelenting rainfall, while people wearing plastic bags on their heads rushed home past sandbags stacked in waterfront areas to prevent flooding.

By 11pm (local time) Saola was 30 kilometres south-southwest of the city, the "closest to Hong Kong at present" and packing sustained wind speeds of 185 kilometres per hour.



People protest in the Syria's southern city of Sweida.

Sniffer dogs search for clues in ashes of deadly South African fire

Monitoring Desk
JOHANNESBURG: Police with sniffer dogs searched through the gutted remains of a Johannesburg apartment block on Friday, as authorities stepped up investigations into the cause of a fire that killed more than 70 people.

Officers used razor wire to cordon off areas around the run-down five-storey building that was destroyed in a blaze in the early hours of Thursday in one of South Africa's worst such disasters in living memory.

Addressing journalists

while visiting the injured at a hospital, Health Minister Joe Phaahla said the death toll had now risen to 76.

Most of the bodies were burned beyond recognition and investigators would have to rely on DNA samples from relatives to identify them, said Thembaletu Mphahla, from Gauteng province's Forensic Pathology Services. Only 12 bodies so far recovered were identifiable by sight, he added. "I am devastated," block resident Wambali Kaunda, who lost his brother and niece in the fire, told Reuters.

Nobel Foundation cancels Russia, Belarus, Iran invites to annual prize awards

Monitoring Desk
STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Foundation said on Saturday it would not after all invite the ambassadors of Russia, Belarus and Iran to attend the Nobel Prize awards ceremony in Stockholm this year, reversing an earlier decision after widespread criticism.

Last year, the foundation left off the ambassadors of Russia and its ally Belarus because of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. The foundation said on Thursday it would invite them, and Iran's ambassador, to this year's prize award ceremonies in December.



ISLAMABAD: Briefing session of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), arranged with Ambassadors & Commercial Attaches of Foreign Missions in Pakistan to illuminate SIFC's Initiative by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PAF JF-17 Thunder participates in Multi-National Air Exercise "Bright Star 2023" at Egypt

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) contingent will showcase its exceptional capabilities at the Multi-national Air Exercise "Bright Star 2023" that kicked off at the Mohammed Naguib Military Base, Egypt alongside its JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, dedicated air and ground crew.

Originally established as a bilateral training event between the United States and Egypt during the Camp David Accord of 1977, Bright Star Exercise has evolved into a significant multi-national endeavor, a PAF news release said on Saturday.

Since 1995, nations from around the world have been invited to participate

in the mega exercise, transforming it into one of the largest and most intricate joint air force exercises globally.

The exercise aimed to promote interoperability among the participating nations, fostering shared learning opportunities.

Designed to simulate realistic aerial warfare scenarios, Exercise Bright Star provides an invaluable opportunity for participating Air Forces to assess their operational readiness in real-time.

Over the course of two weeks, the exercise will bring together air, naval, and ground assets of the participating nations in the desert terrain of North-West Cairo, Egypt. A total of 34 countries including Paki-

stan, the United States of America, India, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar will be participating in this prestigious event.

In light of the complex security environment and contemporary strategic challenges, exercises like Bright Star 2023 enable the Pakistan Air Force to enhance its interoperability with friendly nations. Apart from strengthening military relations, this exercise will facilitate the practice of integrated employment of combat and support assets. It will also provide an opportunity to formulate and validate tactics against contemporary threats, ensuring preparedness for any future contingencies.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Domki lauds performance of Gwadar player in U-16 SAF football Championship's opener

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has praised the talented footballer Subhan Karim who scored first international goal in the opening match of Under-16 SAF Football Championship against Bhutan for Pakistan.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that Subhan Karim, who belongs to Gwadar, played important role in Pakistan's victory against Bhutan by scoring first international goal.

Pakistan trounced host Bhutan by 2-1 in the first match played in con-

nection with the U-16 SAF Football Championship.

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki said that the players from Balochistan have always demonstrated excellent performance in the field of sports and brightened the name of the province and country, the latest example of which is the performance of Subhan Karim in the SAF Football Championship, he maintained.

He assured that we would patronize the talented players wholeheartedly. He also announced that Subhan Karim would be invited in the Chief Minister's secretariat on his return, Mr. Domki maintained.



HUB: Leaders and supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) block road as they are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills.

SBKWU to offer pharmacy degree program

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pharmacy Council of Pakistan has accredited the department of pharmacy at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU), Quetta and allowed the institute to offer a recognized and accredited pharmacy degree programs.

The female students in the province would be able to receive a quality pharmaceutical education and contribute to the healthcare sector in the country. The achievement was made possible due to the unwavering efforts and great concern for the life-saving profession by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Sajida Naureen, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Naheed Haq (Senior Pharmacy Professor), Registrar Prof. Dr. Farhat Safdar, HOD Dr. Irum Javid, all faculty members, and administrative staff.

The Vice Chancellor of SBKWU Prof. Dr. Sajida Naureen said that all the faculty members have played a crucial role in ensuring that the department

met the high standards and requirements set by the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan. The dedication and hard work of these individuals, along with the support and cooperation of the faculty members and administrative staff, allowed the department to establish itself as a reputable institution in a relatively short period of time, she added.

Prof. Dr. Sajida Naureen said "this accreditation is a testament to their commitment to providing quality education and training in the field of pharmacy to the women of Balochistan". With the accreditation, the department can now offer recognized and accredited pharmacy degree programs, allowing students to receive a quality education and contribute to the healthcare sector in Pakistan. The Vice Chancellor of the university took the initiative to acknowledge the significant contributions made by the members of the pharmacy council towards the accreditation of the department.

Jammu and Kashmir's partition unacceptable to Kashmiris: Sultan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while stressing the need for settling the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, has said the fragmentation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was not acceptable to the Kashmiri people.

Addressing a function in Islamabad, the AJK President said, "Let it be clear that Kashmiris will not allow the partition of Kashmir under any circumstances." He said all that Kashmiris want is implementation of the UN resolutions that guaranteed the right to self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Barrister Chaudhry said that the BJP-led Indian government was hell bent on changing the demography of IIOJK by settling Hindus in the territory. He said, by altering the region's demography, the Modi government wants to install a Hindu chief minister in the region in order to lend legitimacy to the actions it took on and after August 5, 2019. The AJK President deplored that India's 900,000 forces' personnel deployed in length and breadth of occupied Kashmir were involved in gross human rights violations in the region. He lauded the sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri people and maintained that the day is not far when the people of IIOJK would achieve their cherished goal of liberation of Kashmir from the Indian illegal occupation. He said the Kashmiris living abroad should also play their role in highlighting the freedom movement. The event was organized in the memory of towering Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Gilani. Paying rich tributes to Syed Ali Gilani, he said the veteran leader was fearless advocate of Kashmiris' right to self-determination who devoted his entire life to the freedom movement.

Quetta admin. starts anti encroachment, cleanliness campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Quetta district administration launched anti-encroachment and cleanliness campaign in the provincial metropolis on Saturday.

As part of the campaign, the Assistant Commissioner Quetta Sadar, Flt. Lt. (Retd) Khalid Shams visited different areas of the city including Airport road and Nawab Killi.

He issued warning to the shopkeepers and vendors to remove encroachments and ensure cleanliness at their shops and outlets.

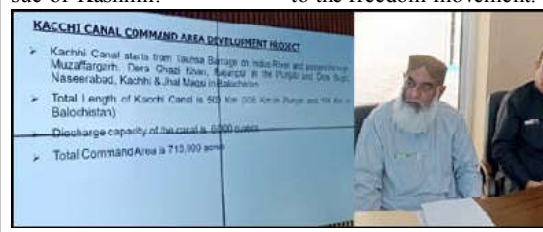
The district administration warned that the operation against encroachments and poor cleanliness would remain continued in the city.

In this regard, the encroachers have been directed to remove the encroachments voluntarily, otherwise action would be taken against them.

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In this regard, the encroachers have been directed to remove the encroachments voluntarily, otherwise action would be taken against them.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan being briefed about departmental affairs of Agriculture department

Aneeq urges media to launch awareness drive of Tuberculosis

KARACHI (APP): Interim Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed said that the media had a significant role in creating awareness among the people. He said that the media owners should play their part in this regard.

Ahmed said that the people should be made aware of the diseases including TB.

He said, "Good social behaviours and attitudes are vital along with prayers".

He said that the country was facing many challenges and everything had been commercialized in the society.

The Minister said that the average age of the people around the world was increasing due to the provision of best facilities to them.

He said that Pakistan also could be made that country, where people could breathe in neat and clean environment.

He said that the media had a significant role in creating awareness among the people. He said that the media owners should play their part in this regard.

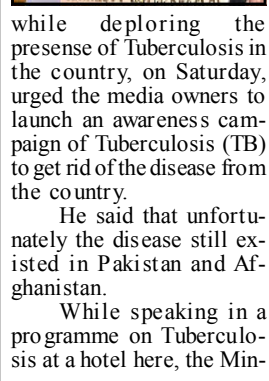
Ahmed said that the people should be made aware of the diseases including TB.

He said, "Good social behaviours and attitudes are vital along with prayers".

He said that the country was facing many challenges and everything had been commercialized in the society.

The Minister said that the average age of the people around the world was increasing due to the provision of best facilities to them.

He said that Pakistan also could be made that country, where people could breathe in neat and clean environment.



MARSHAL: Aneeq Ahmed speaking at a podium.

Don't accept long electricity bill with several taxes: Senator

MARDAN (Online): Jamaat-e-Islami provincial chief, Senator Mushtaq Ahmed said that the unit of electricity is Rs 52 in August and it will become Rs 90 per unit in the month of September. Our battle is long and decisive against the rulers.

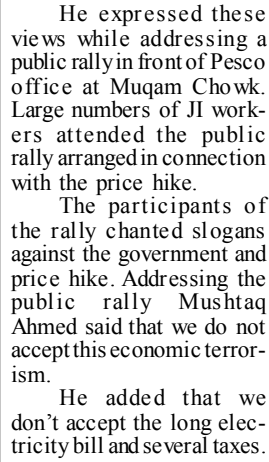
He expressed these views while addressing a public rally in front of PESCO office at Muqam Chowk. Large numbers of JI workers attended the public rally arranged in connection with the price hike.

The participants of the rally chanted slogans against the government and price hike. Addressing the public rally Mushtaq Ahmed said that we do not accept this economic terrorism.

He added that we don't accept the long electricity bill and several taxes.

He added that General Sajjad Ghani is the chairman of WAPDA. He argued that General Sajjad Ghani issued a notification that installed his portrait with the portrait of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in all the WAPDA offices. He added that he also spoke in this connection on the floor of the senate.

He said that in August the general sent an electricity bill with 52 rupee unit and several taxes and in September he will send an electricity bill with 90 rupee unit and several taxes. Now he asked the general where they installed his portrait. Mushtaq Ahmed said that now the looting system will not work. The elite Republic of Pakistan will not last. One percent republic will not work. Heavy electricity and gas bills will not work.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat presiding over a meeting regarding cleanliness and removal of encroachments

Murtaza Solangi says Some sections of media misreported PM's recent interaction with journalists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Saturday said some sections of media had misreported the recent interaction of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar with journalists in Islamabad regarding the electricity bills issue.

Murtaza Solangi, in a news statement, clarified that when the prime minister was asked during the interaction whether the electricity bills had caused chaos or anarchy in the country, he ruled out the anarchy, but did not dismiss the matter as non-issue.

He said the prime minister had not stated that the issue of electricity bills was

not worrisome for the people, rather he explained what were the reasons behind the expensive electricity.

The prime minister reaffirmed in the media interaction that the solution would soon be worked out, Solangi added.

He said those who were responsible for the current situation had also been using the issue for political point-scoring in the wake of the upcoming election.

PM Kakar never said that people's problems were "unjust", he added.

He said some responsible journalists had also confirmed that the prime minister had not referred to the matter of electricity bills

as a non-serious issue. Instead, he had stated that the country had commitments with international organizations, assuring that a solution would be worked out for the people without compromising the promises made to the organizations.

The minister said ironically, it was projected in some sections of media that the prime minister was not concerned about people's difficulties, which was unjust and against journalistic norms.

He appealed to the media to report news according to the facts.

The minister also cited a couplet from Faiz Ahmed Faiz Poetry to comment on the misreporting of the media interaction.

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Jamal Raisani pleased over victorious start in U-16 SAF C'ship

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani has expressed pleasure over victorious start of the Pakistan team in Under-16 SAF Football Championship in Bhutan.

In a felicitation statement issued here on Saturday, the caretaker Provincial Minister expressed best wishes for more success of the U-16 team in the event.

He praised performance of the young players saying that they demonstrated excellent team work in the match.

IHC barred authorities from arresting Imaan in any case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad High Court (IHC) barred authorities from arresting the human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari in any new cases.

The court's order, issued by Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb in a two-page written directive, has cast a protective shield around Mazari, preventing her arrest in any new cases.

The court in its written directive ordered the Secretary, Inspector General (IG), and Director General (DG) of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) not to arrest Mazari after her release. IHC also di-

rected the Interior Secretary, nor the police or FIA, should provide any assistance in the arrest of Mazari.

Moreover, the authorities are mandated to ensure that Mazari should not transported the confines of the capital city, Shireen Mazari - the mother of the petitioner - raised concerns about the potential re-arrest of her daughter following her release on bail in a third case.

The Interior Secretary has been tasked with coordinating with provincial authorities to assess the various cases registered against Mazari by Monday.

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Pakistan Navy Flotilla visits Iraq during overseas deployment

ISLAMABAD (PR): Pakistan Navy Flotilla comprising PN Ships HIMMAT, DEHSHAT and MUHAFIZ visited Port Umm Qasr, Iraq during Overseas Deployment to Gulf countries.

Upon arrival at the port, PN Ships were received by Commander of Umm Qasr Naval Base Rear Admiral Laith Abdal Satar, senior Iraqi Navy officials and Defence Attaché of Pakistan at Iraq. The Mission Commander along with Commanding Officers of ships called on Commander Iraqi Navy Rear Admiral Mazin Abdul Wahid and senior naval leadership of host Navy. During the interactions, matters of mutual interest were discussed and enhancements of bilateral ties in all spheres were reaffirmed. Mission Commander conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of Iraq in general and Iraqi navy in

particular. A reception dinner was also hosted onboard PNS MUHAFIZ which was hosted by Ambassador of Pakistan to Iraq. Officials of Iraqi Navy and notables from Pakistani community attended the reception.

During port call, various bilateral activities including exchange visits onboard ships, orientation visit of PN personnel to military installations and coordination meetings for exercises at sea were undertaken. Upon completion of port visit, PN ships participated in sea exercise with Iraqi Navy Ship to enhance interoperability.

The port visit to Iraq is expected to further enhance existing close diplomatic ties and cordial relations between the two countries and the navies.

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QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan being briefed about departmental affairs of Agriculture department

Pakistan issues new guidelines for Afghan flights

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Saturday issued new guidelines for flights originating from Afghanistan and entering Pakistan's airspace.

Under the new directives, all flights entering Pakistani airspace from Afghanistan are required to provide a minimum of 15 minutes advance notice.

According to the CAA, air traffic services will be available to flights within Pakistan's airspace upon prior notification. This service will be extended through the Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad Area Control centers.

Re-arrest of Pervez Elahi violating LHC orders condemnable: PBC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) on Saturday said that the manhandling and re-arrest of PTI President Pervez Elahi against the directives of Lahore High Court's (LHC) is condemnable. The LHC on Friday had directed release of Elahi besides issuing orders restraining his possible arrest by any agency or preventive detention.

However, while on way to his house along with lawyer Sardar Latif Khosa hours after his release, the former chief minister was intercepted by a team of the Islamabad police, assisted by the Punjab police.

The police personnel shifted Elahi into a white car with no licence plate, which drove him to Islamabad. Visuals of the arrest - in which men in plain clothes accompanied by uniformed Punjab policemen can be seen dragging Elahi out of his car - had gone viral on social media. Later, Islamabad police had said in a social media post: "Pervez Elahi has been arrested under 3

MPO following an order passed by a district magistrate. Pervez Elahi is being shifted to jail." In a statement, PBC Vice-Chairman Haroon Rashid and Executive Committee Chairman Hassan Raza Pasha, "strongly condemned the manhandling and the way" in which Elahi was re-arrested, as well as his confinement under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO).

It said the re-arrest was made "while disregarding and non-complying" the LHC's order wherein it had "categorically ordered not to re-arrest him in any case".

The PBC expressed concerns that the arrest "raised questions about the rule of law and the power dynamics in Pakistan's political landscape". Stressing the necessity to obey and implement court orders and upholding the Constitution, the council stated that the courts "should take care while deciding political matters whether orders passed therein could be implemented or not".