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ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

CM orders inclusion of poverty stricken mothers of metropolis in social protection program

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar has directed the Social Protection Department to develop and efficiently implement an overarching need-driven and rights-based cross-sectoral social protection strategy for the poverty-stricken districts, including Katchi Abadis and slum areas of Karachi.

"The poverty ratio in the Katchi Abadis (slum areas) and rural areas of Karachi is equally higher as of the rural areas of the province, therefore Karachi must be included in the social protection program," he issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the Social Protection Dept to review its progress at the Cm House. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Dr. Fakhre

Alam, Vice Chairman Social Protection Board Haris Gazdar, Chairman P&D Shakeel Manijo, PSCM Hassan Naqvi, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoi, Haris Gazdar, CEO Social Protection, Samiullah Shaikh, Vice Chairman Haris Gazdar and CEO Samiullah Shaikh briefed the caretaker chief minister about the department and its program launched by the government.

The CM was told that under the Sindh Social Protection Strategy an effective Management Information System (MIS) for the social registry has been developed. Under the program two feasibility studies - Food Security - Bhok Mitao - program and the Benazir Women Agriculture Workers program have been conducted.

Mother and Child

Support Program (MCSP) and Nutrition conditional cash transfer have been launched. The program is being implemented as a pilot MCSP in two districts - Tharparkar and Umerkot to enable uptake of maternal and child health services by vulnerable rural women.

The Pilot program was initiated in May 2021 in four UCs and was scaled up to cover the entire districts of Tharparkar and Umerkot in May 2022.

The CM was told that MIS has been established where 62,000 pregnant women have been enrolled and Rs165 million have been disbursed. The meeting was informed that a Rs48,300 million project for the Social Protection Delivery System has been launched with the assistance of the World Bank.

PM stresses provision of skills to manpower according to contemporary requirements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday stressed the need to work on a war footing for the provision of skills to the country's manpower according to contemporary requirements.

He said the professional education and vocational training programs should be prepared at par with the needs of the international market.

Chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet here, the prime minister said steps should be taken to increase employment opportunities of skilled people abroad.

On recommendation of federal ministry of education and professional training, the federal cabinet also approved the service level amended agreement between National Vocational and Technical Training Commission and Saudi agency Takamol.

The prime minister directed that all existing centers of technical education and vocational training should be activated.

On the recommendation of the ministry of education and professional training, the Cabinet also approved the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Area Studies Center, University of Peshawar and Central Asia Research Center of Corvinus University of Hungary.

The cabinet also approved the appointment of Lt. Gen. Munir Afsar as Chairman of National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) out of the three names proposed by the Ministry of Interior.

Interior minister says Security personnel involved in cross-border smuggling to 'face court martial'

Says apex committee meetings being held to tackle terrorism; "Not right" to say security forces not involved in smuggling; Caretaker govt taking special measures to curb terrorism, hoarding, smuggling

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti announced on Monday that any security personnel found engaged in cross-border smuggling will face court-martial proceedings.

Bugti's statement follows a similar warning issued by Chief of Army

Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir, emphasizing that security officials involved in cross-border smuggling would be subject to court martial. During a press conference in Islamabad, Bugti acknowledged the involvement of security forces in smuggling activities, stating, "If I say that security forces weren't involved [in smuggling], it won't be right as the smuggled items are transported via trucks, not camels."

Bugti said that Gen Asim Munir had warned mili-

tary personnel that involvement in illegal cross-border trade would not only result in court martial but also lead to imprisonment. He explained that the army had its accountability mechanism, which, while not publicly known, does exist.

APP adds: Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti on Monday said that on the directions of caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Kakar, the Ministry of Interior took special measures to curb terrorism, hoarding, smug-

gling, illegal money exchange and other illegal activities.

Addressing a press conference along with caretaker Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi, Sarfraz Bugti said that ten joint check posts consisted of Custom officials, Frontier Core and local Police were established in Baluchistan with special powers of customs clearance, however the number of check posts were not being increased from ten to fourteen.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing a press Conference.

Non holding election in 90 days challenged

LAHORE (Online): Non holding general election in 90 days has been challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC).

The petition has been filed by Judicial Activism Panel making president, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday claimed the PPP was the "only" political party in the country that wanted timely elections.

"PPP is the country's only party that wants elections to take place," he said in a press conference in Karachi, lamenting how "so-called" political leaders were coming up with excuses to delay polls.

"You must have seen that sometimes a so-called leader comes on screen and says: 'Delimitation has to happen and until then [elections can be delayed]'. Okay let's accept delimitation [needs to be done] but that process has been completed so now there should be no issue in giving the date [for polls]."

"If not delimitation, then sometimes someone begins talking about the weather that 'it is very cold in February and January so how will we contest elections,' while others talk about the law and order situation," Bilawal said.

His statement appeared to be a criticism of JUI-F Emir Maulana Fazlur Rehman's concerns over holding elections in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtun-khwa at a time when they remain gripped by intense winter.

PPP 'only' political party that wants timely elections, says Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): Taking a dig at his allies in the erstwhile Pakistan Democratic Movement-led ruling coalition, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday claimed the PPP was the "only" political party in the country that wanted timely elections.

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Governor visits shrine of Hazrat Abu Ayub Ansari in Istanbul

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori visited the shrine of Hazrat Abu Ayub Ansari in Istanbul.

According to a Governor House communique here on Monday, on the occasion, the Sindh Governor prayed for Pakistan's security, stability, and economic growth.

Tessori said that it was his intention to visit the shrine in the blessed month of Rabi'ul Awwal.

The Governor prayed for the prosperity of the people of Sindh. He also prayed for the success of selected candidates for the Governor's IT courses.

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KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses the PPP candidates who won the local elections of Sindh, during meeting held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Faizabad sit-in review petitions SC issues written order pertaining to hearing

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday issued a written order pertaining to the hearing of September 28, in Faizabad sit-in review petitions.

In a four-page order, the court said that the respondents had been given one more opportunity to present the facts of the matter.

The respondents could file the facts in written form, through affidavits, till October 27, it said.

It said that the Attorney General of Pakistan had stated that the defence ministry didn't want to pursue the review petition. The Intelligence Bureau (IB), Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) had also filed miscellaneous applications to withdraw the review petitions.

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FM to participate in Trans-Himalaya Forum in Tibet on Oct 4-5

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani is visiting China to participate in the 3rd Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation, being held in Nyingchi, Tibet Autonomous Region, on October 4-5.

The foreign minister is undertaking the visit at the special invitation of the Foreign Minister of China, Wang Yi, the Foreign Office said Monday. The Trans-Himalaya Forum was initiated in 2018 to deepen practical cooperation among regional countries on diverse subjects including geographical connectivity, environmental protection.

Land of Baldia Town Cottage Industries asset of citizens: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the land of Baldia Town Cottage Industries is the asset of the citizens, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto had announced to establishment of Cottage Industries here in 1993-94 for the citizens of Karachi. There are clear orders of the court to give possession of the plots to the allottees and KMC is ready for it.

He said this while presiding over a high-level meeting regarding Cottage Industries Baldia Town in his office on Monday.

On this occasion, Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Parliamentary Leader in City Council Najmi Alam, Mayor Karachi Representative for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, heads of relevant departments of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation and other officers

were also present.

Barrister Wahab said that Cottage Industries Baldia Town has an area of 348 acres in which 3946 plots were allotted to the citizens, 128 of them were allotted to the allottees through balloting as commercial plots.

The acquired land will be returned to them so that they can start their business, the possession of sectors A, B and C will be given to the allottees immediately while the sectors of cottage industries which are illegally occupied by some people will be vacated, he said.

The Mayor Karachi said that the purpose under which the cottage industry was established in Baldia Town should be fulfilled, even after a long time, small industries could not be established there due to the non-occupation of the allottees.

Earthquake alert: Dutch scientist predicts 'strong tremor' in Pak

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: The Solar System Geometry Survey (SSGEOS), a Netherlands-based organization known for its seismic predictions, has made headlines by forecasting a major earthquake in Pakistan.

According to the SSGEOS, this seismic event is expected to strike Pakistan within the next 48 hours. The SSGEOS specializes in monitoring fluctuations of electric charge in the atmosphere near sea level, which they claim are indicative of regions where stronger seismic activity might occur, typically within a range of 1 to 9 days.

Lt Gen Munir Afsar named Nadra's chairman

By M. Ilyas ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet Monday approved the appointment of Lieutenant General Munir Afsar as the chairman of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

The federal cabinet approved his appointment after it received a summary containing three names from the Ministry of Interior, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said.

Interim Govt decides to evict 11 lacs foreigners residing illegally in Pak

In first phase, illegal residents, in second phase, those with Afghan citizenship and in third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be expelled.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker government has decided to evict 11 lacs foreigners living illegally in Pakistan because of their involvement in funding, facilitating terrorists and other illegal activities.

In the first phase, illegal residents, in the second phase, those with Afghan citizenship and in the third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be expelled.

"Illegally resident foreigners pose a serious threat to the security of Pakistan" said a source privy to the development and added that the plan for eviction of illegally residing Afghan citizens has also been approved as this lot is involved in funding, facilitating and smuggling terrorists whereas 7 lacs Afghans have not renewed their proof of residence in Pakistan.

It has been informed that in the first phase, illegal residents will be deported along with those who do not renew their visas.



KARACHI: A lady health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child at a slum area in Provincial Capital.

IHC dismisses lower courts' verdicts in nine bail petitions of PTI Chairman

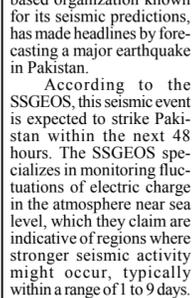
ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday dismissed decision of trial court for terminating pre-arrest bails of PTI's Chairman in nine case on the basis of non-pursuance.

The court said bail petitions of PTI's head would be considered as pending and trial court would take decision after hearing them again.

A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice

Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the verdict on appeal of chairman PTI.

It may be mentioned here Additional District and Session Court dismissed the interim bail petitions of PTI's head in six cases, while Anti-Terrorism Court turned terminated three bail petitions due to non-pursuance after his arrest in Toshakhana case. The cases were connected with the incidents of May 3, violation of section-144 and protests in capital.



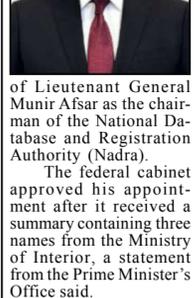
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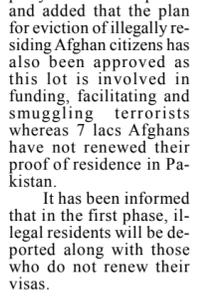
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Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Faizabad redux

The memory of the infamous Faizabad dharna of 2017 has returned to haunt Pakistan. When one looks back at the stand-off, which eventually saw the Tehreek-i-Labbaik catapulted into the political 'mainstream', there is little to feel but regret.

As the Supreme Court takes up review petitions against its 2019 verdict in the same case, the TLP is once again on the rampage, this time against minority communities.

Unfortunately, there has been, so far, no attempt by the state to clamp down on their disruptive activities — an approach in line with the security establishment's earlier inclination to allow a free hand to the group. Interestingly, those who had filed the review pleas against the 2019 Faizabad sit-in verdict now want them withdrawn.

They include the PTI, which participated in an extended smear campaign against the current chief justice following the judgement, but which now finds it more suitable for his verdict to be implemented without further qualification.

There are also some who do not want the matter to be revisited as this will invariably give rise to difficult questions about the present political context.

It may be recalled that the Supreme Court's Faizabad ruling had prompted a presidential reference against Justice Isa — a move that was widely seen as a 'punishment' for his attempt to hold the security forces to account.

The judgement was seen as a clarion call for unelected quarters to respect their oath, to stop interfering in the political domain, and to check religious extremists, instead of patronising them.

But none was ever prosecuted for engaging in unlawful political activity, and the TLP was allowed to flourish despite its virulent ideology, which recurrently caused immense embarrassment for the Pakistani authorities in later years.

The political instability seen lately and the repeated attacks on Pakistan's minority communities in recent weeks are just some of the symptoms of the state's failure to implement the Faizabad sit-in verdict.

After the Eid Milad-un-Nabi bombings this Friday, many observers have been wondering why Pakistan continues to be targeted by those seeking to shed innocent blood. It would appear that violent extremism continues to find easy outlets here because it ranks so low in our state's priorities.

Consider how the state responded to the Faizabad verdict. When the court excoriated the security agencies for failing to act firmly against those openly spreading hate and advocating extremism, the administration at the time, instead of ensuring that the miscreants were dealt with resolutely, attempted to neutralise the judge who had issued the ruling. As long as terrorists know that our state will turn a blind eye to bigotry and hate, there is little hope for us to be rid of the malignancies that have become embedded in our sociopolitical fabric.

Refugee question



Huma Yusuf

It has been a bad week for refugees. A debate is brewing on whether the UN's refugee convention is still fit for purpose. A recent Financial Times poll found that 56 per cent of Americans and 60pc of Britons say immigration is too high. Closer to home, our interim government authorised the deportation of undocumented Afghan refugees.

Our policymakers should closely follow the evolving global rhetoric on refugees for it will inevitably affect Pakistan's global standing.

It is not surprising that refugees are back in the headlines. According to the UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, as of May this year, more than 110 million individuals were forcibly displaced due to conflict, persecution or human rights violations, of which more than 35m were categorised as refugees.

Pakistan is in a double bind. On the one hand, as the preferred destination for over 2m Afghan refugees, it faces international pressure to sign up to the UN refugee convention (Pakistan is not a signatory and thus does not have national legislation guiding refugee and asylum protocols or non-refoulement, which is why it can deport vulnerable Afghans without breaching local or international law). On the other, as a (growing) exporter of refugees, it will face mounting pressure to stem the tide as well as aggressive containment approaches. Our economic, security and foreign policies are not adequately equipped to manage the challenge.

The interim set-up

has already faced criticism for its decision to deport undocumented Afghan refugees (Pakistan hosts 1.4m documented Afghan refugees; an equal number of undocumented Afghans are also believed to reside in the country). The refugees complain of harassment and police mishandling, claiming that Pakistani authorities have been slow to approve registrations and visa extension applications. The international community is raising its eyebrow at a country ready to send Afghans, including girls and women, back to a country where human rights violations are extreme.

Pakistan uses deportations as a way to demonstrate it is cracking down on cross-border militancy, while also hoping it serves as a pressure tactic to elicit more support from Kabul to limit this security threat. This is largely ineffective given that most Afghan refugees are legitimately fleeing hunger, conflict and women's rights violations.

Pakistan should, instead, consider the benefits of welcoming Afghan refugees, as it has historically done. This would be humane and demonstrate that Pakistan does not condone the extremism and horrific misogyny of the Taliban. It would also position Pakistan well for future international negotiations in which it would want to advocate for Pakistani refugees in other countries to be treated humanely and in accordance with international laws.

As a first step, Pakistan should sign the UN refugee convention, but on the condition that its Western allies provide it with support to comply with non-refoulement requirements (the prohibition on states to return individuals to places where they would be at risk). Indeed, refugee management could become a core aspect of our foreign policy.

Pakistan since 2021

has been resisting setting up a Resettlement Support Centre to enable the US to process resettlement applications of Afghan refugees and relocate them onwards to the US. It argues that an RSC would trigger a flood of Afghan refugees. The US, meanwhile, refuses to handle resettlement cases without an RSC. This is an area for productive engagement between Pakistan and the US: Islamabad can enable Washington to meet its commitments in the wake of its messy Afghanistan exit, while receiving support to manage the influx of refugees in exchange.

Turkey is currently the world's largest refugee-hosting country, and knowledge sharing of best practices for refugee/asylum frameworks could be a key element of the growing partnership between the two states. Pakistan could also serve as a valuable interlocutor with allies such as China and the GCC to encourage them to take a greater share of the global refugee population in line with their economic status, an argument that can only be made from the moral high ground, but that would help sustain the relevance of Pakistan's voice globally, and help secure fair treatment for Pakistani refugees later.

The world is on a difficult trajectory and the number of refugees and asylum seekers will only soar. Our own worsening security and economic environment and sickening levels of religious intolerance mean that Pakistani refugees will be among that count. If we want to safeguard our compatriots, we must change our perspective on the refugee challenge. Let's not forget the age-old wisdom of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. -- Courtesy Dawn

Southern conundrum



Mohammad Ali Babakhel

The south of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has historically been a turbulent region. It has been a haven for freedom-loving anti-imperialists as well as those with an intense devotion to religion. It has seen long-drawn tribal feuds and major demographic transitions. All of these factors have kept the region alive in the news and in history books.

Of KP's total area of 101,741 square kilometres, south KP occupies 36,655 sq km, or 36 per cent. The region is administratively divided into three divisions and 12 districts (including the recently bifurcated South Waziristan). North Waziristan's border with Afghanistan stretches over 183km, and it neighbours the Afghan provinces of Khost, Paktia and Paktika, where militants are reportedly concentrated. South Waziristan's border with Afghanistan stretches over 107km and, further north, Kurram shares a 192km boundary with Afghanistan, adjoining Nangarhar, Khost, and Paktia.

After a spike in militancy and counterterrorism operations, certain parts of south KP experienced significant demographic changes. People from South Waziristan, North Waziristan, Kurram and Orakzai migrated to Tank, Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, and Kohat, respectively. D.I. Khan's population grew from 852,995 in the 1998 census to 1,625,088 persons in the 2017 census. Likewise, in 1998, Tank counted 238,216 people, rising to 390,626 in 2017. In

1998, Bannu had 675,667 people, which rose to 1,167,071 in 2017. Displacement and migration simultaneously de-tribalised the local culture while burdening the urban areas of Kohat, Bannu, and D.I. Khan.

Militancy in south KP is a consequence of historical, political and socioeconomic factors. The region lacks linguistic or ethnic homogeneity. Its effective governance requires a thorough understanding of its history, diversity, and the nature of its tribal dynamics. The Wazir, Bhattani, Mehsud, Kundi, Bangash, Paracha, Afridi, Khattak, Banuchi, Marwat, Gandapur, Miankhel, Turi, Orakzai, and Banuri are its major tribes. Pashto, Seraiki, Hindko, Brahui, and Urdu are the spoken languages. The region also has substantial sectarian diversity, including a significant Shia presence in D.I. Khan, Kurram, Kohat, and Hangu.

South KP is home to conservative tribal communities that feel marginalised, and which shuttle between nationalism and religiosity. Poverty, unemployment and a lack of access to education and basic services have contributed to their sense of general hopelessness, leaving the poverty-stricken youth susceptible to radicalisation and militant recruitment. External actors have exploited the local population's feelings of marginalisation to their advantage.

Furthermore, poor infrastructure has hampered trade and economic development. A long spell of militancy and other factors have disrupted rail and air connectivity; the railway stations in Tank, Bannu, Hangu, Usterzai, and Thal stand abandoned, while the airports in Bannu, Parachinar, and D.I. Khan are no longer operational. Newly constructed roads in the former tribal areas have,

however, bridged some distances and improved governance, trade, and the mobility of security forces.

South KP gets very little time and space in Pakistani media. Keeping in view the communication barriers, radio broadcasts may prove an effective medium of communication in the region and may help counter prevailing extremist narratives. Radio Pakistan has a radio station in D.I. Khan, and FM radio stations are on air in Bannu, Hangu, Kohat, and North Waziristan. In the absence of effective communication, people rely on alternative media, external broadcasts, and social media content to get information, but these mediums often carry provocative content that may be detrimental to Pak-istan's interests.

Bannu, D.I. Khan, Kohat and Kurram were notified districts during the British era, so all, except Kurram, have cantonments. These districts were established primarily on the basis of their strategic importance; the colonial rulers wanted to improve their control over the tribal areas and improve revenue collection. Because the remaining districts in south KP were established after independence, the infrastructure they inherited was weak, which impacted public service. The mere creation of any more districts will not serve the interests of the state or the public; therefore, infrastructural development, improved public service delivery, and revenue collection should be the key focus areas. The dividends from the 25th Amendment for the newly merged districts have come in the form of a growing realisation and acceptance of different institutions and fundamental human rights. However, resources are limited and expectations high: how to deliver in this context remains the real challenge. - Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

President directs National Savings to reimburse Rs 1.2m to woman fraud victim



SIALKOT: Former President Lahore Bar Association Jameel Akhtar Baig Advocate Expert Economics addressing to a seminar on Tax System and Economic Challenges in Pakistan at SCCI organized by Government Graduate College of Commerce.

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday directed the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) to reimburse an amount of Rs 1.2 million with profit to a woman victim of fraud.

The money was fraudulently withdrawn from the woman's account through the issuance of a fictitious cheque book and affixing her fake signatures on the withdrawal slip. President Alvi asked CDNS to refer the matter to FIA for proper investigation so that the

delinquent officials of CDNS involved in the scam may be brought to the book and punished.

The president issued these directions while deciding on a representation filed by CDNS (the Agency) against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib directing CDNS to refer the matter to FIA for thorough investigation. As per details, the complainant Abida Riffat had alleged that she was maintaining a Pensioners Benefit Account with CDNS in Rawalpindi. She

found out in 2021 that an amount of Rs 1.2 million had been fraudulently withdrawn from her account in 2019 through another cheque book which was never issued to her.

She lodged a complaint with CDNS for investigation and recovery of her defrauded amount, but the matter was investigated in a superfluous manner and she was informed that she could not produce any evidence in support of her claim. Feeling aggrieved, she approached the Wafaqi

Mohtasib which asked CDNS to investigate the matter through FIA. CDNS then filed a representation with the President against the Mohtasib's decision.

President Alvi in his decision observed that CDNS in its letter dated 28.12.2021 had admitted that Rs 1.2 million were withdrawn from her account through the fake transaction on 23.05.2019 by affixing a fake signature on the withdrawal slip. He noted that during an internal inquiry conducted by CDNS,

CPI inflation recorded at 31.4% in September

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation increased to 31.4 percent during the month of September 2023 as compared to the same month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Monday.

The inflation had increased to 27.4 percent during last month (August) whereas it was recorded at 23.2 percent during September, 2022,

according to the PBS data. On month-on-month basis, the inflation increased to 2.0 percent in September 2023 as compared to an increase of 1.7 percent in the previous month and a decrease of 1.2 percent in September 2022.

The urban CPI inflation increased to 29.7% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in September 2023 as compared to an increase of 25.0% in the previous month and

21.2% in September 2022. On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it increased to 1.7% in September 2023 as compared to an increase of 1.6% in the previous month and a decrease of 2.1% in September 2022.

On the other hand, the rural CPI increased to 33.9% on year-on-year basis in September 2023 as compared to an increase of 30.9% in the previous month and 26.1% in September 2022.

PSX marks WIW 2023 with gong ceremony

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) along with numerous other exchanges and organisations across the world marked World Investor Week (WIW) 2023 through a gong ceremony held at PSX. The World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), of which PSX is an Affiliate Exchange, spearheads the WIW, the WIW is being held from October 2-8, 2023.

PSX is holding this event and organising the WIW for the third

consecutive year, said a press release issued here Monday. Present at the gong ceremony were representatives from the SECP, leading academic institutions, professional bodies, and securities brokers, amongst others.

The week-long activities in World Investor Week are planned to promote the importance of financial literacy and to raise awareness about investor education and protection.

FCCI becomes "First E-Chamber" of the country

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) has attained a unique status of "First E-Chamber" of the country and it is a first baby step toward the complete transformation of FCCI into a dynamic and vibrant corporate entity, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President FCCI.

Addressing the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the completion of his first year,

Revolutionize Agriculture Sector Unity Plantations, Green Corporate initiative join hands

Independent Report
KARACHI: Unity Plantations (Private) Limited [a wholly owned subsidiary of Sunridge Foods (Private) Limited, which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of Unity Foods Limited, hereinafter collectively referred to as Unity Group] and Green

Corporate Initiative (Private) Limited are proud to announce a groundbreaking Master Collaboration Agreement that is set to reshape Pakistan's agriculture and livestock sector, bolstering food security and promoting sustainable development.

Trade deficit narrows by 42% in 1st quarter

ISLAMABAD (APP): The trade deficit contracted by 42.25 per cent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday.

The Trade deficit from July-September (2023-24) was recorded at \$5.289 billion as against the deficit of \$9.159 billion in July-September (2022-23), showing negative growth of 42.25 per cent.

During the period under review, the

exports decreased by 3.78 per cent to \$6.899 billion compared to the exports of \$7.170 billion during the corresponding period of last year, according to the latest PBS data.

On the other hand, the imports narrowed by 25.36 per cent and were recorded at \$12.188 billion compared to \$16.329 billion last year.

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the exports from the country increased by 1.15 per cent in September compared to the exports of the same month of last year.



PESHAWAR: Members of Pakistan Railway All Union Grand Alliance block railway track as they are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Cantt Railway Station in Peshawar.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where fourships namely, Mumbasa Express, MSC Shahar, Dignity and Doha carrying Containers, Palm oil and LNG berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Elengy Engro Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Amali and Kana scheduled to load/offload Cement and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage.

CDNS attains Rs 400b targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has accomplished a target of Rs 400 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to 30th September.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Monday. He said this was Rs 200

billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22. "The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will promote savings culture in the country," he said.

In view of the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture, he said.

Naqvi launches special education drive, project of assistive devices distribution to special children

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi officially launched the special education admission campaign and initiated the distribution of assistive devices for special children at a local hotel.

In his address, Chief Minister Naqvi expressed gratitude towards all those involved in serving special children, emphasizing that it is both a religious and worldly obligation to care for them. He pledged unwavering commitment to the Department of Special Education, assuring prompt approval of all special education projects.

Highlighting the expansion of special centers in areas like Johar Town, Chief Minister Naqvi reaffirmed that endeavors for special children will be undertaken as acts of duty and devotion. Reflecting on his visit to the Government Pilot School on Wahdat Road, he expressed personal dismay at the situation. The school, housing 1650 students, had only 60 appointed teachers, with 35 on Election Commission duty and the rest on leave. A mere 10 to 15 teachers were left to educate the vast student population, leading to a concerning decline in quality. Chief Minister

Naqvi asserted that the responsibility for rectifying these conditions lies with the administration, not the children.

He called attention to the collective responsibility of the education department, its secretary, and minister in ensuring quality education and improving school conditions. Notable figures like Akhtar Rasool, Qari Sadaqat Ali, General Zaheer, General Bilal, and General Naveed Anjum had all attended the Pilot School on Wahdat Road, which, Chief Minister Naqvi lamented, had been grievously neglected.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing 'Right to Information Day' function as a special guest at Governor House.

KP Universities bars from granting new affiliation to new institutions, colleges

PESHAWAR (APP): The Higher Education Department (HED) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has barred the public sector universities of the province from granting fresh or new affiliation to any new institution, college or programme till finalization of fresh policy by Higher Education Commission (HEC).

According to a letter issued to the public sector universities, the HED explained that the main reason behind was violation of HEC policy for

affiliation by the universities and granting affiliation to colleges without having proper qualified teaching faculty, meeting necessary academic and physical requirements.

It said that some universities of KP were violating jurisdiction policy whereas some colleges were running BS programmes which were affiliated with such universities where the BS programme was not offered at the main campus.

DC oversees polio eradication campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar, Afzal Wazir on Monday supervised the polio eradication teams in various areas while convincing reluctant parents to administer polio drops to their children.

Under the supervision of the provincial government, a seven-day polio eradication campaign is underway in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner visited Naseer Bagh Road, Regi, Hayatabad, Peshatkhar and other areas to oversee the polio eradication campaign.

Governor for access to RTI thru departmental websites

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has asked the Punjab government to speed up access to basic information under the right to information (RTI) law through websites of all provincial departments.

Addressing a ceremony in connection with the 'Right to Information Day' at the Governor's House here on Monday, he said it is a good omen that Pakistan is among the 125 countries in the world where RTI has been implemented as a law.

The event was organised by Punjab Information Commission in collaboration with the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Chief Information Commissioner Mehboob

Qadir Shah, senior judges, lawyers, vice chancellors and principals of various colleges were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said the main purpose of this event is to highlight the importance of Right to Information in the development of the country, adding that in the countries where the RTI law is effectively implemented, level of corruption is low.

He said RTI has a key role in eradicating corruption in government institutions, making the work of public officials effective and in good governance, adding the RTI Act ensures transparency in the financial and administrative affairs of government institutions.



HYDERABAD: Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) President, GM Jamali addresses during Health Insurance Card distribution ceremony held at Hyderabad press club.

LHC orders police to produce Sheikh within a week

RAWALPINDI (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench has ordered police to present Sheikh Rashid within a week.

The petition against arrest of former interior minister Sheikh Rashid came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan here Monday.

RPO Rawalpindi Syed Khuram appeared in the court.

The court questioned from RPO Rawalpindi Sheikh Rashid and two other persons with him are where. Will you give it in writing to court or produce Sheikh Rashid.

On being inquired from court, the RPO sought 15 days time more from the court. The court remarked 15 days are too much. This is not ordinary matter. Two days time will be too much.

Justice Sadaqat Ali remarked I give 7 days time due to request of Sardar Abdul Razzaq counsel for the petitioner. If Sheikh Rashid is not produced within a week, the court will order for registration of FIR.

Social media campaign against Governor KP baseless

PESHAWAR (APP): The personal assistant (PA) to the governor, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Maaz Fida, said on Monday that the campaign of corruption made against the governor, Haji Ghulam Ali, and the mayor of Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali, on social media is unfounded. She added that the opponents, despite using all of their resources, would be unable to prove any evidence of corruption against either of the two individuals.

The Governor's PA responded to several allegations made on social

media by stating that the Governor and Mayor of Peshawar had provided unparalleled services to their citizens and that any rumors spread on social media were completely untrue.

He asserted that the governor and the mayor of Peshawar deserved praise for their devoted work and approachable demeanor. The opponents tried to discredit the mayor's and governor's positions, but they countered the misinformation with their steadfast.

Rescue 1122 handles 572 emergencies in Sep

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Rescue 1122 on Monday issued a monthly performance report, featuring a total of 572 emergencies tackled with response time ranging within seven minutes by the district's emergency service during the last month.

Sharing the report, the spokesman of the Rescue 1122 said, the service provided first medical aid to about 592 patients and subsequently shifted them to hospitals while tackling different emergencies in September under the leadership of District Emergency Officer Awais Babar.



HYFERABAD: Health worker administering polio vaccine drops to a child during a Polio vaccination campaign at Government Hospital at Norani basti.

7-day anti polio campaign starts in KP; 7.478mln children to be immunized

PESHAWAR (APP): The seven-day anti-polio campaign started across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday wherein as many as 7.478 million children under the age of five would be vaccinated against the crippling polio disease.

According to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), in the first phase of the polio campaign, all children under the age of five in Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, Malakand and Hazara divisions would be given

polio drops while in the second phase of the campaign, which would continue from October 9 to 13, all children up to five years of age in Bannu and DI Khan divisions would be vaccinated.

During this campaign, vitamin A would also be given to children to increase their immunity, said the EOC, adding that in the first phase of the campaign, in all the districts of Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, Malakand and Hazara divisions.

Drive against adulteration in food, milk planned: Maani

PESHAWAR (APP): The Food Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has planned a comprehensive drive against adulteration in edible commodities, especially milk. Zariful Maani, Secretary Food said that a comprehensive drive was planned utilizing geo-tagging to ensure the quality of milk and other food items.

After a series of consultative meetings involving stakeholders and officials, the Secretary of Food has issued directives to prioritize food,

especially milk.

The Secretary, along with the Director General and all officers, will actively engage in the field to ensure transparent quality checks.

Altaf Hussain, Director of Operations, along with mobile lab testing experts, provided a briefing to the Secretary and conducted real-time tests on milk and water, covering fresh milk (chemical and composition checks) and processed milk (composition check), as well as water tests.

International News

Biden says there's 'not much time' to keep aid flowing to Ukraine and Congress must 'stop the games'

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden said that American aid to Ukraine will keep flowing for now as he sought to reassure allies of continued U.S. financial support for the war effort. But time is running out, the president said in a warning to Congress.

"We cannot under any circumstances allow America's support for Ukraine to be interrupted," Biden said in remarks from the Roosevelt Room after Congress averted a government shutdown by passing a short-term funding package late Saturday that dropped assistance for Ukraine in the battle against Russia.

"We have time, not

much time, and there's an overwhelming sense of urgency," he said, noting that the funding bill lasts only until mid-November. Biden urged Congress to negotiate an aid package as soon as possible.

"The vast majority of both parties — Democrats and Republicans, Senate and House — support helping Ukraine and the brutal aggression that is being thrust upon them by Russia," Biden said. "Stop playing games, get this done."

But many lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more difficult as the war grinds on. Republican resis-

tance to the aid has been gaining momentum and the next steps are ahead, given the resistance from the hard-right flank.

While Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has begun a process to potentially consider legislation providing additional Ukraine aid, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., faces a more difficult task in keeping the commitment he made over the objections of nearly half of his GOP majority. He told CBS' "Face on the Nation" that he supported "being able to make sure Ukraine has the weapons that they need," but that his priority was security at the U.S.-Mexico border.



French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock speak to the media before EU-Ukraine foreign ministers meeting, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

After Ankara bombing, Turkiye hits back in Iraq and at home

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkiye said it unleashed air strikes on militant targets in northern Iraq and detained suspects in Istanbul overnight, hours after Kurdish militants said they orchestrated the first bomb attack in the capital Ankara in years.

On Sunday morning, two attackers detonated a bomb near government buildings in Ankara, leaving them both dead and wounding two police officers. The outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group claimed responsibility.

The defence ministry said many militants were "neutralised", a term mostly used to mean killed, in air strikes that destroyed 20 targets — caves, shelters and depots used by the PKK in Iraq's Metina, Hakurk, Qandil and Gara regions.

Turkiye has stepped up military action against the PKK in northern Iraq over the last few years in operations it says are conducted under self-defence rights arising from Article 51 of the United Nations charter.

The PKK is dis-

garded a terrorist organisation by Turkiye, the United States and the European Union. It launched an insurgency in southeast Turkiye in 1984 and more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

On Sunday, CCTV footage obtained by Reuters showed a vehicle pulling up outside the interior ministry's main gate in Ankara and one of its occupants quickly walking toward the building before being engulfed in an explosion.

UAE holds major oil and gas conference just ahead of hosting UN climate talks in Dubai

Monitoring Desk
ABU DHABI: The Emirati president-designate of the upcoming United Nations COP28 climate talks urged oil and gas companies Monday to be "central to the solution" for climate change, a message delivered even as the industry boosts its production to enjoy rising global energy prices.

The appeal by Sultan al-Jaber highlights the gap between climate activists suspicious of his industry and his calls to drastically slash the world's emissions by nearly half in seven years to limit global

warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared with pre-industrial times.

While addressing a major international concern, his remarks came at a marquee oil industry event highlighting the state oil company he oversees — feeding the concerns of those already critical of his appointment while also drawing applause from the same energy firms he wants to court at the upcoming COP28 talks starting in November. "That is our North Star. It is, in fact, our only destination," al-Jaber said.



Firefighters try to extinguish a fire at a police headquarters in Ismailia.

Early voting begins in New Zealand's general election and in Australia for Indigenous 'Voice'

Monitoring Desk
WELLINGTON: Early voting began on Monday in New Zealand for the nation's Oct. 14 general election, with conservative contender Christopher Luxon casting his ballot.

Early voting also began in some parts of Australia in a referendum that would enshrine in Australia's constitution a mechanism for Indigenous people to advise Parliament on policies that affect their lives.

some engagements over Zoom.

Hipkins and his liberal Labour Party have been lagging behind the opposition National Party, led by Christopher Luxon, in opinion polls.

Luxon on Sunday released a 100-day action plan he said would deliver tax relief, rebuild the economy and restore law and order.

"New Zealanders have waited six long years for a government that focuses on what matters to them, and gets things done," Luxon said.

In Australia, where voting is compulsory, some 98% of eligible Australians have signed up to vote in the referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.



Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar, right, and United Arab Emirates Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei attend the ADIPEC, Oil and Energy exhibition and conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

COP28 president says oil companies support 2050 net-zero goal

Monitoring Desk
ABU DHABI: COP28 president Sultan al-Jaber said on Monday that more than 20 oil and gas companies were rallying around his calls to curb carbon emissions ahead of a United Nations summit on climate change Jaber, who is also head of United Arab Emirates oil giant ADNOC, has this year urged the energy industry to join the fight against climate change.

He was a controversial pick to lead COP28, which begins next month, because his country is an OPEC member and a major oil exporter.

"We need a system-wide holistic transformation of entire economies - economies that currently run on the equivalent of 250 million barrels of oil, gas, and coal every single day," Jaber said at an oil and gas conference in Abu Dhabi.

Zelenskiy says cooperation with EU vital for victory, Kyiv needs defence support

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A Ukrainian victory in its war with Russia depends on cooperation with the European Union, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told EU foreign ministers gathered in Kyiv on Monday.

Zelenskiy also underlined the importance of "defence support" for Ukraine after the U.S. Congress left Ukraine war aid out of a spending bill and an election in Slovakia was won by a party whose leader said he would end military supplies from army storage to Ukraine.

At least 38 injured in police station fire in Egypt's Ismailia

Monitoring Desk
ISMAILIA: A huge fire broke out at a police headquarters in the Egyptian city of Ismailia on Monday, injuring at least 38 people, according to local media.

No fatalities were immediately reported but the building is staffed by soldiers at all hours and hospitals were placed on alert.

Footage on local media showed smoke rising from the entirely blackened multi-storey building.

The cause of the blaze, which broke out at

the headquarters of the Ismailia Security Directorate before dawn, is not yet known. Of 26 wounded who were transferred to a local hospital, 24 had suffered from "asphyxiation" and two from burns, local media reported citing the health ministry.

Twelve more were treated at the scene. The health ministry deployed 50 ambulances to the scene, which were joined by military emergency services including two planes, according to state media.

Algeria says Niger accepts its mediation in resolving political crisis

Monitoring Desk
ALGIERS: Niger has accepted Algeria's offer of mediation to help resolve its political crisis, Algerian state TV reported on Monday.

Algeria, which shares a border with Niger, has proposed an initiative involving a six-month transition period in Niger led by a civilian.

Members of Niger's presidential guard seized power there in July and established a junta.

PM urges every section of society to play role in complete eradication of polio

Launches anti-polio vaccine drive targeting 44 mln children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday called upon every section of the society to play role in complete eradication of polio virus from the country. He said everyone would have to participate in this sacred task to ensure safe and healthy future of children of the country.

Chairing a meeting of the National Task Force for eradication of polio here, the prime minister directed the concerned authorities to engage religious scholars, teachers, parents and all stakeholders to become part of the polio awareness campaign in the country. He also directed to ensure security of the polio workers during the anti-polio campaign.

Expressing satisfaction over the significant drop of polio cases in the country, the prime minister vowed to continue efforts till complete uprooting of this crippling disease from the country.

The nation would celebrate the day when every child of the country would be completely safe from this disease, the prime minister said adding that it was a fact that all the religious scholars, including Imam-e-Kaaba, had declared the polio vaccine absolutely safe and very necessary for the future of children without disabilities. PM Kakar expressing concern over reports of polio virus in the three districts of the country, directed to run a special anti-polio campaign in

areas where the polio virus had been reported.

"We are grateful to the international partners for their active participation and key support in Pakistan's National Polio Program," he added. The meeting was informed that compared to the 20 cases reported in the country in 2022, only two cases had been reported this year, which was mainly due to the continuation of anti-polio campaigns at the national level.

The prime minister appreciated the ministry of health, National Task Force, provincial governments and administration, and law enforcement agencies for their tireless efforts in eradicating polio virus from the country.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar launched the National Polio Eradication Campaign by administering polio drops to a child.

Govt to eliminate street criminals, dacoits: Baqar

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar has said that the government is persistently fighting to curb street crime in Karachi and dacoits in the Riverine area and simultaneously working hard to bring in investment in the province by facilitating the investors.

He stated while addressing the participants of National Security & War Course-24, who called on him here at CM House.

Major Gen Amir Najam, the Chief Instructor, led the delegation. Provincial caretaker ministers, Brig (ret'd) Haris Nawaz, Mubin Jumani, Junaid Shah, Omar Soomro, Chairman P&D Shakeel

Magnejo, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, IG Police Riffat Mukhtar, provincial secretaries attended the program.

The meeting was briefed by Chairman P&D Shakeel Magnejo, and IG Police Riffat Mukhtar on the development and crime situation respectively.

IG Police said that so far 63,527 street crime cases, including 20,830 mobile snatchings, and 36,369 two-wheeler thefts have been registered during Sept 2023.

To a question, the CM told the participants that police and Rangers have sped up targeted operations against street criminals and drug mafia, who were also involved in

street crime.

The CM said that he has given a task to his police Rangers to eliminate street criminals through a crackdown.

"The police have also started developing data of the street criminals, and prosecution of the street crime has been strengthened."

The IG Police said 221 cases of kidnapping for ransom have been registered this year compared to 81 in 2022.

The Larkana Range has 128 cases while Sukkur Range has 46. At this, the CM said that a comprehensive operation against the dacoits was being planned in Sindh and in the Punjab simultaneously.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by Senior Director, Human & Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group (SG-HSD), Ayako Inagaki, met with Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan at his office.

Mayer launches anti-dengue fumigation campaign

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the KMC has started a fumigation campaign to eliminate flies, mosquitoes and other germs in order to protect citizens from malaria, dengue and other epidemic diseases.

He said this after inaugurating the fumigation campaign under the Municipal Services Department at the head office of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation on Monday.

He said that as many as 30 vehicles will go for spraying in all seven districts, and especially in low-lying areas and near rivers, where there is a possibility of mosquito breeding.

spraying will be done. Evening time has been fixed for spray during which disinfectant spray will be done in all UCs, he added.

Parliamentary Leader in city council Najmi Alam, Mayor Karachi Representative for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, Senior Director Municipal Services Anwar Baloch and other officers were also present on this occasion.

Murtaza Wahab said that on the first day, spraying is being done in the district East, while spraying will be done in various areas of Central District on Tuesday, October 4. West District, Korangi District on October 5.

Corruption, mismanagement deteriorated country's economy: Siraj

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Siraj-ul-Haq has said that corruption, mismanagement, and reliance on an interest-based financial system have deteriorated economy and emphasized the need of competent leadership to rectify these issues.

Addressing a seminar titled "JI's Strategy for Revival of National Economy," held at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Monday, he announced the JI's intention to initiate the Green Pakistan Project after coming into power with the support of the people.

Sirajul Haq said that the initiative was aimed to allocate millions of currently unused acres of land to skilled young individuals, with the goal of transforming it into productive, fertile land for agriculture.

ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, earlier, welcomed the JI chief and moderated the session.



HYDERABAD: All Lady Health Program Union Chairperson, Bushra Arain addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

DC reviews performance of anti-polio teams

NAWABSHAH (APP): Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind on Monday visited different areas of the district and inspected the performance of anti-polio teams. The DC directed the deputed staff to perform duty honestly during the nationwide anti-polio campaign that kicks off today by administering anti-polio drops to every child up to the age of five years.

DC asked the teams deployed at transit points to ensure vaccination of passenger children.

Rind said that he would observe the perfor-

mance of polio teams on a daily basis and action would be taken against the team showing negligence.

He appealed to parents to cooperate with anti-polio teams during the campaign and help vaccinate their children against polio.

On the occasion, the DC also administered oral polio vaccine to children and marked their fingers. On the other side, all assistant commissioners also visited their domain areas and inspected the working and performance of anti-polio workers at transit and fixed points.

Ration distributed among Coolies

KARACHI (APP): The bags of ration were distributed among the Coolies of Karachi on the directives of the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House here on Monday.

The ration bag contained edible items for a family of five people for one month.

Commissioner to hold Khuli Kachehri on Oct 4

HYDERABAD (APP): On the Special directives of Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice @ Maqbool Baqar, Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad is to hold an open court in Shahbaz Hall on Wednesday at 11 am.

According to a hand-out issued here, Deputy Commissioner would listen public complaints related to District accounts office and take remedial measures.

Former PPP MNA Syed Ameer Ali Shah Jamote passes away

HYDERABAD (APP): The Pakistan Peoples Party's former MNA Syed Ameer Ali Shah Jamote, who was elected thrice to the National Assembly from Hyderabad, passed away here on Monday.

He was 82 years old. According to the family sources, the deceased was fighting with ailments in the last days of his life.

Jamote was elected MNA in 2002, 2008 and 2013 from Qasimabad taluka and Hyderabad taluka based constituency of the National Assembly.

Sindh police arrests Quetta based drug smuggler

KARACHI (INP): Sindh police conducted a tip-off operation near Karachi's SITE industrial area and successfully apprehended a man allegedly involved in drug smuggling on Monday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Keamari - Aarif Aslam - stated that the local police arrested a smuggler traveling from Quetta to Karachi and recovered a substantial amount of hashish from his possession. The SSP stated that the drug smuggler identified as - Gul Muhammad - used to travel from Quetta to Karachi in slippers, skillfully hiding the hashish in the sole of the slippers. The police officer further stated that the high quality hashish was said to be supplied in the metropolis.

No place for terrorists and their facilitators in Pakistan, reiterate Solangi, Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi welcomed Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti.

The two ministers discussed matters of mutual interest including law and order situation in the country.

In the meeting, both Murtaza Solangi and Sarfraz Bugti expressed their profound regret over the loss of precious lives in the recent bomb blasts in the country.



LARKANA: Head of SZABIST Ms. Zahida Aro giving away shield to the city school student participants in seminar titled "Genocide of Muslims by the Modi Government at Auditorium Hall of SZABIST University Larkana Campus."

Nazim Jokhio murder: SHC adjourns Jam Awais disqualification plea

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court on Monday adjourned a petition seeking disqualification of Jam Awais MPA, key accused of Nazim Jokhio murder till Nov. 08.

The election commission sought further time from the court for submitting its reply.

Advocate Wazir Khoso appeared before the court on behalf of Jam Awais. The plea has become redundant after dissolution of the provincial assembly, the counsel argued. "Reconciliation is not a crime," Jam Awais's lawyer said.

Jam Awais Gohram, Speaker Sindh Assembly, Chief Secretary Sindh and the election commission were made party in the petition filed by Barrister Ali Tahir. "Jam Awais has paid Diyet (blood money) to the family of the deceased in the murder case," "After paying Diyet Jam Awais didn't remain truthful and trustworthy," petitioner said.

"Trial court has in its decision wrote that PPP MPA, by paying Diyet has confessed his crime," Barrister

Ali Tahir said. "According to clause 53 of the Pakistan Penal Code, Diyet is punishment," petitioner argued.

Petitioner seeks court order to the Speaker Sindh Assembly for sending disqualification reference against Jam Awais, a member of the assembly. "He must be de-notified as member of the house over not being truthful and trustworthy," petitioner said. PPP MPA Jam Awais Gohram and his men were booked in October 2021 for torturing an activist, Nazim Jokhio to death, as he tried to stop his foreign guests from illegal hunting of houbara bustard, an endangered species, in the Memon Goth area of Karachi.

The family of deceased Nazim Jokhio in an affidavit filed in court consented to pardon Jam Awais and others in the high-profile murder case.

"We have reached to a compromise with the accused, the court may acquit them," an affidavit of Shireen Jokhio, widow of Nazim Jokhio, read.



HYDERABAD: Members of Hyderabad Union of Journalists (HUJ) are against killing of Senior Journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar and demanding to arrest his murderers, at Hyderabad press club.

Aneeq Ahmed says: Solution to all contemporary issues lies in Seerat-un-Nabi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Monday said that the solution to all contemporary issues lied in the Seerat of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Addressing as chief guest, he expressed his appreciation for the first-ever Seerat Conference organized within the Federal Tax Ombudsman Secretariat, emphasizing that Allah Almighty had exalted the mention of His beloved Prophet, which would endure until the Day of Judgment. He said, "The excellent moral values exemplified by the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) are the same values that guide us today."

The minister said the revered Prophet's exemplary ethics remained the standard for humanity. He said the Holy Quran, which is the first book on the Seerat of Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), should serve as a mirror for both individuals and nations.

He said the Holy Quran sternly warns those who did not implement its system on Allah Almighty's land. Federal Tax Ombudsman, Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah organized the Seerat Conference themed 'Solving Contemporary Issues in the Light of the Prophet's Seerat' within his department.

The conference brought together tax officials and employees for a competition of Naats and speeches on the Seerat. The winners of the Naat and speech contests were awarded certificates and cash prizes as recognition for their outstanding contributions.



KARACHI: Chief of Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Pakistan, Shah Anas Noorani along with others addresses to media persons during a press conference held at Karachi press club.

Economic Review: IMF team to visit Pakistan in October end week

ISLAMABAD (INP): An IMF mission will arrive in the last week of October for economic review of the standby arrangement agreement, it was learnt on Monday.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Energy, State Bank of Pakistan, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), have been instructed to prepare their implementation reports on the IMF conditions. The IMF mission will hold talks on the review with the economic managers for over one week. The energy sector's circular debt, FBR revenue generation and market-based currency exchange rate will be key points of the economic review. The visiting IMF officials will also review external financing, circular debt management plan, and issuance of bonds.

The team of global lender will review the adjustment and re-basing in the prices of electricity and gas as per the conditions of the standby agreement.

Police arrest two, seizes large quantity of smuggled cigarettes, gutka

KARACHI (APP): The district City Police on Monday seized a huge quantity of smuggled cigarettes, catechu (Kaththa) and Indian cumin and arrested two accused.

According to a spokesman for district City Police, the action was conducted by Kharadar police station during patrolling.

The police recovered 750kg of Indian gutka, 1500kg of Indian cumin and 840 packets of cigarettes.

Arrested were identified as Abdullah and Sajjad. The arrested accused along with recovered goods were being handed over to Customs authorities for further legal proceedings.

West Police foils smuggling bid of betel nuts

KARACHI (APP): The district West Police on Monday foiled smuggling bid of betel nut used in hazardous gutka/mawa.

The Manghopir police station of district West arrested three suspects involved in the smuggling during two different operations.

Arrested were identified as Azmatullah, Yasir and Muhammad Shahzad. The accused were arrested from near Northern Bypass Hamdard Chowki during snap checking. More than 200 kg of betel nut in 20 sacks loaded were found in two cars of the arrested. Cases against arrested had been registered and further investigations were underway.

Iftikhar Sheikh elected as new KCCI president

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), in its 62nd Annual General Meeting on Monday elected Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh as new President of the Chamber while Altaf Ghaffar and Tanveer Barry were elected as Senior Vice President and Vice President, respectively.

Around 3000 voters cast their votes in the election in which electronic voting system was introduced and 88% voters cast their vote electronically, said a statement issued here by KCCI.

Chairman Businessmen Group Zubair Motiwala, Vice Chairmen BMG Tahir Khalid, Haroon Farooki, Anjum Nisar, Jawed Bilwani, General Secretary BMG AQ Khalil, retiring President Mohammed Tariq Yousuf, retiring SVP Touseef Ahmed, retiring VP Haris Agar, Managing Committee Members, former Presidents and a large number of General Body Members were present at the AGM.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala urged to exhibit absolute discipline which was the first step on the road to success. He said that Karachi Chamber has emerged as the leading and the strongest Chamber of Commerce of the country whose recommendations are taken seriously and given special attention at the federal and provincial levels. He appreciated efforts made by retiring office bearers and hoped that the newly elected body would also follow the footsteps of outgoing office bearers to achieve new milestones.

Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar indicates to announce new party this month

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former PPP leader and former senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar has given indication for announcing new political party in this month.

Talking to a private TV channel here he said this is a proposal that new party be announced after election. But to my view the announcement should be made before election. We will announce party in October.

He said whispers are in the air about the changes in Senate.

He held these are whispers that change should come in Senate before return of Nawaz Sharif in Pakistan so that he remains

satisfied. May be former finance minister Ishaq Dar is made chairman Senate.

Terminating the Nawaz Sharif return a deal Nawaz Sharif return is under a deal 100 percent. PML-N has wasted its narrative.

Nawaz Sharif gave statement and Shahbaz PML-N reached London. PML-N changed its entire stance later.

Criticizing PPP he said what PPP was making expectations from establishment have not been fulfilled. Therefore, they are angry. Situation has taken such turn that those from BAP party who joined PPP are now joining PML-N and Istehkam party.



KARACHI: Commuters are facing inconvenience during traffic jam due to construction works of new development projects, as slow pace of construction work is creating problems for residents and they demand to concerned department to complete work as soon as possible, located on University road in Karachi.

Maximum healthcare facilities provides to people of remote areas: DC

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Mahesar on Monday said that the government was taking all possible measures to provide better healthcare facilities to people in remote areas of the province.

He expressed these views while visiting Basic Health Unit (BHU) Saleh Putt. He also checked the attendance of paramedical staff

and inspected the center. He said that a comprehensive strategy was being made to completely ensure the attendance of paramedical staff for the provision of quality healthcare facilities to people in the area saying that no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. He also expressed his satisfaction over the cleansing of the BHU Saleh Putt.