

Police constable shot dead

MIRANSHAH (INP): Unidentified armed men gunned down a police constable in jurisdiction of Miranshah police station on Sunday. According to details, unknown miscreants opened fire at police official near Machas bridge of North Waziristan while he was on his way to home after duty. The police constable was killed on the spot and attackers fled the scene of crime.

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CM congratulates CJP

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Sunday congratulated Justice Qazi Faez Isa on taking oath as the 29th Chief Justice of Pakistan. CM Domki extended the felicitation after attending the swearing-in ceremony of the Chief Justice along with the Prime Minister at the Supreme Court. Mardan wished him the best on the assumption of the highest office of the judiciary.

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Justice Qazi Faez Isa becomes new Chief Justice of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Justice Qazi Faez Isa took oath as the 29th Chief Justice of Pakistan Sunday.

President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath to Chief Justice Faez Isa during a ceremony held at President House.

Justice Umar Ata Bandial retired from the post of Chief Justice of Pakistan at midnight, after which Justice Isa became the new Chief Justice of Pakistan. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir were present at the oath-taking ceremony.

Servants, chiefs, cabinet members, judges and lawyers were also present at the oath-taking ceremony.

The biggest challenge, Justice Isa will be facing as the Chief Justice is unifying the Supreme Court and restoring its credibility. During former Chief Justice Bandial's tenure, the apex court was deeply divided and the perceived practice of the formation of a particular bench consisting of 'like-minded judges' to hear constitutional mat-

ters of public importance has invited criticism of the top judiciary.

On his first day on duty as CJP on Monday, Chief Justice Isa will hear a set of petitions challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023.

However, according to legal experts, the biggest challenge before newly appointed Chief Justice Isa would be when petitions seeking election within 90 days would land in the Supreme Court.

Besides this, the challenges to the military trials of civilians would also be a test for CJP as in a dissenting judgment against military courts in August 2015, Justice Isa observed "21st Amendment does not succeed in its attempt to try civilians by the military and that the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, which if implemented would help to stem terrorism and also ensure the conviction of terrorists."

Justice Isa's nomination as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan was approved by President Dr Arif Alvi on

(Continued on Back Page)

CJP forms full court for SC Practice, Procedure Act hearing

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Sunday constituted full court headed by him for hearing the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 on Monday (tomorrow).

An eight-judge larger bench of the apex court headed by the former CJP Umar Ata Bandial, had suspended the enforcement of the Supreme Court (Practice & Procedure) Act, 2023 on April 13.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa who sworn in as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan today, has constituted bench for the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act hearing.

The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 — a bill that required the formation of benches on constitutional matters of public importance by a committee of three senior judges will be heard by a supreme court bench on Monday (tomorrow).

The legislation limits the powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take suo motu notice and to constitute benches on his own. It gives the power of taking suo motu notice to a three-member committee comprising the chief justice and two senior most judges of the court.

The act also aims to have transparent proceedings in the apex court and includes the right to appeal.

The PDM government had on April 10 passed the bill in the joint session of parliament after President Arif Alvi had returned the bill.

Later, former law minister Azam Nazeer Tarar announced that the bill — which was aimed to curtail the chief justice's powers to take suo motu notice in an individual capacity — became law on April 20. An eight-member larger bench of the SC on April 13 ordered that even if the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023 received the assent of the president, the bill would not be acted upon in any manner till further order.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering oath of office to Justice Qazi Faez Isa as Chief Justice of Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PM departs for US to attend UNGA session

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar departed for the US on five-day visit on Sunday to participate in the United Nations General Assembly session in New York, USA.

The PM will participate in the high-level debate of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York from Sept 18 to 23. He will also address the United Nations General Assembly session on Sept 22.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jailil Abbas Jilani will also accompany the PM.

According to a press release issued by PM Office Media Wing Sunday, the PM is likely to meet important countries heads including China, United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Apart from the UNGA meeting, he will also participate in an important conference on climate change.

During his visit, PM Kakar will meet the representatives of the international media. He will also visit the prominent think tanks of the United States.

SC gets its first-ever woman Registrar

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The services of Lahore District and Sessions Judge Jazeela Aslam have been paced at the disposal of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The sessions judge has been appointed as the new registrar of the Supreme Court on deputation of three years, essentially becoming the first woman to be posted to the office.

A notification in this regard has been issued after the approval of Lahore High Court Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti. The notification was issued by LHC Registrar Khalid Bashir. The sessions judge would remain repatriated to the Supreme Court for the specified duration, unless instructed otherwise, as per the notification.

According to a press release issued by the Supreme Court, Ms Aslam, a mother of three, has an impressive educational background. She achieved first division honors in her bachelor's degree from Kinnaird College, completed her LLB from Punjab University, and secured the second position in the competitive judicial examination of Punjab.

Her professional journey commenced when she joined the Punjab Judicial Service as a civil judge/judicial magistrate in May 1994. Over the years, she has also served as a deputy solicitor, contributing to her diverse legal experience.

Notably, ADSJ Aslam holds the distinction of being the most senior lady district and sessions judge in the province of Punjab.

On the other hand, the chief justice of Pakistan also appointed his staff officer and secretary.

Govt implementing zero-tolerance policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power, and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali Sunday reassured that the interim government was implementing a zero-tolerance policy against the power theft mafia in the country and would not spare any person who proved guilty of having connivance with electricity thieves.

While talking to a private news channel, the minister said with strict directives IESCO had launched the crackdown against electricity thieves and their facilitators in all circles, adding that we are collaborating with all related departments and law

enforcement agencies on the district level to ensure that the process is carried out swiftly.

The crackdown will continue against the elements involved in electricity theft with the cooperation of the relevant departments, he added.

Replying to a query, he replied that because of the electricity thieves and those who refuse to pay bills, others have to pay higher bills, adding that we need to stop these practices with the hope that electricity prices may come down.

He further said that the govt focused on improving the management of power-related departments,

adding, that we are looking at their board of governors and will make changes in the management.

To another question, the minister said that the ministry had prepared a list of officers who were involved in the theft, adding that involved officers were being reshuffled and they would be removed from field jobs.

He also stressed for bringing reforms into the power sector on a priority basis and highlighting the importance of reforms in the energy sector that reforms were crucial in the energy sector for the economic growth of the country.

Desecration of Holy Quran not to be accepted

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, reiterating the government's stance on blasphemy and hate speech, emphasized that the desecration of the Holy Quran and religious figures will not be accepted at all.

During meeting with former Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman, he announced proactive measures to curb blasphemous content on social media platforms.

Aneeq also highlighted the gravity of attacks on religious scholars, stating that investigations had led authorities closer to identifying the perpetrators, whose names would soon be revealed to the public.

He underlined the ongoing efforts to address the nation's issues, expressing

gratitude for the support and cooperation of religious scholars. He encouraged religious scholars to keep the public optimistic, stressing the government's responsibility to resolve their concerns.

Talking about surge in inflation, the minister acknowledged its impact but assured that progress was being made stating, "Our direction is right, and we are moving forward." Furthermore, he discussed the need to amend laws governing social media content to prevent the spread of blasphemy. Proposals for stricter social media regulation had been suggested, he added.

Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman said the blasphemy law had been passed by the Parliament and awaiting for the President's signature. He emphasized the importance of the law's

enactment, similar to the Official Secrets Act, which became law without the President's signature.

In addition to his visit to Karachi, the minister also visited Jamia Rasheedia and engaged in interfaith dialogue with scholars, fostering mutual understanding and harmony among various religious communities.

Shehbaz, Dar to return to Pakistan next week

LAHORE (NNI): Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) President, former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former Federal Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar will return to Pakistan next week.

Self-exiled former premier Mian Nawaz Sharif's legal team chief Azam Nazir Tarar left for Pakistan after making an important consultation in London.

Other legal team members and Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) leaders Zubair Umar and Ata Tarar will leave for Pakistan this evening.

Azam Nazir Tarar and Amjad Pervez will file the case of Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad High Court.

Zubair Umar, Ata Tarar, Malik Ahmed Khan, and Saiful Mulok Khokhar will participate in the reception committee for Nawaz Sharif's return home.

On the other hand, Maryam Nawaz and Hamza Shehbaz will mobilize the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) workers in Punjab as the youth of MSF and Youth Wing will be responsible for the security of Nawaz Sharif.

The report said on the return of Nawaz Sharif, special security arrangements will be made from Lahore Airport to Model Town.

Important leaders including Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Hamza Shehbaz, Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Saiful Mulok Khokhar and Khawaja Inran Nazir will join Nawaz Sharif on the reception truck.

Bilawal pays tributes to Murtaza

KARACHI (APP): Chairmen of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has paid glowing tribute to Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto on his 69th birth anniversary.

The PPP Chairman, in his message on the birth anniversary of Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto, said that Mir had a brave and bold personality.

He said that the unique style of being affable and mingling with people was the hallmark of Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto, which Pakistanis continue to remember even today.

"Like Quaid-i-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto will live forever in our hearts," he added.

Bilawal said that Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto's unshakable faith in democracy and his adherence to his ideology and principles are a guiding light for us.

Elahi physical remand approved

LAHORE (INP): A judicial magistrate on Sunday handed over former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to the Anti-corruption Establishment on one-day physical remand in the Lahore Master Plan irregularities case.

Elaborative security measures were adopted at the district courts' compound where the PTI president was produced before the magistrate amidst tight security. On behalf of Elahi, Lahore Bar Association president Rana Intizar Hussain appeared before the court.

The ACE requested the court for physical remand of the former CM, however, his lawyer opposed and requested the court to discharge Elahi from the case.

The lawyer argued that FIR could not be registered before the inquiry and they would submit a contempt of court petition against the ACE DG tomorrow.

He said Elahi's arrest is based on malice as neither any inquiry has been conducted against the former chief minister nor any notice has been served.

After the arguments, the magistrate reserved the decision on the physical remand requested by the ACE and later handed over Elahi to the ACE on one-day physical remand. The court ordered the ACE to produce Elahi before the magistrate concerned on Monday.

Mushaal expresses concern for continued HR violations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Sunday expressed serious concern over the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir territory.

Talking to a private news channel, she urged the United Nations to play an active role in their release and asked India to stop systematic human rights violations in IIOJK.

She said changing the demography of the territory by granting voting rights to Indian citizens in the internationally recognized disputed territory is a big violation of international law.

She said it is highly unfortunate that the Modi regime has closed doors of all peaceful means to resolve the long-pending Kashmir dispute by resorting to the worst kind of extremism and fascism and converting the occupied territory into a military garrison.

She added it is the responsibility of the UN and all relevant Human rights organizations to settle the Kashmir dispute by implementing its relevant resolutions to protect the lives of the people of IIOJK.

Mushaal said the Indian government was pro-longing the illegal detentions of Kashmiri political prisoners who have been put behind bars for peacefully struggling for the political

resolution of the Kashmir dispute as guaranteed by the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The worsening situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir needs urgent international attention and the world community must act immediately to protect Kashmiris from Modi's onslaught.

Kashmiri families, whose loved ones are in Indian jails, cannot think of any occasion of joy and happiness because they are worried about the health of their loved ones in filthy and congested Indian jails, she added.

Replying to a question, she said Indian Army had a long history of gross human rights violations and fake encounters in the territory.

Attempts at subtracting Nawaz from politics failed

LAHORE (NNI): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and party's Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz said on Sunday that former prime minister and the PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif stood vindicated, and now it was time for Pakistan's triumph.

Addressing meetings of different party wings as part of preparations for giving a warm reception to Nawaz on his homecoming next month, she said that every attempt to subtract former prime minister from politics failed. "By the grace of Almighty Allah, respect for Nawaz Sharif in people's hearts has increased," she claimed.

Former Punjab Chief Minister and PML-N leader Hamza Shehbaz was also present in the meetings.

Maryam was of the view that the people of Pakistan had to pay the price for Nawaz's ouster.

She expressed the hope

that from today courts would do justice to the Sharif family. "I pray to the Almighty Allah that justice should be for all.

She opined that prejudging against the party supremo was actually against the country and the nation. "What Pakistan needs is a fresh beginning," PML-N's chief organizer said, and stressed the need for ridding the country of politics of confrontation, violence and vengeance.

She expressed the resolve that after coming to power, the party would develop all parts of the country, including Sindh. "Our war is against inflation, poverty and bad governance," she asserted.

Maryam claimed that Nawaz and his comrades faced what she called 'injustices' with perseverance and courage. She claimed that only the former prime minister could pull the country out of crises.

"Last time we were in

power we eliminated load-shedding and terrorism," she said, adding, "Now we will fulfill our promise of reducing inflation."

Meanwhile, after hearing the news of return of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan, the party's high command has swung into action to give him a warm reception on arrival at the Lahore airport on October 21.

In this connection, former interior minister and PML-N Punjab President Rana Sanaullah, who has been tasked with gathering party workers from across the province, on Sunday convened the party's provincial leaders meeting tomorrow.

All divisional presidents of the party and former MNAs and MPAs were directed to attend tomorrow's huddle. Besides that Sanaullah also directed the party leaders based in foreign countries to attend the meeting via a video link.

Maryam will monitor the party's mobilization.

Ex-TTP Swat commander killed in operation

SWAT (INP): Former commander of banned TTP Swat Naik Muhammad alias Naiko was killed in intelligence based operation (IBO) of security forces.

According to details, on an intelligence tip-off, Pakistan army and CTD conducted a successful operation at Fizaghat in

Swat valley.

The killed terrorist commander was close accomplice of former TTP Swat Chief Mullah Fazalullah.

He was also the head of team which used to flog women in early days of militancy.

Terrorist Commander was also involved in dozens of terror activities

against security forces.

After operation in Swat, Naik Muhammad had escaped to Afghanistan along with family.

In June 2023, Terrorist Commander led brutal attack on police personnel near Mingora Vegetable Market. He also planned to target DPO swat through suicide attack and IED.



EPD seals 336 industrial units, imposes Rs52.2m fine

LAHORE (APP): In a proactive effort to combat smog and air pollution, the Punjab Environment Protection Department (EPD) has taken stringent measures against industrial units found violating the environmental laws.

During the period from August 1 to September 14, 2023, the EPD sealed 336 such units and imposed fines totaling Rs. 52.2 million, with the aim of curbing pollution ahead of the smog season.

According to EPD Director Naseemur Rehman Shah, a recent crackdown has resulted in the closure of 347 industrial units and substantial fines imposed on them, alongside the registration of FIRs [first information reports] for environmental violations during the ongoing pre-smog preparations campaign. The EPD teams have been conducting raids on factories and industrial facilities in the

city, particularly those involved in improper disposal of expired batteries in industrial units and their surrounding areas.

Shah highlighted the impending threat of heavy smog and air pollution as winter approaches, especially in Punjab and Lahore. In response, the EPD has intensified its efforts around the clock to address this concern. Various teams have been formed to inspect emission control systems in industrial units.

Furthermore, Shah emphasised the detrimental consequences of burning trash, which not only results in the release of polluted ash and smoke but also the potential release of hexachlorobenzene (HCB) into the environment.

HCB is a highly persistent toxin that degrades slowly in the air, allowing it to travel long distances in the atmosphere.

To deter violations, Shah underscored the severe penalties for garbage burning, including immediate unit or kiln closures, imprisonment, fines of up to Rs. 100,000, and legal proceedings against industrial unit or kiln owners. He emphasised that brick manufacturing units must strictly adhere to the eco-friendly zigzag technology.

Environmental expert Mahmood Khalid Qamar emphasised the grave environmental threat posed by the combustion of prohibited materials, such as trash, plastic, and treated wood, in industrial units. Such activities release toxic chemicals into the atmosphere, leading to air pollution that adversely affects human health, animal life, soil, surface water, and plants. Qamar stressed that open burning, in general, presents significant risks to both the environment and public health.

Peshawar Police unveils new security policy

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting was held under the leadership of SSP Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi in the Malak Saad Shaheed Police Lines, Peshawar, to assess the law and order situation in the district.

During this special meet-

ing decisions were made regarding future actions against criminals and law-breakers. The meeting was attended by SHOs and Incharge Check Posts from across the district.

SSP Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi stated that a new policy has been implemented to maintain peace and security in the

city. Under this policy, hotspot areas have been identified for cracking down on street crimes and criminal activities.

General hold-ups and special check points have been established to curb activities such as drug trafficking, illegal weapons, and other illicit smuggling. He emphasized the impor-

tance of working with integrity and treating honest and respectable citizens, including the less fortunate, with dignity.

Furthermore, a campaign against unregistered motorcycles and vehicles has been launched, and data on criminals within the precincts of police stations will be closely monitored. SSP Operations urged the effective implementation of these policies and called for expediting actions under this framework.

He also stressed the need for robust actions against elements involved in anti-social and anti-state activities. During the meeting, SSP Operations instructed police officers to utilize all available resources effectively, especially in the fight against narcotics, and to take action against drug-related offenses with utmost efficiency.



US diplomat underscores strong partnership

KARACHI (APP): United States Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer's visit to Karachi underscored the strong partnership between the United States and the people of Sindh.

He explored opportunities to enrich development, trade and commercial ties and showcased the strength of our people-to-people relationships, the cornerstone of our bilateral relationship. As co-host of the second Green Shipping roundtable, Schofer underscored the crucial role of sustainable shipping practices in mitigating the impact of climate change.

The Green Shipping roundtable stakeholders discussed opportunities to reduce carbon emissions in the port, shipping and logistics sectors in Pakistan. Port authorities, industry, and other key actors in the ports and shipping value chain dis-

cussed how to promote environmentally friendly and sustainable shipping practices and ways to support the Green Shipping Challenge at COP28.

Andrew Schofer stated, "Through events like the one today, we are encouraging bilateral dialogue on climate action and exploring innovative solutions to strengthen Pakistan's climate resilience." He praised the attendees' commitment and engagement to support a sector-wide transition to more sustainable shipping practices. The visit included a stop at Lincoln Corner Karachi, where Schofer met with students, entrepreneurs, and volunteers, applauding their dedication and creativity.

He highlighted the significance of youth-led innovation in driving progress and fostering strong US-Pakistan relations. The Deputy Chief of

Mission also underscored the importance of religious tolerance during a meeting with religious minority leaders, reaffirming the United States' unwavering support for the rights of Pakistani religious minorities.

The visit wrapped up with a visit to Port Qasim. Productive meetings with Qasim Port Authority Chairman Shah, and Cargill and Engro Corporation leadership focused on green shipping, port operations, energy solutions, and other innovative approaches aimed at enhancing Pakistan's trade competitiveness and increasing ways to connect with Pakistan's largest export market — the United States.

The US-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework was highlighted as a shared commitment to sustainability and climate resilience.

Police campaign continue against drug dealers, drugs recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested 17 drug dealers and recovered 19 kg drugs from their possession during a crackdown here on Sunday.

According to a police spokesman, Race Course Police recovered more than 02 kg drugs from Mubasher. Similarly, Dhamyal police recovered 2.2 kg drugs from Mehwish Bibi and the same police recovered 2.5 kg from Noor and 1.1 kg

from Saqib.

While, Saddar Wah held Rizwan and police recovered 1.6 kg from his possession. Following operation, Saddar Barooni police arrested Habib Ullah and recovered 1.6 kg drugs from his custody.

Mandra police nabbed Fayyaz and recovered 01.550 gram from his possession. During the crackdown, Naseerabad police arrested Mubasher and recovered 1.250 grams

from his custody and 660 grams of hashish from accused Arshad while 640 grams of hashish from Azkar Bin Akbar.

Taxila police held Zahid Abbas and 01 kg 50 grams from his possession and 520 grams of hashish from Waris Shah, 520 grams of hashish from Sajjad.

Airport police recovered 550 grams of hashish from Javed and 540 grams of hashish from Shehbaz. Kahuta police recovered

520 grams of hashish from Akhlaq while 530 grams of hashish was recovered from Nazakat. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was in progress.

City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani said that the arrested accused will be brought to justice with concrete evidence, and the crackdown will be continued to eradicate drugs.



LAHORE: Large number of motorcyclists stand under the bridge waiting for the rain to stop or subside heavy rain in the Provincial Capital. —APP Photo

7,899 cases registered against power thieves

LAHORE (APP): A grand operation against electricity theft is currently underway, led by the Lahore police.

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana told the media on Sunday that this year, a total of 7,899 cases had been registered against 8,506 individuals involved in electricity pilferage.

The CCPO revealed that within the city division, 1,596 First Information Reports (FIRs) had been lodged against 1,641 offenders charged with electricity theft. In the Cantt Division, 1,988 FIRs were filed against 2,157 culprits, and in Civil Lines, 659 cases were registered against 779 individuals.

101 new dengue infections reported

LAHORE (APP): Punjab is grappling with a concerning upswing in dengue fever cases, as the latest report from the Health Department revealed a staggering total of 2,858 confirmed cases across 36 districts this year.

Lahore leads with 1,088 cases, followed by Rawalpindi with 592, Multan with 318, and Gujranwala with 106. In the last 24 hours alone, Lahore reported 31 new cases, Rawalpindi 39, Multan 12, Gujranwala 11, and Toba Tek Singh 2. One new case each was reported in Attock, Narowal, Nankana Sahib, Okara, Sargodha and Jhang.

Currently, 100 dengue patients are receiving treatment in various hospitals throughout Punjab, with 56 of them in Lahore. Fortunately, there have been no dengue-related fatalities reported this year.

Secretary Health Punjab Ali Jaan Khan emphasised the importance of maintaining clean and dry surroundings as a preventive measure and urged citizens to cooperate with health department teams.

For dengue-related information or complaints, citizens can contact the health department's free helpline at 1033. Vigilance and proactive measures are crucial in containing the dengue spread in Punjab.

Punjab CM leaves for China on five-day official visit

LAHORE (NNI): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi left for China along with a high-level delegation on a five-day official visit.

The acting Chinese consul general saw the Punjab chief minister off at Lahore Airport. He expressed good wishes for the chief minister regarding his visit to China.

"It is hoped that your

visit to China will be crucial for the promotion of mutual cooperation," the acting Chinese consul general said.

Provincial ministers and officers concerned were also present on the occasion. The chief minister will meet the businessmen, investors and industrialists during his visit to China.

He will also hold meetings with Chinese authori-

ties to increase cooperation in Agriculture, IT and technology sectors.

"The visit to China will provide an opportunity to provide better facilities to the people of Punjab," Mohsin Naqvi said.

"China has always acted as a sincere friend. All efforts are being made to bring immediate and lasting results of this visit," he added.

LESCO detects 4,451 power pilferers in 11 days

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) detected a total of 4,451 connections during last 11 days from where consumers were pilfering electricity.

LESCO spokesman told the media on Sunday that the company had so far submitted FIR applications against 3,845 electricity thieves, out of which 2,730 FIRs [first information reports] had been registered with respective police stations, while 224 accused arrested. The spokesman said that all electricity thieves had been charged so far with 9,622,164 detection units amounting to Rs 409.452 million.

The spokesman added

that LESCO found 755 connections involved in electricity theft in all its circles on the 11th consecutive day on Sunday of the anti-power theft campaign and also submitted FIR application against 504 electricity thieves in the respective police stations, out of which 222 FIRs were registered while 34 accused arrested.

During the operation, he said, large agricultural and commercial consumers were also found involved in electricity theft and all of them were also disconnected and charged with detection units.

Among the seized connections were 10 industrial, 72 commercial, four agricultural and 669 domestic, and

all these connections were disconnected and charged with a total of 777,711 units as detection bill amounting to Rs 37,491,488.

On the 11th day of anti-power theft operation, the LESCO charged 9,270 detection units worth Rs 860,000 to commercial connection in Shah Khalid Town Ferozwalla; 15,963 detection units of Rs 670,450 to an agricultural connection in Ladhe area; 6,050 detection units worth Rs 500,000 to a domestic connection in Ferozwalla; and 4,280 units worth Rs 469,582 to customers stealing electricity directly from transmission line in Ghandipura, Ferozwalla.

Lahore PHA takes on smog ahead of winter

LAHORE (APP): The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) of Lahore has embarked on an ambitious tree-planting campaign throughout the provincial metropolis to combat air pollution ahead of arrival of winter, when a noxious smog blankets the city of gardens.

Environmental pollution is an annual concern for Lahore, with a substantial concentration of tiny airborne particles posing a risk to residents, particularly in October and November.

As part of its initiative to reduce airborne dust, the authorities advise people to adopt a healthy lifestyle. The seasonal burning of crop waste, coupled with lower temperatures, prolongs the

presence of pollutants in the air.

To address this issue well in advance, the PHA decided earlier this year to expand Lahore's green cover by planting half a million trees. According to a spokesperson, it has planted 0.25 million trees to date.

Just last week, they conducted three tree plantation drives in Gajju Matta, Khayaban-e-Jinnah, and Kamahan village, planting thousands of saplings.

On the direction of PHA DG Muhammad Tahir Wattoo, the PHA placed a special focus on planting trees with a high capacity to reduce pollutants, such as the Norway maple and Largeleaf Linden.

Environment experts emphasise that such trees

effectively filter pollutants, absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen into the atmosphere, and help cool homes.

Commenting on the matter, Tahir Wattoo urged Lahore's residents to refrain from burning household garbage, citing its dangers to both health and the environment.

He appealed to people to limit outdoor fires within the city, as their smoke could create unhealthy conditions for residents, particularly during stagnant weather patterns.

He also urged stakeholders to champion clean air and create incentives for beneficial behaviours, while promoting and educating residents on best practices.

Corrupt policing system main hurdle to development: Altaf

KARACHI (NNI): Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor here Sunday said that our corrupt and outdated policing system is the main hurdle to over development as this system instead of fighting crimes is promoting them.

He said we inherited our policing system from our British colonial rulers and failed as yet to develop it as per our own needs. He said this system is filthy and corrupt in its core from top to bottom.

He said in fact our policemen are paid salaries from the taxpayers money for looting and fleecing them. He said all sorts of mafia in our country are

backed, supported and protected by police officers. He said when the common man says that our cop is the biggest thief it is not very far from the truth.

Altaf Shakoor said corrupt police are involved in all sorts of crime from peddling drugs to encroaching upon and selling government lands. He said hoarding, smuggling and black marketing is not possible without overt and covert support of the police department. He said our traffic police loot drivers more than regulating traffic on streets. He said sadly our police stations have become dens of bribery.

Altaf Shakoor demanded an overhaul of the police

department on modern lines. He urged use of computers, surveillance cameras and artificial intelligence in policing matters. He asked focusing on community policing also to strengthen law and order at

grassroots level.

He demanded recruitment in police at all levels through the public service commission so that educated and civilized people are made the part of the prestigious police department.

TENDER NOTICE - AUCTION

All interested parties are hereby informed that auction of Repairable and unserviceable Ration Packing Material (Bags Jute Flour/ Dhall, Polypropylene packs Sugar/ Dhall, Plastic cans, Ghee Tin 16 kg, etc) will be held at Reserve supply depot ASC Peshawar on 11 October 2023 at 1000 hrs. In case of any unforeseen situation, auction will be held on alternate day i.e 20 October 2023. All policies will be adopted according to the law.

Stock Officer RSD ASC Peshawar Cantt
Cell No: 0303-8129888 - 0333-6395633



LAHORE: Customers selecting and purchasing old books from a roadside stall. —APP Photo



Federal Health Deptt for combating dengue in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Federal Health Minister has commended the exemplary efforts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department in combating dengue and has directed other provinces to undertake similar actions.

In a high-level meeting, Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadim Jan praised the effective and timely efforts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department

in controlling dengue, said a hand out issued here on Sunday.

He also emphasized the importance of other provinces adopting measures against dengue similar to those implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

All Provincial Health Ministers, Secretaries, the Director-General of Health Services, and senior health officials of their respective health departments participated online in the meeting to discuss various critical

healthcare topics.

However, from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Advisor on Health Dr. Riaz Anwar, Secretary Health Mahmood Aslam Wazir, Director-General Health Services Dr. Shaukat Ali, and other officials, participated.

Statistics presented during the meeting revealed that Balochistan had reported the highest number of dengue cases at 2,627, followed by Punjab with 1,961, Sindh with 1,014, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

with the lowest at 234 cases.

Dr. Nadim Jan lauded Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for its exceptional efforts in preventing dengue this year, highlighting that they had recorded fewer positive cases compared to other provinces.

Emphasizing the importance of ongoing efforts to prevent dengue nationwide, Dr. Nadim Jan stressed the need to protect the nation from this potentially dangerous disease.



PESHAWAR: Advisor to CM on Health Dr. Riaz Anwar addressing a meeting during his visit to Khyber Eye Foundation.

Rulers’ wrong policies put country’s economy on peril: Faiq

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP) chairman Muhammad Faiq Shah said wrong policies of present and former rulers have put the country’s economy on peril. Talking to a group of media persons here on Sunday, Shah said his party has already given a comprehensive roadmap for bringing economic and political stability in the country.

He said the people were bearing the brunt of the wrong decisions made by previous rulers.

The ATP chairman said the people had lost faith in

the political setup due to the prevailing uncertainty and inflation.

He added prices of electricity, gas and petroleum products frequently rising, resultantly hitting poor masses hard.

Shah blamed former rulers for pushing the people into a blind alley and now the masses were cursing them for their wrongdoings.

He said the heart of the poor people can be won only by people-friendly decisions.

“Our manifesto is to ensure provision of economic and social justice, public authorities and solv-

ing their basic public problems at doorstep”.

The party leader said the people have been bombarded with petrol once again.

He asserted that the caretaker government should try to provide relief to the people despite all the difficulties.

Replying to a question, Shah said timely elections are essential to avert the country from further damages.

He said that an enabling environment should be created so that the political parties could reach out to the voters.

Furthermore, he said uncertainty prevailed in the

country after the president wrote a letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan, suggesting the election date.

“The president’s letter has added to the confusion surrounding the election,” he remarked.

Faiq said economic, political stability is the dire need of the hour.

He urged all political parties and stakeholders to work together for the country’s peace, economic prosperity and progress.

The ATP chief re-emphasized that only sincere and honest leadership can steer the country out of the current crisis.

Qissa Khawani Bazaar: Historical jewel shines bright

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar is considered as ‘Oldest Living City’ in South Asia, with primitive history going back to about 539 BC. It has a number of attractions for the tourists and Qissa Khawani Bazar is just one of them. Qissa Khwani Bazar is known for its rich cultural heritage, traditional architecture, and bustling atmosphere. The name ‘Qissa Khwani Bazar’ (The Market of Storytellers) is a vibrant bazaar which has a long history dating back to the Mughal era. It served as a popular gathering place for poets, musicians, and storytellers who would entertain the locals with their tales.

The ancient and traditional culture of Qissa Khwani attracts tourists, who are then drawn to its

food restaurants and Qehwa shops. Here, they engage in conversations about the rich history, music, and traditional customs, all while indulging in the delightful aromas of various cuisines such as Chappal Kabab, Mutton Karahi, fried fish, chicken roast, Kabli Pulao, and the famous dessert, Kulfi-Falooda. Additionally, they savor the renowned Qehwa, a type of green tea.

For ages, the green tea served here has been the national beverage of Pakhtuns. Despite the fact that qehwa khana is a necessary component of every market and bazaar in Peshawar, it is closely tied with Qissa Khawani Bazaar. The bazaar used to be the centre of Peshawar’s cultural life in the 1960s and 1970s, and its tea stalls were meeting places for residents, who thronged to

these outlets in the evening and sat and gossiped until late. Qehwa has been around since antiquity, long before British missionaries introduced black tea. Some of the eatries are around 200 years old.

The explorer Lowell Thomas and the British Governor Herbert Edwardes called it ‘the Central Asian Piccadilly.’

During its peak, the bazaar served as a rest stop for merchant caravans from Delhi, Amritsar, Lahore, Kabul, Dushanbe, Ashgabat, and Tashkent, who used to enter the city’s gates to unload their goods. Great soldiers, conquerors, and monarchs such as Alexander the Great, Mehmoed Ghaznvi, Zaeheeruddin Babar, Nadir Shah, Ahmed Shah Durrani, and his grandson Shah Zaman marched via the legendary

Khyber Pass during their conquests of India. Qissa Khwani’s history is thought to be as old as Peshawar’s. In the centre of the street, an arched white marble memorial has been erected to honour those slain in the Qissa Khwani Bazaar massacre in April 1930, when British troops opened fire on protesters, killing hundreds. Qissa Khwani Bazaar has witnessed several significant historical events. One of the most notable incidents occurred in 1930 when British troops opened fire on a peaceful protest, leading to the massacre of numerous locals. This event played a crucial role in the struggle for independence in British India.

Interestingly, the houses of Indian Bollywood filmstars Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor and Shatrughn Khan are also in Qissa Khawani.

Operations against adulteration mafia continue

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority conducted a major operation against the adulteration mafia in Peshawar, said a spokesman of the Food Authority here on Sunday.

Food safety team raided a spice factory in Mirch Mandi, Chergano Chowk after receiving a tip-off, a Food Authority spokesman said. More than 4,000 kg of non-standard and harmful material in the preparation of Chape Keduran spices was exported and taken into government custody, a Food Authority spokesman said.

He said, 200 kg of sub-standard and unhealthy spices were also seized from the factory and machinery seized, owners arrested, further legal action initiated. Adulteration mafia does not deserve any co-necession, Director General Food Authority Shah Rukh Ali Khan said.

CM aide visits Khyber Eye Foundation

PESHAWAR (APP): The Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Health Dr. Riaz Anwar on Sunday visited Khyber Eye Foundation and expressed satisfaction over the healthcare initiatives.

Chairman Muhammad Adnan Jilil and esteemed board directors and administrators, welcomed Dr. Riaz Anwar and all accompanying guests.

During the visit, all guests were given a tour of the Khyber Eye Foundation and received a detailed presentation about the hospital’s operations.

Chairman Muhammad Adnan Jilil briefly expressed his thoughts, emphasizing the foundation’s importance as a charitable institution and its provision of free healthcare

services to the underprivileged and needy individuals in the region.

Dr. Riaz Anwar, the Special Assistant Health, expressed his satisfaction with the hospital’s performance, noting that he had heard numerous commendations about the facility from his acquaintances.

He stated, “I am now convinced that Khyber Eye Foundation is a reputable brand, and it serves as a beacon of hope for the less fortunate.”

He further added, “This hospital is a testament to your hard work and dedication, and I assure you that I am always available to contribute to the progress of this institution. Whenever there is a challenge, I will be here to address it.”

At the end of the visit, Dr. Riaz Anwar was hon-

ored with a shield as a token of appreciation. Additionally, former Chairman Muhammad Ghayur Sethi, who played a significant role in the foundation’s growth, received a shield for his relentless efforts.

Syed Naseer Jamal Shah was also entrusted with the responsibility of leading enterprise resources planning and automating the systems at Khyber Eye Foundation.

Following the exchange of shields, heartfelt gratitude was extended to all present board members.

The visit underscored the dedication and commitment of the Khyber Eye Foundation to provide essential healthcare services to those in need, further strengthening its position as a beacon of hope in the region.

Kalam RoboTech2023: Over 400 students showcase innovation

PESHAWAR (APP): The three-day “Kalam RoboTech2023” competition, held at the summer campus of the University of Engineering and Applied Sciences Swat, Kalam, reached its grand finale with an awe-inspiring showcase of innovation and talent from 21 educational institutions across Pakistan.

The competition, a collaborative effort between the University of Engineering and Applied Sciences Swat and the Directorate General of Science & Technology, witnessed the active participation of over 400 students.

In the closing ceremony the Caretaker Minister for ST&IT, Sports, and Youth Affairs Dr. Najeeb Ullah, was chief guest. Secretary of the ST&IT Department,

Zakaullah, Vice Chancellors, Project Directors and other academia and students participated.

During the ceremony, Dr. Najeeb Ullah commended the organizers for their exemplary execution of Kalam ROBO TECH2023 competition. He emphasized the importance of nurturing young talent in the age of artificial intelligence and expressed the Department of Science and Information Technology’s commitment to providing further opportunities for aspiring scientists.

Secretary of ST&IT Department, Zakaullah, highlighted that ‘Kalam ROBO TECH2023’ was a collaborative effort involving the Swat University of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Directorate of ST&IT, the Society of

Mechatronics Engineers, the National Center of Robotics and Automation, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Science Agenda.

He noted that the event also included a two-day training workshop on robotics for students from merged Districts, fostering inclusivity in technological education. The event featured exciting competitions, including sumo wrestling, robo futsal, robotic arms, off-road races, flying rockets, mini robot wars, and paper plane challenges.

Dr. Qasim Jan, Project Director, University of Engineering and Applied Sciences Swat, expressed his gratitude towards all involved, acknowledging that the Kabal campus of the university would soon be operational.

Actions against one wheeling taken

F. P. Report

PESHAWAR: The City Traffic Police Peshawar detained 12 more people for one-wheeling on the Northern Bypass and locked their motorcycles in the terminal.

A crackdown on one-wheeling on the Northern Bypass was conducted in which 12 more youths were detained for one-wheeling and their motorcycles were seized in 523/550 sections and locked in the terminal while their parents were arrested by the city traffic police.

Chief Traffic Officer Qamar Hayat Khan has said to speed up the action against the one-wheeling perpetrators and seize the motorcycles and arrest the one-wheeling perpetrators and take a written guarantee from their parents that their children will continue to do one-wheeling.

He said that doing one-wheeling is like playing with one’s life because many precious lives have been lost and happy homes of people have turned into mourning due to this dangerous sport. There will be no leniency and strict action will be taken against them.

He said that City Traffic Police Peshawar is using all available resources to ensure implementation of traffic rules and no one will be lenient in this regard.

He further said that the purpose of campaigns related to traffic rules across the city and to ensure its implementation is to improve the traffic system in the city and to secure the lives of the citizens, in this regard, any kind of negligence will not be tolerated while the perpetrators will be punished. Strict action will be taken against the persons as per law.



KP Caretaker govt refuses to fund BRT

PESHAWAR (INP): The caretaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has refused to give one billion rupees to the transport department for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

According to media reports, the transport department had requested the funds to cover the costs of the project, but the caretaker government has stated that

the funds are not available.

The government’s decision has been met with criticism from some quarters, who argue that it will delay the completion of the project and further inconvenience residents. However, the government has defended its decision, stating that it is necessary to ensure fiscal discipline.

In a letter to the trans-

port department, the finance department stated that the government had released 662.4 million rupees for the BRT project in the year 2022-23. However, the funds lapsed due to non-utilization.

The letter also stated that the transport department has formed an inquiry committee to investigate the lapse of funds.

The finance department has requested the transport department to review the lapsed amount and submit a revised budget before the release of any further funds. The BRT project is a major infrastructure project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is expected to improve public transportation in Peshawar and reduce traffic congestion.

Centuries old drumsbeating culture keeps alive in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The centuries-old drumsbeating culture has kept alive in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which are making weddings, birthday parties and other festivals more enchanting and colourful.

Despite the mushroom growth of social media and information technology, the dhol players have started roaring business during marriages, birthday parties and other celebrated occasions in Peshawar after dropping of temperature in KP.

Known as city of artists, Peshawar has produced legendary musicians and artists in the caliber of Khyal Muhammad, Rafiq Shinwari, Firdus Jamal, Qavi Khan Javed Babar and Yousaf Khan (Dilip kumar) that ruled in Pakistani and Indian cinemas.

Cleaning his dhol with a long white handkerchief, drummer Zulfikar alias Bhutto (47) often come to

Peshawar cantonment where he sit in Fakhar e Alam Road’s square before his services were hired for marriages, birthday and other festivals especially on the weekend.

“I had entered into dhol beating profession after death of my father 20 years ago and come to Fakhar Alam Road’s green shadi hall square from Changarabad with a hope to earn maximum business on Saturday and Sunday,” Zulfikar, who cleaned perspirations with handkerchief told APP.

“The drumbeaters have pinned high hops from winter season due to an increase of marriages, engagements, festivals and hopefully the upcoming winter would bring happiness to the price hike hit community,” he said, adding the cost of dhol was also increased due to price hike and inflation.

“Two years ago, the price of a dhol was Rs20,000 along with beating plates that now jumped to Rs30,000,” he said, adding poor drummers economically suffers in case damage to their dhol,” he said. “Mostly during monsoon season, the dhol with a beating plate of skin gets dampened and also affected in hot weather conditions, incurring substantial financial losses to them,” he said, adding plastic beating plates were mostly imported from abroad works for longer period of time.

Naseeb Ali, another dhol player, who belonged to Lahore said that he was proud of his profession that helped his children attained upto university level education.

He said that drumbeaters were being preferred over DJs because it was cost efficient and required no electricity or expensive

arrangements.

Known as Ustad, Naseeb said, “I had sent two dhol for repair and the third one inherited from my elder brother was being used in marriages, birthday parties, mehndi, political gatherings, wedding and other joys occasions,” he said.

He hoped that their business would further shine during upcoming General Elections.

“The earning of a dhol player depend upon the financial position of the hired party. Some times, we earns Rs5,000 and some times pocket Rs20,000 per program on weekend,” he said, adding a pair of dhol player normally charges Rs2,000 from the clients per program.

On weekends, the traditional drum-beaters were also seen waiting for customers at Ghandhara and Hayatabad chowk where dhol lovers hire them for

festivals. The people paid thousands to these drummers wearing white and yellow dresses inspite of an advance music equipment and DJs to give traditional touch to their weddings.

“I came to green shadi hall chowk to hire a pair of dhol players for engagement of my son that was cost efficient compare to DJs besides can easily be performed in indoor function and outdoor activities,” said Haider Zaman, a resident of Wapda Town Peshawar.

Haider said that his father had also hired traditional dhol player during his marriage 40 years ago.

Renowned TV star, Javed Babar (pride of performance) said in the past when a Pashto or Urdu film was released in the city, thousands of film lovers on drumbeats were gathered outside the cinema houses and cheered for their

favourite hero/heroine that was “now hardly seen today” in Peshawar due to growth of social media platforms.

He said one decade ago cinema was flourishing earning maximum capital with significant contributions by drummers to mobilize fans while in the recent years its growth was adversely affected by mushroom growth of social media platforms.

He said Peshawar has started losing the decades-old cinema houses, which have been converted into trade and commercial plazas depriving thousands of film lovers from entertainment.

Despite rich culture heritage, Peshawar had lost seven cinemas due to lack of production of new films in Urdu and Pashto, high property taxes on cinemas, security concerns and commercialization.

Out of 15 cinemas in

Peshawar, the seven oldest cinema houses including Shabistan (Firdus), Palwasha, Capital, Falak Sair, Novelty, Metro, Sabrina and Ihsrat were demolished and converted into trade and commercial centres and hotels for monetary gains.

The remaining few cinemas in Peshawar City including Arshad Cinema, Sabreena, Aaeena, Naz and Shama also seemed mostly deserted due to the unavailability of new films, high production film cost, pathetic seating facilities and unsatisfactory approach by the past governments towards film industry.

“I came to Peshawar to watch my favorite Pashto film at Arshad Cinema after the closure of two cinemas including ‘Taj’ in Mardan and was very disappointed after seeing limited numbers of movies fans,” said Nasir Khan, a Pashto film lover and resident of

Katlang Mardan City.

He said revival of cinema was imperative for education, Information and infotainment.

Gohar Khan, Manager Sabrina Cinema, told APP that services of traditional dhol players were hired before screening of new films to attract people.

He said cinema culture was declining in Peshawar due to poor quality of films, camera work and price hike besides mushroom growth of cinema so as dhol culture. He said the rising monthly energy bills, staff salaries and property taxes had added to the financial difficulties of cinema owners.

The experts demanded special packages for cinema owners, producers and directors to promote entertainment industry in KP. They also urged government to provide financial relief to dhol players affected by coronavirus pandemic.



In brief

5 shops sealed in operation

SARGODHA (INP): Municipal Corporation Chief Officer Tariq Paroya said on Sunday that five shops were sealed over encroachments and their goods were confiscated during the ongoing grand operation, launched by the district administration. According to a handout issued here, the anti-encroachment teams of Municipal Corporation, under the supervision of Commissioner and Administrator Municipal Corporation Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, started an indiscriminate operation across the city. The anti-encroachment team launched an operation at Lorry Adda Road, and cleared encroachments established at the road from Quenchy Morri to Chungi No 9 by using heavy machinery.

Three killed in accident

BHAKKAR (INP): Three people were killed while two others injured in a road accident in Bhakkar on Sunday, rescuers and police said. A speeding bus hit a car near Adhi Kot Wapda Colony in Qaidabad, leaving three passengers dead and two others injured. The car was heading to Bhalwal from Lahore, while the bus was going to Bhakkar from Lahore at the time of the incident. Rescue 1122 ambulances rushed to the scene and shifted the dead and the injured to a nearby hospital.

Two varsity students killed

HYDERABAD (INP): Two students of a private university were killed when a rashly-driven truck rammed into their bike on National Highway, near Halanaka area here on Sunday night. The victims identified as Hasnain, 19, and Samiullah, were on their way on a bike when the truck rammed into their two-wheeler, killing Hasnain on the spot, and injuring Samiullah. Samiullah was admitted to hospital in a critical condition, where he could not survive and died of his injuries. The truck driver fled the scene, leaving his truck on the road. Police reached the scene and took the truck in custody, and started investigation. The bodies were sent for autopsies.

Govt launches strict drive

MULTAN (INP): Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali has stated that interim government has launched a strict drive against power theft in the country which is yielding fruitful results. Talking to a private news channel, he said effective measures are being taken to improve power supply system and eradication of power theft is among the top priorities. He said government has established a central control room in the power division to monitor the ongoing campaign against power theft. Replying to a question, he said government will cooperate with Election Commission of Pakistan to hold free and fair elections.

220-bag urea seized

FAISALABAD (APP): Assistant Commissioner Sammundri Suleman Mansha has seized 220 bags of urea fertilizer from Adda Salooni Jhal. A spokesman for local administration said here on Sunday that the AC Sammundri on a tip-off conducted raid near Adda Salooni Jhang and seized the fertilizer loaded in a tractor trolley to sell it in the black. The AC Sammundri imposed Rs. 25,000 fine on the tractor driver and the urea bags were confiscated to provide the fertilizer to the farmers on government-fixed rate, he added.

RPO committed to root out terrorism

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): Regional Police Officer Dera Range Nasir Mehmood Satti has said that the menace of terrorism will be rooted out, due to the best actions of the police, the miscreants are hiding now but they will not be forgiven in any case and those who challenge the government writ will be dealt strictly.

He vowed that the scourge of terrorism can be rooted out from the country if the people keep an eye on suspicious elements around them and pass the information to law enforcement agencies immediately.

He said that police along with other security agencies have been playing a leading role to flush out terrorists from Pakistani soil but the public cooperation is necessary to get success in war against terror.

In order to root out the menace of terrorism from society, the police Officers should take civil society, political leaders, religious scholars, and media into confidence so that the monster of terrorism could be eradicated with their active support, RPO said while talking to media persons.

Due to the excellent actions of the Police with the support of the Pakistan Army, the miscreants are hiding now, but they will not be forgiven in any case, and a clear message to those challenging the government writ will be dealt strictly, he added.

“Strict legal action should be taken against

drug dealers, property mafia, people involved in smuggling and human trafficking besides efforts should be made to control social evils.” He asked the police force to make all-out efforts and better strategies should be adopted to protect youth from drugs as well as to rid society of this poison and to take legal action against drug peddlers and smugglers without any discrimination, a special campaign was launched during last week to target the Primary sources of drug distribution, with a focus on areas in proximity to educational institutions, the RPO said.

Man arrested for killing his sister

The Dera police on Sunday arrested a man who killed his sister in the name of ‘honour’ two days ago.

According to a police spokesman, Niaz Ullah had shot dead his 15-year-old sister here in the Bilalabad area just a day before her marriage was scheduled. After the crime, the accused escaped from the scene.

The case of the incident was registered at Cantt police station. A team from Cantt police station led by SDPO City Circle Hafiz Muhammad Adnan along with SHO Gulsher Khan arrested Niaz Ullah and recovered a 30-bore pistol from his possession which was used in the crime.

Police trace dacoity case; recovered stolen cash

The district police on

Sunday claimed to have traced a dacoity case and arrested an accused recovering Rs 670,000 stolen cash from him in the limits of City police station.

According to a police spokesman, a team of City police station led by SDPO City Circle Hafiz Muhammad Adnan and SHO Khubab Wali Baloch along with Incharge investigation Arif Mehmood traced a dacoity case in which unknown motorcycle snatchers snatched Rs 2.5 million from a citizen named Rizwan in city area.

The police adopting modern scientific techniques arrested one of the accused named Sher Nawaz son of Nek Nawaz resident of Lakki Marwat and recovered Rs 670,000 from him.

SDPO Muhammad Adnan vowed that the remaining two accused of the incident would also be arrested soon and the remaining amount would also be recovered.

Meanwhile, Paroa Police Station SHO Zafar Abbas along with his team under the supervision of SDPO Paroa Circle Sardar Alamgir Khan during a crackdown against thieves arrested accused Hayat Ullah son of Allah Nawaz resident of Paroa. The police also recovered a stolen motorcycle, Rs 95,000 cash and a wallet containing CNIC and student card from him. The accused was wanted to police in several theft cases.

Traders hopeful of pulling country out of difficulties

HYDERABAD (APP): The President Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) Adeel Siddiqui has said that the business community was hopeful of pulling the country out of the present difficulties by striving hard to improve the national economy.

He expressed these views while addressing at the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of Hyderabad glass bangles association here on Sunday.

Adeel Siddiqui said that the glass bangles industry was among the oldest industry of Hyderabad. Haji Farid ud Din Siddiqui

established Indus Glass Works which counted among glass, utensils, glass bangles and fountain manufacturing companies in Asia.

He said that Hyderabad was famous for bangle industry but if the name of glass bangle industrialist was included in the top ten names then it would be a matter of pride for us. He urged the traders community to unite for the improvement of the business. Adeel Siddiqui said that the HCCI was working for the welfare of traders and he would not let them alone.

On this occasion, President Hyderabad Glass

Bangles Dealers Association Yameen Siddiqui and General Secretary Nadeem Siddiqui assured their support to serve the business community and said that the would should play its role in uplifting the bangle industry.

Earlier, HCCI President Adeel Siddiqui administered oath to the newly elected office bearers.

Former MPA Nadeem Siddiqui, Senior Vice President HCCI Najam ud Din Qureshi, Vice President Awais Khan, Vice President Anjuman-e-Tajiran Nabeel Siddiqui and others were also present on the occasion.

Rs119.481m imposed on 1,014 electricity thieves

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has reported imposition of fines totaling Rs. 119.481 million on 1,014 individuals, involved in electricity theft during an 11-day anti-power-theft campaign across the FESCO region.

According to FESCO spokesman Tahir Sheikh, the campaign was launched on the special directive of the Minister of Energy (Power Division). During this drive, FESCO’s anti-theft teams apprehended 1,014 power pilferers from its six circles.

The company levied fines on these offenders, and recovered Rs. 25.2 million. Additionally, FESCO initiated legal action against 769 accused individuals, leading to the arrest of 18 electricity thieves by the police.

Further elaborating on

the campaign’s results, the spokesman noted that FESCO’s teams identified instances of electricity theft at 384 locations in Faisalabad district, imposing fines totaling Rs. 48.4 million under the category of 1.129 million detection units. In Bhakkar district, the anti-theft teams apprehended 97 electricity thieves and imposed a fine of Rs. 14.2 million, corresponding to 265,000 detection units.

Similarly, 107 cases of electricity theft were uncovered in Chinioi district, resulting in a fine of Rs. 8.357 million being imposed under 288,000 detection units.

In Jhang district, 106 electricity thieves were caught, with fines amounting to Rs. 15.3 million imposed for 488,000 detection units.

Khushab district saw 31 consumers involved in

electricity theft, and they were fined Rs. 3.985 million for 80,000 detection units.

Furthermore, FESCO teams apprehended 87 power pilferers in Mianwali, imposing a fine of Rs. 6.9 million for 163,000 detection units.

In Sargodha district, 126 cases of electricity theft were detected, leading to fines totaling Rs. 15.2 million being imposed under 369,000 detection units.

Lastly, in Toba Tek Singh district, 69 electricity thieves were apprehended, and FESCO imposed fines amounting to Rs7.63 million for 200,000 detection units. In response to a query, it was revealed that 104 power pilferers were nabbed within the last 24 hours, resulting in the imposition of fines totaling Rs. 11.6 million under 216,000 detection units.

35 ibex die of animal disease at Kirthar Park

JAMSHORO (INP): At least 35 wild goats died of a highly contagious animal disease, PPR, at Kirthar National Park, reported on Sunday. Sindh Wildlife Protection Agency has taken notice of the deaths of wild goat. Deputy Conservator Hyderabad Wajid Shaikh has confirmed death of 35 Ibex owing to disease.

“The samples of the animals will be taken and sent to laboratories in Karachi, Islamabad, Tando Jam and Lahore to establish the cause of deaths of animals,” Wildlife official said.

Deputy Conservator wildlife has said that a letter also written to the Livestock Department for vaccination of animals.

According to earlier reports, over 100 wild goats at Kirthar National Park have been infected by the disease. The Wildlife Department workers shifting the ailing animals to another place. Experts said that the wild goats have been infected by the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) disease and stressed for vaccination of the animals.

“At first, the nose and eyes of the animal affected

by the deadly disease and the ailing animal dies within three to four days,” sources said. Around 100 wild goats were died in an outbreak of the PPR disease at Kirthar National Park in year 2010, officials said.

The PPR, also known as sheep and goat plague, is a highly contagious animal disease affecting small ruminants. Once introduced, the virus can infect up to 90 percent of an animal herd, and the disease kills anywhere from 30 to 70 percent of infected animals. The PPR virus does not infect humans.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Jeay Sindh Mahaz hold a protest rally against settlement of outsiders in Sindh.

2 labourers dead, five others hurt

LAYYAH (INP): Two labourers were killed while five others were injured after a tractor-trolley they were riding turned side down near Kapori checkpoint in Layyah on Sunday, rescuers and police said.

Preliminary findings suggested that the tractor driver dozed and lost control over the steering wheel. The trolley loaded with construction material and shutters overturned, leaving some labourers trapped under the debris. The victims were asleep at the time of the incident.

Adnan, 18, and Farooq, 34, lost their lives, while Tariq, Ayyub, Rafaqat, Waseem and Kazim suffered multiple injuries. The dead and the injured were shifted to Chobara tehsil headquarter hospital by Rescue 1122 ambulances. All the victims belonged to Bhakkar district.

Ex-MPA Ejaz Bandedha booked

VEHARI (APP): Ex-MPA Pakistan Tehreek Insaf Ejaz Sultan Bandedha was booked for allegedly extending threats to a woman in a matter pertaining to land grabbing in Chak No. 52/KB in Vehari.

According to police sources, a woman, namely Nasim Bibi, wife of Ashraf, was working in the agriculture field when the ex-MPA, along with his accomplice, rushed to the site with a tractor trolley loaded with bricks.

She maintained that some people wanted to grab the land, and the MPA was facilitating the grabbers. She maintained that the MPA and his accomplices allegedly threatened her with dire consequences. Police in Jhal Sial have registered the case and started an investigation.

Minister calls on UAE’s Ambassador

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan, Jan Achakzai, met on Sunday with Deputy Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Rashid Al Ali.

Issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting held at the UAE Embassy. In the meeting between the caretaker minister and the deputy ambassador, investment opportunities in Balochistan were also discussed. Jan Achakzai invited the UAE Deputy Ambassador to visit Quetta on behalf of the Balochistan Government.

Welcoming the goodwill gesture, Deputy Ambassador of UAE accepted the invitation and assured that he would soon visit Quetta.

Anti-polio drive to start from 2nd

FAISALABAD (APP): An anti-polio drive will commence in Faisalabad district from October 2, 2023.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Kashif Raza Awan said at a meeting that 4,869 teams would remain active during the anti-polio campaign which would continue up to October 8, 2023.

Adulterated milk seized, says AAC

ABBOTTABAD (INP): The Additional Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad Ali Sher Khan Khalil on Sunday said that the district administration of Abbottabad has taken measures to assess the quality of dairy products and other essential food items in the region.

A team of mobile laboratory staff and livestock specialists was deployed for on-site inspections of dairy shops. During these inspections, irregularities were

found where some shops were involved in the adulteration of milk with chemicals, maintaining unsanitary conditions, and selling substandard milk.

The authorities confiscated a large quantity of adulterated milk and imposed heavy fines on the individuals responsible.

In addition, the district administration also extended its scrutiny to other essential food items, including flour, sugar, roti, and various goods. They

examined prices and weights, and where necessary, issued directives to shopkeepers to ensure fair practices and protect consumers.

The district administration has encouraged citizens to participate in upholding food quality standards by reporting any concerns about the pricing and quality of food items, especially milk, juices, water, and other food items, to the District Control Room at 09929310553.

FIA busts foreign currency godown in Jhelum

JHELM (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), in a raid on two shops of currency exchange in Jhelum, arrested five people besides recovering local and foreign currency notes from them, it was learnt on Sunday.

Sources in the FIA informed that those arrested were associated with the business of hawala and hundi.

Sources added that 32.6 million fake Pakistani currency was recovered from them. Moreover, they added, foreign currency notes worth over Rs14 million were also recovered from them.

Sources elaborated that US dollars, Saudi Riyal, Euro, UK Pounds were among other currencies recovered from the suspects.

Those taken into custody were Sarfaraz, Usama, Nadeem Khan and Abu Bakr.

Only three days ago, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) conducted raids in Rawalpindi and arrested four persons namely Abdur Rahman Paracha, Tauseef Ahmad, Bilal Kaleem and Muhammad Naveed under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

Pakistan is divine gift, says Riaz Pirzada

MULTAN (APP): Former Federal Minister Riaz Hussain Pirzada said on Sunday that Pakistan is a

divine gift bestowed upon the subcontinent through the prayers and teachings of great saints and Sufis who propagated Islam and touched the lives of millions, including non-Muslims.

Former Federal Minister Riaz Hussain Pirzada delivered an inspiring address at the Hazrat Shah Shams Tabrizi Sabzwari Conference held at the Royal Institute of Medical Sciences College here on Sunday. He highlighted the significance of spirituality and its potential for solutions to contemporary challenges.

By embracing and fol-

lowing the teachings of the spiritual elders, Pakistan can overcome its current issues.

The great saint was particularly praised for his enduring influence, with disciples spread across the globe and their blessings still emanating from their shrine in Multan.

Pirzada noted that those fortunate enough to reside in Multan are in a place often referred to as “Madinah Awaliya,” highlighting the city’s special spiritual significance. On this occasion, many prominent figures in the city were also present.

Five gamblers held with stake money

Seetal Maarri police have arrested five gamblers

and recovered stake money from their possession during a special operation launched here on Sunday.

According to police sources, a police team led by Station House Officer (SHO) Shamoan Joiya launched an operation against gamblers and other criminals.

The police team arrested five gamblers named Kamran, Sajjad, Imdad Ullah, Muhammad Kamran and Hayat.

Stake money of Rs 20,000 and other gambling materials was also recovered from their possession, police sources said and added that a case has been registered against the criminals with Seetal Maarri police station.

Son tortures parents over property dispute in Punjab

BAHAWALNAGAR (INP): his wife ‘kicked’ his elderly

parents from the house. A case has been registered against the son on the complaint of elderly parents. The accused along with his wife has escaped the area. The parents appealed to the Punjab’s caretaker chief minister Mohsin Naqvi to take notice of the matter and provide them with justice.

Earlier, police arrested a man who tortured his elder-

ly father over a property dispute in Pakpattan.

As per details, the man along with friends tortured his elderly father for not transferring property to his son’s name. Police registered an FIR on the complaint of Ghulam Rasool and the DPO assured him that the suspects would be arrested. The Pakpattan police have arrested his son and son-in-law for torturing the bedridden father.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebrations arrangements reviewed

MIRPURKHAH (INP): According to the mayor’s office, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the mayor in which all council chairmen participated with new suggestions regarding Rabi-ul-Awal.

On the occasion, the mayor expressed his thoughts and said that we should be grateful to Allah Almighty

for making us followers of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), so in this regard, the day of Rabi-ul-Awal is very important for us.

Given the significance of this day, it is now our duty to carry out the duties of our positions and do everything in our power to keep the city clean so that the processions and rallies that

take place on this day won’t be disturbed by anyone and won’t suffer any harm, he added. He further said that the suggestions given by the Union Council chairmen are also worth considering, and keeping these suggestions in mind, a better policy will be formulated for cleaning and solving other problems.



Ursula von der Leyen and Giorgia Meloni visit island after migrant boat fears

LAMPEDUSA (BBC News): The European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, has visited a migrant reception centre on the Italian island of Lampedusa, after the country's prime minister called for EU help with small boat arrivals.

More than 8,000 migrants have arrived on the island over the past three days.

PM Giorgia Meloni says Italy is being placed under "unsustainable pressure".

Ms von der Leyen acknowledged on Sunday that the issue was "a European challenge and needs a European answer".

At a news conference with Ms Meloni, she praised the people of Lampedusa for the support they had given to migrants, who she said had arrived on the island "simply because of its location".

She pledged to increase support to transfer migrants out of Lampedusa as well



Earlier this week, a five-month-old baby boy drowned during a rescue operation off the island, after a boat carrying migrants across the sea from north Africa capsized. Ms Meloni is pushing for a European Union naval blockade to prevent boats from crossing the Mediterranean to reach Italian shores. The Italian Red Cross said on Saturday that it was dealing with about 2,500 people at a reception centre designed for 400 arrivals. Volunteers and staff have been providing thousands of meals all week and helping transfer new arrivals to Sicily and elsewhere. Nearly 126,000 migrants

have arrived in Italy so far this year, which is about double the number for the same period in 2022.

Ms Meloni said on Saturday that she was calling on Ms von der Leyen "to personally realize the gravity of the situation we face" and to "immediately accelerate" the implementation of an agreement with Tunisia.

The North African country has become the main departure point for African migrants attempting to reach Europe.

The EU deal, which was signed in July, is backed up by 110m (\$118m; £90m) of EU cash to stop smuggling, strengthen borders and return migrants.

The surge in arrivals led to protests on Saturday by some Lampedusa residents against plans to build a new tent camp to host the migrants.

"I have two children at home. In the past years, I did not care about this issue. But now I have an instinct of protection for my children because I don't know what will happen to Lampedusa in the future," one of the protesters told the Reuters news agency.

"Lampedusa says stop! We don't want tent camps. This message is for Europe and for the Italian government. Lampedusa residents are tired," another protester said.

Jasmine Lozzelli, an activist working on Lampedusa, told the BBC the migrants should be sent to mainland Italy.

"It's not a problem of numbers, it's a problem of how you manage the reception system. If you start to do rescues in a proper way with big ships, you take them not to an island of 5,000 inhabitants, you take them to the mainland," she said.

"Putting them in Lampedusa creates the emergency."

Thousands in Australia rally for referendum

SYDNEY (Reuters): Thousands rallied in Australia on Sunday to support recognising the country's Indigenous people in the constitution, a proposal that is struggling ahead of a referendum next month.

If approved on Oct. 14, the measure would enshrine Indigenous people in the constitution and set up an advisory body to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people input on policies that affect them.

Indigenous Australians, who account for 3.8% of the population, face disadvantages including discrimination, poor health and education outcomes and high incarceration rates.

But the "Voice to Parliament" proposal appeared on track for defeat, a poll showed last week, the fifth monthly survey in a row to find voters against the change.

Yes23, the group behind "Walk for Yes" events, said around 20,000 people attended in Brisbane, Australia's third-biggest city, with rallies scheduled in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Hobart, Canberra, Darwin and Newcastle.

Many attendees wore T-shirts and held placards emblazoned "Vote Yes!", Australian Broadcasting Corp (ABC) footage showed.

To change the constitution, the referendum, backed by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's Labor

government, would require a national majority in favour and majorities in at least four of Australia's six states.

Most Indigenous people favour the referendum, but some, like prominent No campaigner Warren Mundine, say it is a distraction from achieving practical and positive outcomes and would not fully resolve the issues affecting them.

"If we can do just three things - accountability, jobs and education - then we'll resolve most of the problems we've got," Mundine told ABC.

Since Australian independence in 1901, only eight of 44 proposals for constitutional change have been approved.

Police detain some Evergrande wealth management staff

BEIJING (Reuters): Police in southern China have detained some staff at China Evergrande Group's wealth management unit, suggesting a new investigation that could add to the property giant's woes.

"Recently, public security organs took criminal compulsory measures against Du and other suspected criminals at Evergrande Financial Wealth Management Co.," Shenzhen city police said in a social media statement on Saturday night.

During protests by disgruntled investors at Evergrande's Shenzhen headquarters in 2021, Du Liang was identified by staff as general manager and legal representative of Evergrande's wealth management division.

Reuters could not confirm that Du was among those detained, and the police statement did not specify the number of people detained, the charges or the date they were taken into custody.

China Evergrande did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Sunday outside of normal business hours.

The police said the investigation into the financial management unit was ongoing and urged investors to report any further financial crimes.

China Evergrande (3333.HK), the world's most indebted property developer, is at the centre of a crisis in China's property sector, which has seen a string of debt defaults since late 2021 that has dragged on the growth of the world's second-largest economy.

The group, currently undergoing a protracted debt restructuring which has seen it offload a range of assets, said on Friday it has delayed making a decision on offshore debt restructuring from September to next month.

Trade in Evergrande's stock was suspended for 17 months until Aug. 28.

Moody's on Thursday cut the outlook on China's property sector to negative from stable, citing economic challenges it said would dampen sales despite government support.

Libyan flood survivors weigh water shortages

DERNA, Libya (Reuters): People whose homes were swept away by flooding in Libya's eastern city of Derna a week ago faced the dilemma on Sunday of whether to stay despite a lack of fresh water or flee through areas where landmines have been displaced by the torrents.

Thousands of people are feared to have died after two dams above Derna broke on Sept. 10, bringing down residential blocks lining a usually dry river bed as people slept. Many bodies were washed out to sea and more than 1,000 have already been buried in mass graves, according to the United Nations.

Sunrise on Sunday revealed a scene of quiet devastation, with piles of rubble cleared to the sides of empty roads along with tangled metal including pieces of wrecked cars.

Hamad Awad sat on a blanket on an empty street with a bottle of water and bedding alongside him.

"I am staying in our area trying to clean it and trying to verify who is missing," he said. "Thank God for giving us patience."

Entire districts of Derna, with an estimated population of at least 120,000, were swept away or buried in brown mud. State media said at least 891 buildings had been destroyed in the city, whose mayor has said 20,000 people may have died. Another resident said people were at a loss over what to do next.

"We still do not know anything, we are hearing rumours, some are trying to reassure us, others are saying you need to leave the city or stay here. We have no water and no resources," said the resident, who gave just one name, Wasfi.

A report by the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said Libyan authorities had detected at least 55 children poisoned from drinking polluted water in Derna, where the homeless were surviving in makeshift shelters, schools or packed into the houses of relatives or friends.

Floodwaters had shifted landmines and other ordnance left over from years of conflict, posing an extra risk to the thousands of displaced people on the move, it said.

The OCHA report said at least 11,300 people had died and more than 10,000 people were missing in Derna after Storm Daniel swept over the Mediterranean and into the city and other coastal settlements.

It cited the Libyan Red Crescent for the figure but a Libyan Red Crescent spokesman said it had not published a toll and referred Reuters to government spokespeople, saying "figures are changing and the Red Crescent is not responsible for this."

An official from the administration that runs eastern Libya, Dr. Osama Al-Fakhry, said: "The number of dead so far is 3,252, and they are those who were buried."

Moscow says Ukraine is using the case as a round-about way to get a ruling on the overall legality of its military action.

Ukraine has already cleared one hurdle as the court decided in its favour in a preliminary decision in the case in March last year. Based on that, the court ordered Russia to cease military actions in Ukraine immediately.

In the hearings the court will also hear from 32 other states, all supporting Ukraine's argument that the court has jurisdiction to move the case forward.

"It is looking fairly positive for the court to find it has jurisdiction," Juliette McIntyre, a law lecturer at the University of South Australia and ICJ watcher, said. While Russia has so far ignored the ICJ's orders to stop its military actions and the court has no way of enforcing its decisions, experts say an eventual ruling in favour of Ukraine could be important for any future reparations claims.

Austrian honeymooners killed after holiday home swept away

POTISTIKA (BBC News): An Austrian couple on their honeymoon in Greece are confirmed to have died after torrential rains swept away the house they were staying in.

Their holiday home in the resort of Potistika, near Mount Pelion, was washed into the sea by flash floods brought by Storm Daniel on 6 September.

Thanasis Samaras, owner of the home, previously said they were from Graz.

Although the pair have not been named, the Austrian foreign ministry said DNA tests had verified their identities.

A spokesperson told the BBC: "It is with deep sadness that we have to confirm the death of two Austrian citizens in Greece."

"The comparisons of DNA profiles have now confirmed the identity of the two missing persons."

"In these difficult times, we extend our deepest condolences to the families and the bereaved."

Austrian embassy staff in Athens were providing support to the couple's relatives, the spokesperson added.



Also on Saturday, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said his country was facing "a war in a time of peace". "Over a two-week period, we experienced the worst wildfire and the worst floods in our history."

Speaking in Thessaloniki, Mr Mitsotakis promised more funding for those affected and said the army would be strengthened to better respond to natural disasters. That would be done by raising tourist taxes, he added.

More than a dozen people are now known to have died since Storm Daniel hit Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria last week.

The floods which killed 15 people left thousands in temporary shelters or with relatives, while 30 villages were inaccessible with a threat of waterborne diseases.

Some Greek regions received up to 800mm (31.5in) of rain - more than normally seen in a whole year.

The Karditsa plain in central Greece was described as having turned into a lake, with villages around Palamas drowned in water.

The mayor of Palamas, Giorgos Sakellariou, told Greek TV that people were stranded in their homes and described the situation as tragic.

On 8 September, the holiday home's owner told the BBC the Austrian couple had decided to shelter inside the bungalow they had rented for their honeymoon as the heavy rainfall swept central Greece.

Mr Samaras said he and other guests had left for higher ground and had advised the couple to do the same.

Russell Brand allegations mean entertainment industry has questions to answer

LONDON (BBC News): The entertainment industry has questions to answer in light of allegations against comedian Russell Brand, Foreign Secretary James Cleverly has said.

Brand has been accused of rape and sexual assault in an investigation by Channel 4, the Times and Sunday Times. He denied the allegations, and said his relationships were "always consensual".

Mr Cleverly told the BBC those in power must "be better" at listening to the voices of the "relatively powerless".

He told BBC One's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg: "I think there are some real challenges where you have these very, very acute differentials in power - whether that be in the entertainment industry, whether that be in politics, and we see this in the commercial world as well."

"I think we have to be particularly careful when we listen to the voices of the people who are relatively powerless because we, I think collectively, have missed opportunities to do the right thing and intervene much, much earlier, and we've got to be better at this."

Asked whether there were questions for the industry, Mr Cleverly replied: "Sadly, I think there are."

MPs are expected to push for answers from big institutions that

were involved in Brand's career on the crucial questions of who knew what, and when.

Dame Caroline Dinenage, who chairs the House of Commons media committee, said: "We will be closely monitoring the responses of the media, especially our public service broadcasters, to these allegations, and looking at the questions that this, yet again, raises about the culture in the industry as a whole."

Meanwhile, the Trevi Women & Children's Charity said it had cut ties with the comedian and had been "deeply saddened and upset" following the allegations.

In the investigation, four women accused Brand of sexual assaults between 2006 and 2013.

During those years, the star had various high-profile jobs, including at BBC Radio 2 and Channel 4, and as a Hollywood actor.

Author Irvine Welsh, also speaking on Kuenssberg's programme, said the entertainment industry "has to get its house in order so people do feel comfortable and it's an environment where they can come forward and can be listened to."

But things have "changed for the better" in recent years since the start of the Me Too movement, he added.

Other claims made in the investigation relate to Brand's allegedly controlling, abusive and predatory behaviour.

Sunday Times media editor Rosamund Urwin, who worked on the story, told BBC Radio 4's Broadcasting House there were "a lot of questions to be answered" by TV companies.

She said: "I think in the coming days we will see a lot more scrutiny, including in our paper, of who knew what when, and why on earth this man was continuing to go on Channel 4 shows as late as 2018/19 when there certainly were widespread rumours that would have at least needed investigating before you put him on your channel."

On Saturday, Brand went ahead with a scheduled comedy gig in north-west London.

During the set, Brand alluded to the accusations but did not address them directly. He told the audience there were things he wanted to talk about but could not.

On Friday, the star released a video in which he denied "serious criminal allegations" that were about to be made against him.

The actor and comedian said he was the subject of a "co-ordinated attack" involving "some very serious allegations that I absolutely refute".

"These allegations pertain to the time when I was working in the main-

stream, when I was in the newspapers all the time, when I was in the movies, and as I've written about extensively in my books I was very, very promiscuous," he said.

"Now during that time of promiscuity the relationships I had were absolutely, always consensual."

While not referring to the comedian by name, the Metropolitan Police said it was "aware of media reporting of a series of allegations of sexual assault" but had not received any direct reports.

"If anyone believes they have been the victim of a sexual assault, no matter how long ago it happened, we would encourage them to contact police."

One woman known as Alice told Channel 4's Dispatches and the Sunday Times that Brand assaulted her when he was in his early 30s and she was 16 and still at school.

Raised concerns

She said she took her allegations to his literary agent Angharad Wood, the co-founder of Tavistock Wood, owned by Curtis Brown, in 2020. But she said she received a "very aggressive" legal letter in response.

Tavistock Wood told the BBC: "Russell Brand categorically and vehemently denied the allegation made in 2020, but we now believe we were horribly misled by him."

Tavistock Wood has terminated all professional ties to Brand."

The Sunday Times reported that Alice later went to work for Channel 4 and raised concerns about his behaviour with the broadcaster in 2013 or 14.

The paper also said TV researchers and runners working on Channel 4 shows alleged that Brand would get staff to approach young female audience members, some of whom were later upset by how they felt they had been treated by him.

One researcher said Brand's alleged behaviour was reported to production company Endemol, which made programmes for Channel 4. The company told the paper it could find no record of problems being raised formally or discussed.

Channel 4 said it was "appalled to learn of these deeply troubling allegations, including behaviour alleged to have taken place on programmes made for Channel 4 between 2004 and 2007".

A spokesman said it was "determined to understand the full nature of what went on" and had "found no evidence to suggest the alleged incidents were brought to the attention of Channel 4".

Controversy

The relationship with the 16-year-old is alleged to have taken place at a time when Brand was working as a presenter on BBC Radio 6 Music.

It is also alleged that Brand would undress in the studio while working on the show. Dispatches also said Brand made sexual remarks on air about a newsreader, which he later implied he had been told by BBC production staff to apologise for.

The Times added sources had told the newspaper that a complaint was made to BBC management about an "alarming display of aggression and disrespect" from Brand.

Urwin told Radio 4: "There was a level of controversy around everything he did, but we have these allegations of what went on at the BBC that seem completely and utterly inappropriate for a workplace, and were inappropriate for 2006 too."

A BBC spokesman said Brand left the corporation after a serious editorial breach in 2008, adding: "We hope that demonstrates that the BBC takes issues seriously and is prepared to act." The corporation said it had "evolved its approach" towards talent and complaints over successive years and had "clear expectations around conduct at work".

It said it would "always listen to people if they come forward with any concerns, on any issue related to any individual working at the BBC, past or present".

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Kashmir case and UN session

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue raising the Indian Illegally Occupied and Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) dispute at all the global and regional forums because Kashmir had been the oldest and longstanding unresolved agenda item of the United Nations Security Council since 1948. During an interview with the foreign media, the caretaker Prime Minister declared that Pakistan had been consistently defending and advocating the Kashmir issue at all the available multilateral and regional fora and would continue its unhindered efforts until the resolution of the globally accepted issue.

Realistically, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been, continuously persisted and will be a major territorial dispute, an ever elevated nuclear flashpoint and a long-held humanitarian issue, that sets in a thickly populated region in the world. This all-time simmering conflict between two nuclear-armed neighbours is not only a grave risk to global peace but poses a serious risk of a nuclear war in the Indo-subcontinent which could perish millions of human lives in moments. Over the decades, the people of Jammu and Kashmir did not lose their confidence in the global forum of the United Nations, and its widely approved resolutions which not only acknowledged Kashmiris' right to self-determination but also bound contesting nations to create a conducive environment for publicities and ultimate solution of the dispute under UN auspices. Unfortunately, UN Security Council resolutions were not time-bound, which was used by the occupier to its advantage for consolidating its grip over the valley instead of meeting its obligations under UN resolutions.

Presently, the Jammu and Kashmir valley is the most militarized zone and over seven hundred thousand troops are deployed in globally accepted disputed territory in the world. There were gross state atrocities and human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) over the past years. The entire area had been turned into the largest prison in the world, and Kashmiris' voices were stifled. On the domestic political front, the ruling BJP has faced a defeat in the ongoing state elections in multiple states and BJP leadership trying to capitalise on the anti-Pakistan sentiments of the general populace to gain a landslide victory in the upcoming election. The reports suggest that the Modi government is currently preparing to repeat its past practice of gaining political mileage ahead of upcoming elections by staging false flag operations in occupied regions to label blame on Pakistan. Accusing Pakistan of harbouring terrorists and supporting extremist elements in India, Modi's tested scheme to win elections is once again on public display. Unfortunately, Indian rulers had staged such episodes several times in the past and now the RSS-influenced Hindutva regime again mulls on pushing the South Asian region into instability and a full-fledged nuclear clash.

Currently, Prime Minister Kakar is scheduled for an official visit to New York to attend the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in the coming days. The Premier will address the UNGA session and fully prepare to argue the Kashmir case at the global forum. Mr. Kakar must highlight the grave human rights situations in India's Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) along with grave security risks animating out of New Delhi war hysteria and hegemonism. The Prime Minister must discuss New Delhi's attempts to stage false flag operations along the Pak-India border or in Occupied Kashmir to create war hysteria in its nation to facilitate Modi's third straight victory in the forthcoming election in India. So, the world could be aware of the real face of Indian leaders that had long been hiding behind New Delhi's fake secularism, fraud democracy and artificial growth. Kakar must press the UN forum to set a timeframe for the implementation of the seven decades-old resolutions of the UNSC on the Kashmir issue so the long-held dispute can be resolved as a priority in the coming days.

Libyan disaster, past and present

The devastating hurricane Daniah ruined conflict-ridden Libya as the rain thrust the desert into an ocean about a week ago. Unfortunately, the storm was followed by the collapse of two dams that killed thousands of people washing whole neighbourhoods into the Mediterranean Sea. Death tolls reached up to 11,000, search and rescue activities are in progress and a large number of people are still missing from their homes. The Mayor of the submerged city of Derna has warned that the death toll could reach 20,000 casualties, as many victims' bodies have been swept out to sea and their recovery would not be possible.

In the aftermath of deadly floods, there have been widespread allegations that the two dams that collapsed were not well-maintained by the authorities. While the fateful incidents of dams' wreckage broke out a nationwide debate about contradictory reports passed on by the warring governments ruling parts of the conflict-ridden nation. The residents complained that they had received mixed messages from the two rival governments on whether they should stay home or leave the area. Meanwhile, some took the evacuation call as an exaggeration of the situation and opted to stay home until a fateful calamity caught them in their homes.

Historically, the Afro-Arab nation has been in a state of volatility and chaos over the past decade. The waning days of the oil-rich Libyan nation first started when a uniformed military officer Colonel Mu' ammar Al-Qaddafi took control of the country through a successful military coup in the late 60s. Later, the Kismat of Libyan people further saw dreadfulness when Al-Qaddafi subdued before the pro-west International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in early 2003 and handed over his defence arsenal to the global nuclear watchdog. Al-Qaddafi's move not only paved the path for his ouster from power but proved to be disastrous for Liya's political stability and territorial integrity in the following years. Currently, Libya is governed by two warring factions, one the UN-backed administration based in the capital Tripoli and the other Egyptian-supported group based in Benghazi. Awfully, one government ordered the public for evacuation and the other asked them to stay home. Earlier, thousands of Libyans were killed in the tussle of their rulers and now countless drowned as the result of their complicity. In fact, Libyans chose mutual enmity over alliance and took arms against each other instead of joining hands against their common enemy. So, nature was displeased with them and disunity ruined their nation so far.

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Fuel Hike...



American soft power relies on people from everywhere

Nadim Shehadi

US foreign policy seems to go from one disaster to another but meanwhile its soft power is more successful and ever-growing, and relies on an army of globalized elite that fit the description of “citizens of the world” — people who come from everywhere or, to put it another way, from nowhere in particular.

The concept of “people from nowhere” famously found itself at the center of the Brexit debate in the UK, when Theresa May, the prime minister at the time, said during a Conservative Party conference: “If you believe you are a citizen of the world, you are a citizen of nowhere; you don’t understand what citizenship means.”

This statement embodies the clash between cosmopolitanism and globalization on the one hand versus nationalism and populism on the other. It is also a factor in the recent rise of populist politicians such as Prime Ministers Viktor Orban in Hungary and Narendra Modi in India, and former Presidents Jair Bolsanaro and Donald Trump in Brazil and the US respectively.

If the US can be considered an empire at all, it is more of a corporate one, and the most common signs of a territory it has conquered are branches of McDonald’s or KFC rather than American tanks. On the military front, its imperial adventures after the Second World War essentially have been disastrous, including Vietnam and more recent examples such as Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

In the old days, actual empires recruited armies from the places in which they established colonial control, such as the Gurkhas in Nepal, who still form a brigade within the British Army. Similarly, the French had brigades of Senegalese troops, and British adventurer and writer Lady Hester Stanhope, the niece of Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger, traveled the Levant accompanied by her own Albanian troops.

The Ottomans also employed Albanian forces, including the troops commanded by Mohammed Ali Pasha who were sent to Egypt and forged a dynasty that ruled the country for about 150 years, outlasting the Ottomans.

The Ottomans also had the Janissaries, who were recruited as children, initially from the Balkans but later from across the empire, and formed a Turkish elite standing army that served as the sultan’s household troops. Some were originally prisoners of war or slaves but families also sometimes gave up their children willingly, to give them a chance of rising through the ranks in a meritocracy.

In this way, a historical Turkish empire turned people of differing origins into Turks — and the US does a similar thing today. It has the ability, effectively, to turn peoples of different nationalities into corporate Americans.

A “successful” empire absorbs other peoples and compels them to identify

with it. The British and the French used to be able to do that, too, and, of course, the Romans excelled at it, so much so that there was even a female-led Syrian Imperial dynasty in Rome.

The modern American corporate empire is composed of people that are, in their own, non-military, present-day ways, similar to the Janissaries. They come from all over the world and are recruited at a

250,000 people graduate with an MBA each year, about 60 percent of them in the US.

Corporate recruits have many similarities and sometimes it can be difficult to place their origins at first. You can often tell where people are from when you first meet them, as their names, appearance and accents will give some indication, but sometimes the signs can be confusing.

In this way, a historical Turkish empire turned people of differing origins into Turks — and the US does a similar thing today. It has the ability, effectively, to turn peoples of different nationalities into corporate Americans. A “successful” empire absorbs other peoples and compels them to identify with it. The British and the French used to be able to do that, too, and, of course, the Romans excelled at it, so much so that there was even a female-led Syrian Imperial dynasty in Rome. The modern American corporate empire is composed of people that are, in their own, non-military, present-day ways, similar to the Janissaries. They come from all over the world and are recruited at a young age by big US banks and corporations. The typical recruit has a master’s degree in business administration and then serves a few years in a consulting firm such as McKinsey, Bain or Deloitte, before embarking on a global career in corporate America with the likes of Citicorp or Johnson and Johnson. In this way, they become part of the US soft power apparatus. American universities now have campuses all over the world. In addition, institutions such as INSEAD, the European Institute of Business Administration in Fontainebleau, is like a Janissary training camp, but for corporate America rather than soldiers. About 250,000 people graduate with an MBA each year, about 60 percent of them in the US.

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In our region, for example, they might be from anywhere between Morocco and Bangladesh, and the situation is similar in Latin America or parts of Asia.

The thing that they have in common is that they have all gone through a process of homogenization and been “formatted” to look, sound and sometimes even think the same. They certainly have a language all of their own. I have been to parties in London and New York where I have met people just like that, who talk the same, dress the same — and seem to live on sushi.

There is also a phenomenon that has evolved more recently, also with its roots in the US, which is fueling the global digital economy

through US tech giants such as Facebook, Apple, Intel or Amazon. This sector also has a language all of its own, with keywords such as entrepreneurship, startup, innovation, ecosystem, incubator, angel investor and scaling up.

This new culture is populated by “hipsters” who are tuned in to the latest trends and fads. Once again, you can find them almost anywhere in the world. I once asked my daughter and her friends how they would define what qualifies as “hip.” Their answer was that as soon as someone like me becomes aware of it, it is no longer hip.

Hipsters meet in cafes or coworking spaces in places such as Lagos, Dubai or Singapore and, through a global filtering process, the creme de la creme end up in the US in Silicon Valley or other centers of innovation, such as Boston. They become a part of globalized US soft power, with a sub-culture and fashions of their own.

The majority of people working in Silicon Valley are foreign-born. According to one report, in 2014, 74 percent of people between the ages of 25 and 44 working there in jobs related to computing and mathematics were born in other countries, and so were many top executives. It is safe to say, therefore, that the leaders of American corporations are a cosmopolitan elite that “come from everywhere.”

The world is certainly going through a clear phase in which nationalism and populism, as well as identity politics, are on the rise. But the polarity implied by Theresa May’s statement about the Brexit debate represents a false dichotomy.

A person can, in fact, be both a citizen of the world who cares about global problems such as the environment and climate change, while at the same time embracing a firmly rooted sense of national identity. They can also be cosmopolitan while maintaining their cultural heritage. In fact, those who do both are much more valuable as mediators and interlocutors, as they have shown that they are capable of maintaining a connection with their roots while also engaging with the wider “Americanized” global culture.

Turkish writer Elif Shafak quotes 13th-century poet Jalal Al-Din Rumi in comparing identity to the geometrical tool known as a compass: It has one leg that is firmly positioned and fixed in one place, while the other can move in a perfect circle, maintaining the same distance throughout. In other words, one person can be many things at the same time and there is no such thing as a homogenous identity. There never was — Rumi himself had multiple identities. This might be the best definition of global American culture.

Given the fiascos of recent American military interventions and the successes of its global soft power, it seems everyone in the world wants to come to America but not many want America to come to them.

Arab govts must harness the soft power of the arts on global stage

Sara Al-Mulla

The realm of public diplomacy is fraught with the complex interplay of many factors that contribute to hard and soft power. In an increasingly connected world, cultural initiatives are becoming powerful vehicles for advancing a nation’s cultural, economic and diplomatic agendas on the global stage.

At the heart of the matter lies the fact that the arts communicate with people in subliminal ways, evoking appreciation and fostering a deeper understanding of a nation’s intrinsic characteristics.

Crucially, it is through a collective suite of creative feats that global audiences can come to comprehend how particular nations nurture talent, spark innovation, promote noble values, uphold a culture of tolerance, and achieve economic success — ultimately wielding that power as a force for good.

On top of that, creative and cultural works aspire to represent the finest qualities of humankind, acting as cultural bridges that can open up realms of interactions between peoples that transcend borders.

Most saliently, perhaps, cultural projects often attract tourists and foreign investors, which help to spark economic growth, tourism, the attraction of talent, and job creation. This substantial pathway can also strengthen economic ties and trade relations between nations.

At the same time, international collaborations between cultural foundations, artists and governments are effective levers for facilitating cultural exchange, celebrating diversity and leveraging networks of cultural ambassadors worldwide. For example, many nations have appointed prominent cultural figures to engage in projects that tackle pressing global challenges such as climate change, public health, social progress and poverty alleviation.

The Global Soft Power Index 2023, published in March, builds on this fundamental notion and reveals the resounding role of cultural projects in elevating a nation’s soft-power standing on the global stage. The index ranks countries based on pivotal pillars that shape familiarity, influence and reputation, in addition to perceptions of economies, governance, international relations, culture and heritage, media, education and science, people and value, and sustainable future.

This year, for the first time, the UAE achieved the amazing feat of reaching the top 10 on the list, moving up five spots to rank 10th globally among nations in terms of soft power. This owed a great deal to a number of strategic projects, including the hosting of Expo 2020 in Dubai. In fact, one of the key objectives of the UAE’s official Soft Power Strategy is to establish the country “as a regional capital for culture, art and tourism.”

Saudi Arabia also moved up five spots on the list to reach 19th place, thanks to an impressive suite of cultural projects that are bewitching global cultural enthusiasts. It also holds 11th place globally in the category of “rich heritage,” owing to the significant cultural investments it has made in recent years, such as the development of AIUla, the launch of the Red Sea Film Festival, the Diriyah Gate project, and Riyadh Season.

A number of real-life case studies illustrate the ways in which nations are investing heavily in the arts to position themselves more prominently on global economic, cultural and diplomatic stages. They are doing this by exporting their local cultural industries to fashion favorable images worldwide and ignite strong connections with global communities, while reaping the benefits of economic growth and foreign direct investments.

Examples include the Japanese creative economy and its pop culture dominance, the Korean “Hallyu” creative-content industry and its astronomical growth in recent years, and the Nordic Culture Fund and its contribution to creative development through cross-border initiatives.

One specific standout example is the “Love Myself” campaign. It involved South Korean music sensations BTS and UNICEF, the UN’s Children’s Fund, who joined forces to promote a compelling message centered on self-love and self-care. The campaign has garnered an astounding 50 million interactions from users on social media platform X and raised \$3.6 million for UNICEF’s work to end violence, while helping to spread a positive and empowering message worldwide.

In another notable example of driving the global public good, the members of BTS took the stage at the UN General Assembly in September 2021 and discussed pressing themes such as the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty alleviation, the concerns of young people, and the urgent matter of climate change. Their speech attracted more than one million viewers worldwide to the live broadcast.

Many diplomatic efforts are now attempting to leverage the popularity of local cultural figures to wield soft-power advancements.

A multifaceted approach is the preferable option when designing soft-power strategies that hinge on cultural projects. Assembling a rich cultural calendar that includes festivals, museum exhibitions based on global exchanges, art shows, musical performances, artist residences, performing arts events, global cultural awards, heritage visits, and gastronomic experiences is an excellent way to evoke favorable emotions between diverse populations.

To cater to those unable to travel very far, astute investment in digitizing cultural content offers an excellent alternative for reaching global audiences.

One highly effective strategy for nations seeking to enhance their soft power is to establish a visa system that encourages foreigners to visit and spend time in their countries. Many governments offer special cultural visas designed to attract global artistic talents and cultural professionals, including the UAE, South Korea, Japan, France and Australia. In addition, there are many cultural scholarship programs that target foreign students and encourage them to specialize in understanding other nations’ cultures, leading to unique discoveries.

Nations could also consider establishing world-class cultural institutes in other countries to promote their local creative sectors among foreign communities. Successful examples of this include the British Council, the Institut Francais, and Japan House.

Employing diplomatic cultural attaches and forging partnerships with prominent cultural figures or artists are other important steps that can help promote a nation’s various agendas abroad and the signing of lucrative cultural trade agreements.

On this note, it is critical that diplomats and professionals in the cultural field are trained in the art of cultural diplomacy so that they can promote their nation’s culture, values and interests abroad as effectively as possible. Ultimately, governments should also be able to track the effects of cultural diplomacy on their soft power through clearly defined metrics.

There is no doubt that effective cultural initiatives can contribute immensely to fostering goodwill, trust and cooperation between nations, which ultimately benefits the global community as a whole.

Northern Ireland puts itself on the global map

Andrew Hammond

There has been significant fresh international focus on Northern Ireland in the years following the 2016 Brexit referendum. While much of this has dwelt on the uncertainty surrounding the UK's departure from the EU, the narrative might now be shifting in a more positive direction, as Northern Ireland seeks to position itself more prominently on the global map.

In April, US President Joe Biden paid a landmark visit to the country which, in turn, led to a major investment summit in Belfast in recent days. Among the key delegates was Washington's envoy to Northern Ireland, Joe Kennedy III, the grand-nephew of former US President John F. Kennedy and grandson of Bobby Kennedy. He also plans to lead a US trade delegation to the country next month.

The US, one of the largest sources of foreign investment in Northern Ireland, has channeled £1.5 billion (\$1.9 billion) into the country's economy over the last decade, creating 13,000 jobs. About 1,000 US-owned businesses operate in the country, and in 2022, companies in Northern Ireland exported goods worth more than £1 billion to the US.

One of the most striking speeches during the summit was given on Wednesday by UK government minister Michael Gove, who asserted that Northern Ireland can be to the UK and Europe what Hong Kong is to East Asia. It is an interesting vision that stems, in large part, from the unique position of the country, post-Brexit.

Gove said: "Northern Ireland is on the cusp of one of the most exciting periods in its history. Nowhere else in Europe has unfettered access to the UK's own internal market and the EU's single market as well. Nowhere else has that potential for growth."

To be sure, there are many differences between Northern Ireland and the "Asian tiger," Hong Kong, not least given the more than 6,000 miles that separate them. What Gove was alluding to, specifically, is the fact that before Brexit, all of the UK nations — England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — enjoyed unfettered access to the European single market.

Now, because of special rules governing its border with EU member the

Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK to retain that access post-Brexit, while also maintaining its place within the UK marketplace as well.

This unique trading position is enshrined under the EU-UK Windsor Framework, which offers Northern Ireland a potential competitive advantage in comparison with other European nations. This economic position might prove attractive to a significant number of international businesses, and not only to those in Europe. About 200 investors from around the world, including the US, the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region, attended the investment summit. Whether or not Northern Ireland is able to develop into something that is even close to a European version of Hong Kong remains to be seen but it is a vision that might be attractive to some. Hong Kong, of course, was originally a sparsely populated area of mostly farming and fishing villages, yet it rose to become one of the most significant financial centers and commercial ports in the world, now with a population of more than 7 million.

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This economic transformation was fueled by its status as an entrepot in East Asia, similar to Singapore in Southeast Asia. Hong Kong is too small to have an abundance of natural resources, so positioning itself as a trading center became a valuable economic strategy.

Now, Northern Ireland is one of the most cost-competitive places in Europe to do business. In 2020, it attracted almost £20 billion in inward investment, with

1990s, leading to greater prosperity for the population of almost 2 million. This has been driven, in part, by a "peace dividend" since the signing of the Good Friday agreement in 1998, which effectively ended the sectarian violence in the country, resulting in a significant increase in tourism, investment and business activity.

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a growing number of companies from around the world recognizing the growth potential, talent and expertise it offers.

One of the biggest keys to Northern Ireland's future economic success will be politics. Although UK legislators signed off on the Windsor Framework, it is proving less popular among members of the unionist community in Northern Ireland, who favor the continuation of strong political bonds with the rest of the UK. This has resulted in the collapse of Northern Ireland's power-sharing administration. It fell apart last year when one of the biggest political parties, the Democratic Unionist Party, withdrew as part of a protest against the Windsor Framework's post-Brexit trade rules for the country.

There are several key issues at the heart of the revised pact, including physical controls and checks on trade to Northern Ireland from England, Scotland and Wales. The majority of controls and checks will disappear on goods destined to remain in Northern Ireland.

But the DUP, who were pro-Brexit, asserts that it will continue to block any restoration of the government in Northern Ireland, in part because the Windsor deal still requires EU checks on certain goods being shipped from England, Scotland and Wales for sale within the UK. The DUP fears that, over time, this will erode Northern Ireland's ties with the UK.

If the country is to realize its significant economic potential, it must benefit from the clarity of a long-term, stable approach, as was so successfully the case after the Good Friday peace agreement a quarter of a century ago. With such an approach in place, the economic future could be very bright for Northern Ireland in the years to come.

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The tragic cost of failure of governance in Libya

Hafed Al-Ghwell

Once a tranquil, albeit densely populated city on Libya's eastern Mediterranean coast, Derna now echoes to the sound of gut-wrenching wails, some for help, others for those still missing and likely killed in streets that were turned into swirling rivers by Storm Daniel.

More than 8,000 lives have been snuffed out, with an additional 10,000 reportedly missing. Infrastructure lies in ruins, roads have been ripped apart and, between the mournful cries, a disheartening silence haunts the spaces where many had worked hard to cobble together whatever they could amid Libya's decade-long woes.

As the terrible toll of the storm rises and the full extent of the destruction is revealed, we must not forget the lives, dreams and aspirations that were ended not only by unrelenting skies but by the folly of man. Two dams that, designed as bulwarks against such catastrophes, succumbed to the onslaught of pouring rain, their inevitable failure amplifying the disaster.

But it was not only Storm Daniel that did the damage, it was also the sinister negligence of the authorities entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring such disasters could never happen. For example, their refusal to order evacuations, instead calling for curfews, and their failure to repair the dams despite multiple warnings and requests to do so. There are also reports of how funds set aside to bolster the dams were never spent on such work and instead disappeared into officials' pockets. Derna's plight is a horrifying tale of the underacknowledged interplay between climate change and human failures. However, we must resist the urge to solely pin the blame for the catastrophe on the ever-convenient scapegoat of global warming. Yes, our planet is changing but so, too, should approaches to governance, policymaking and crisis management.

Thus, any discussions or erudite inquiries into the catalog of unforced errors that led to the destruction of Derna should skip the lazy exercise of passing the buck and labeling it as merely a consequence of a changing climate. The floods did not wreak havoc solely because of wrathful skies; the tragedy they wrought is also the manifestation of an undercurrent of systemic dysfunction and malfeasance that essentially made Derna an inevitability.

In other words, it was as much a man-made disaster as it was a natural one, born from the discord that has rocked Libya since the collapse of the Muammar Qaddafi regime in 2011. Now Libyans must once again pay a steep price for collective failure exacerbated by the costs of attritional civil conflict, gross negligence, corruption and appalling incompetence, all fueled by a lack of urgency, and a decade-long failure of state amid the squabbles between the east and the west of the country.

It is high time we ended this lazy exercise of blaming climate change alone for such disasters. The world must wake up to the hard truth: Derna is not only a city ravaged by a storm, it stands as a glaring testament to the catastrophe

ic cost of official failure, negligence and incompetence, and a tragic reminder of what happens when critical safeguards are undermined in unconventional ways. Until we truly comprehend this, the storm is far from over.

So, what really went wrong? Our tale of negligence begins with the tumultuous political landscape in Libya, which has been split since 2014 between two rival factions. And so, after nearly a decade of civil unrest, the major storm arrived and dropped more than 400 millimeters of rain in just 24 hours on parts of Libya's northeastern coast. The deluge was unprecedented in an arid region that normally sees an average of just 1.5 millimeters in September.

The split in governance between the eastern administration and the internationally recognized government in Tripoli is more than just senseless political theater.

In essence, the flood catastrophe is not only an event that happened but a symptom of prolonged negligence, inadequate administrative foresight, military competition and corrosive political rifts, all nestled within a crumbling ecosystem. It underscores the lethal interaction between mutable weather patterns and the inflexible, myopic governance that collectively conspired to unleash this catastrophe on Derna.

ater. It has yet again manifested, in a catastrophic way, the consequences of state failures and corruption, which have hampered levels of preparedness, disaster response, and relief efforts.

Derna's own violent past is tightly entwined with its current circumstances. It was once the ground zero for Daesh's Libyan splinter group and a persistent pocket of resistance against Khalifa Haftar, the commander of the so-called Libyan National Arab Army, who bombarded the city and razed it to the ground. After the city came under Haftar's control, about five years ago, the promise of rebuilding remained just that: a mere promise. Amid the rubble and buildings riddled with bullet holes, it is no wonder the system was already overwhelmed and underperforming, even before disaster struck.

To add to the frustration, days before the calamity, warnings of imminent disaster were issued by emergency-response authorities. Despite knowing the scope and severity of the threat, the due diligence that might be expected from a responsible administration was grossly overlooked, even prior to the arrival of Storm Daniel, given the poor maintenance of the dams and a lack of timely inspections and repairs.

Voices from the devastated region suggest there was negligence even in preparing for potential damage, with a lack of studies of weather conditions or evacuation plans. It is akin to an oncologist spotting a malignant cancerous growth and choosing to leave it untreated, despite sufficient funding, adequate resources and ample warnings. In the case

of Derna, one of the warnings was an academic paper published last year by a hydrologist, which called for immediate maintenance work on the dams.

It is very likely that even more harrowing details will emerge, cataloging the series of failures that led to a quarter of Derna being wiped out. Even more upsetting, however, is the fact that efforts to lend aid, organize relief efforts and begin the painstaking work of helping Derna to recover are likely to flounder as well. Because a conundrum has developed concerning international aid — to whom should it go?

With Haftar's rival military government in Benghazi not recognized by the UN, there is concern about how aid meant for Derna will be administered. The power tussle in the country is effectively preventing emergency aid supplies from reaching those who need them the most, and hampering recovery work.

Time running out to achieve UN's Sustainable Development Goals

Ranvir S. Nayar

Global leaders are next week expected to participate in a special summit called by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to take stock of the world's progress, or rather lack of it, toward meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

In many ways, the stock-taking meeting will not be so much about discussing the status of the progress, but more to do with finding ways to put the world back on track. Over the past three years, the world has seen years of progress erased on many of the goals, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

As per the UN SDG progress report released earlier this year, the world is on track to achieve only 15 percent of the roughly 140 goals, it is moderately or severely offtrack in close to half of them and is either stagnated or has regressed in 37 percent. With little more than six years left until the 2030 deadline, the report card is dire. It would be better to accept that the world is on course to miss the deadline for at least 50 percent of the goals, even if it puts unprecedented effort, money and sincerity into meeting them.

Certainly, part of this is

due to the pandemic, whose severe impact was felt in about half a dozen goals, notably poverty eradication, nutrition, education, good health and well-being, as well as reducing inequality. Many of those goals, like life on land, life in the water and sustainable cities, have been trashed due to humanity's total disregard and the numerous broken promises and commitments. This is not just by a few actors, but almost every single large emitter of greenhouse gases — or every country in the developed world.

As has become the norm, the price for these missed commitments, just like the pandemic, is being paid by the developing nations, especially those at the bottom of the pile, namely those in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, along with the Small Island Developing States.

The first SDG goal is the eradication of poverty by 2030. Here, certainly, progress was made during the first five years after the target was set in 2015. However, the pandemic caused a massive setback in the battle to end poverty and, for the first time in more than two decades, the number of people living in extreme poverty actually

rose, by almost 100 million to about 676 million at the end of 2022. This is about 8.5 percent of the global population.

As a percentage, it may not look colossal, but ending poverty entirely is the target and even most of the developed world has failed to achieve this, as it is home to more than 7 million people in extreme poverty. According to the World Bank, UN SDG 1 looks set to be missed by a wide margin, as it projects the number of extremely poor people to be about 575 million by 2030. It says that the eradication of poverty will be toughest in areas where it is most prevalent, including Sub-Saharan Africa, conflict-affected areas and rural areas.

The situation is even more alarming when it comes to the second goal: zero hunger by 2030. The UN says that the number of people facing hunger and food insecurity has been rising since 2015 and, last year, about 735 million people — or 9.2 percent of the global population — was facing chronic hunger, some 122 million more than in 2019.

In addition, as many as 29.6 percent of the global

population, or 2.4 billion people, lacked access to adequate food. This was up by 391 million compared to 2019. With food inflation still running close to record levels and global agriculture impacted by climate change and conflict in equal parts, access to food is likely to stay constricted for many years to come.

The progress is mixed on the third goal, which relates to global health. While the world has progressed in terms of reducing the mortality of children under-5, as well as in fighting HIV, it has failed to improve maternal mortality and about 800 women still die in childbirth every day. And as many as 381 million people were either pushed into or deeper into extreme poverty in 2019 due to out-of-pocket payments for health.

The picture is equally dismal in terms of inequality, which, instead of being erased, has become more acute than ever. And the news on climate-related goals is perhaps as cataclysmic as it is regarding poverty and hunger.

Thus, when world leaders meet at the UN, the best course — or perhaps the only course — would be to accept the truth that they have failed miserably in advancing toward most of

Ehtesham Shahid

Thriving Solutions, the MENA region's average per capita food loss and waste is 210 kg annually. It is not just about the proportion of edible food not consumed but also the waste of resources in production and distribution, contributing to negative externalities. Logistical factors such as transportation and storage, the demand-supply cycle and price fluctuations are also at play.

Typically, food exits the supply chain for numerous reasons, primarily due to its quality, appearance, value, surplus and preference. While food loss happens during harvest, slaughter and in retail outlets, food waste can be primarily attributed to consumption points. That is where human behavior comes into the picture — at dining establishments and

with their dietary needs and food preferences. That makes food waste a global problem affecting the three pillars of sustainable development — environmental, economic and social. However, awareness is the key, as the message of food waste's implications needs to be amplified to alter human attitudes toward the issue.

Social behavior lies at the core of this challenge, as numerous studies have identified consumers as significant contributors to food waste. It is also critical to understand that precious resources such as water, energy and labor get wasted when food is discarded. Studies have examined factors affecting food choices, social influence on food waste and food-buy-

ing practices. Some key recommendations include provisions for more community-driven food redistribution and food bank initiatives.

Understanding our food habits' cultural affiliations is also critical. For instance, if we emphasize the principles of gratitude, frugality and charity across faiths, we should, by definition, also encourage more sustainable consumption. It is also time to overcome standard practices such as preparing more food than necessary for feasts or celebrations, leading to leftovers that may not be consumed.

In most cultures worldwide, hospitality is paramount and serving abundant food, especially during celebrations, is a mark of generosity. It is time to alter that perception. Some

people frown upon consuming leftovers and see it as a sign of poverty, leading to unnecessary waste. High disposable income levels can also lead to a culture of excess and wastefulness, especially in food consumption.

We cannot afford to waste while ensuring global food security because it contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. The good news is that governments in the region are beginning to tie the food loss and waste challenge with climate action. It is also part of the Nationally Determined Contribution submissions made by 16 Arab League countries. However, each region has its own set of challenges.

Income levels correlate negatively with food loss, as high income indicates countries' ability to invest

in equipment to reduce food losses. On the other hand, the socioeconomic factors of low-income countries — their education systems, people's access to electricity and their lack of political stability — might correlate with losses.

The factors behind food waste are evolving with time. Empirical evidence can help authorities devise the best intervention strategy and prioritize accordingly. They can promote direct farmer-consumer links to reduce intermediaries and shorten the supply chain to minimize waste. However, that is just one side of the story. As is the case with climate change, where warnings do not drastically alter our behavior, we need to invoke social responsibility when it comes to food waste.

Balochistan gateway to Asia, says Governor

ISLAMABAD (INP): Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has said that Balochistan is gateway to Asia from where trade can be done with many countries and invited the business community to invest in the province.

He was speaking as Chief Guest of a business role model award ceremony organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to confer awards on the business leaders of the markets in recognition of their valuable services to the traders.

Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has increased the importance of Balochistan and invited the business community to do business and invest in province because there is great potential for them in Balochistan. He said that Balochistan is a poor province and the business community can play an important role in its development by doing business and investing in the province.

The Governor said that the resources of Balochistan are ready to be shared with everyone. He stressed that everyone should play a role to steer the country out of the current crisis. He lauded ICCI for organizing the business

role model award as it will encourage the business community. At the end of the event, he distributed awards to the business leaders of the markets.

President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is currently passing through a critical period in history and only the business community can get the country out of the current economic crisis, but the government's support in this regard is very important. He said that the business community plays a key role in the development of the economy by doing business and investment and their only demand is to give them their rights.

He assured that the business community will provide all possible support to achieve the objectives of the Special Investment Facilitation Council so that domestic and foreign investment in Pakistan can be better promoted. He invited all the political parties to ICCI TO present their economic manifesto. He appealed to the Prime Minister and the Army Chief to establish peace in Balochistan so that the province could move towards development and prosperity. He said that Gwadar can change the destiny of Pakistan but development work in it is slow and needs to be accelerated.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI, said that the current conditions are not favorable for business, due to which the business community is also suffering. He said that the interest rate of the SBP is 22% and the prices of petroleum products have reached the highest level in history due to which the business community as well as the people are facing great problems. He said that it is the era of economic wars and those countries are doing better with strong economies. He stressed that stakeholders should come together and prepare a comprehensive agenda to get Pakistan out of the current difficulties.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the enemy of Pakistan is conspiring against Pakistan in Balochistan and we all have to defeat it together. He said that Balochistan can change the destiny of not only Pakistan but the whole region because the development of Balochistan will develop the whole region. He said that the blue economy of Balochistan can start a new era of development in Pakistan. He said that development and prosperity are being achieved in the world by creating a regional trade block and opening the borders for trade, so

POL rates hike: PIAF asks govt to withdraw anti-business decision

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has asked the government to withdraw the anti-business decision of huge raise in oil products prices, warning the authorities that inflation above six percent could hurt the economic growth and only a prudent approach could keep it in under the control.

PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that Rs26 per litre increase in petrol prices would put an additional burden on the industries and general public at a time when they are already hard-pressed with

up to Rs7.5 per unit power tariff hike amid unprecedented inflation. He said the trade and industry would start a country-wide protest in case the government did not withdraw the hikes in petroleum and power rates.

The caretaker government on Friday night pushed through another hike in the prices of petrol by Rs26.02 per litre and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs17.34 per litre.

The increase brings the price of petrol to Rs331.38 per litre while HSD is Rs329.18 per litre, the Ministry of Finance said in a post on X (formerly Twitter) after midnight.

Most of the transport sector runs on HSD. Its price is considered highly inflationary as it is mostly used in heavy transport vehicles, trains and agricultural engines like trucks, buses, tractors, tube wells and threshers, and particularly adds to the prices of vegetables and other eatables.

Petrol, on the other hand, is mostly used in private transport, small vehicles, rickshaws and two-wheelers and has a direct bearing on the budget of middle- and lower-middle class.

The increase in prices of petroleum products came on the heels of over 27.4 per cent increase in the August rate of inflation that would also have a lag effect

Trying to solve the battle between ChatGPT and humans' creativity

Noor Zia

Nowadays, everyone complains that ChatGPT is detrimental to critical thinking skills and thus suppresses creativity. It is irony, while these concerns exist, everyone uses it, from individuals to professionals alike. Like other tools-Google and YouTube-that have revolutionized the world, ChatGPT does the same. The way Google and YouTube benefit us in our studies and other areas of life, ChatGPT does the same if used positively.

It is crucial to remember that every tool, whether digital or physical, has pros and cons. So, how is it possible that ChatGPT has only cons? Pointing one finger at ChatGPT, the rest turn towards you. You believe it hinders your problem-solving, decision-making, life-long learning skills, etc., but you never

think about how you use it. Blaming ChatGPT for the potential decline of critical thinking skills overlooks the fact that it doesn't possess the cognitive ability (thinking) that Allah has blessed you with. You have the incredible power of thinking. You can think beyond thinking, while ChatGPT only provides you what has instilled in it. ChatGPT has been created by humans, not by individuals from other planets. So, the question arises: Why don't you use it for useful purposes? Why do you only copy-paste the material? If Allah has given you the ability to think and be reasonable, then think and be reasonable.

Google and YouTube do not provide the exact information you require. You need to search, read, compare, and contrast things. On the contrary, ChatGPT provides you with whatever you want; you can also converse with it. So, what is

Court Notice

In the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No. 188/1, Institution. 14/6/2023. Date of hearing. 20/9/2023. Mst. Gul Naseba VS Bakht Umren etc. Notice to No. 4. Bakht Zaren. 5. Gul Zaren sons of Wali Mohamad resident of Malakpur tehsel Gadezai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8. am dated 20/9/2023 theproceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Tazeen Wisal Civil Judge V I I / J u d i c i a l Magistrate/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.183/1, Institution.2021. Date of hearing. 22/9/2023. Sher Ali Khan VS Ashrali Khan. Notice to No.8.Abdul Ali Khan son of Sher Bahadur resident of Bajkatta tehsel Gagra district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8. am dated 22/9/2023 theproceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Umar Gul

As the world grapples with the ever-increasing impacts of global warming, Pakistan stands at a pivotal crossroads in its battle against climate change. The effects of global warming on the climate of Pakistan have become more pronounced in recent years, posing severe threats to the country's environment, economy, and the well-being of its people. In this column, we will delve into the multifaceted dimensions of this issue, exploring the undeniable reality of global warming and its specific repercussions on Pakistan's climate.

Rising Temperatures

One of the most conspicuous consequences of global warming in Pakistan is the rise in temperatures.

Over the past century, Pakistan has experienced a steady increase in average temperatures. This phenomenon is attributed to the greenhouse gases emitted by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes. The rise in temperatures has led to more frequent and prolonged heatwaves across the country, with cities like Karachi and Lahore often experiencing scorching temperatures that exceed 47°C.

The Impact on Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy, employing a significant portion of its population. However, global warming has disrupted agricultural patterns and productivity. Changing rainfall patterns, increased evaporation, and prolonged droughts have

negatively impacted crop yields. The inconsistent monsoon rains have further exacerbated water scarcity issues, affecting both crop cultivation and livestock. This threatens food security and puts additional pressure on the already strained economy.

Water Scarcity and Glacial Melt

Pakistan heavily relies on its river systems, particularly the Indus River, for irrigation and drinking water. Global warming has led to the accelerated melting of glaciers in the Himalayas and Karakoram ranges, which feed these rivers. The faster melting of glaciers coupled with irregular snowfall patterns poses a severe threat to water availability. This jeopardizes the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on these rivers for their

water needs.

Extreme Weather Events

Pakistan is no stranger to extreme weather events, but the frequency and intensity of these events have increased due to global warming. Floods, cyclones, and heavy rainfall have become more common, causing widespread damage to infrastructure, displacing communities, and leading to loss of life. These events not only devastate the affected regions but also strain the country's resources for disaster management.

Rising Sea Levels

Pakistan's extensive coastline along the Arabian Sea is vulnerable to rising sea levels caused by the melting polar ice caps. Coastal communities, including major cities like

Karachi, face the risk of inundation. The consequences of sea-level rise include saltwater intrusion, which can contaminate freshwater sources, and the loss of valuable coastal land.

Adaptation and Mitigation

While the effects of global warming on Pakistan's climate are undeniable, the country is not standing idly by. It has initiated efforts to adapt to these changes and mitigate their impact. These measures include the construction of water reservoirs, afforestation projects, and investments in renewable energy sources like solar and wind power. International collaborations, such as the Green Climate Fund, have also provided support for climate resilience projects in Pakistan.

By summing up,

Pakistan finds itself in the eye of the storm as global warming exacts an increasingly heavy toll on its climate, environment, and economy. The effects of rising temperatures, disrupted agriculture, water scarcity, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels are challenges that demand immediate and concerted action. The government, civil society, and international partners must work together to implement sustainable solutions and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Pakistan's future depends on its ability to adapt and mitigate the effects of global warming, as the climate crisis is not just a national issue but a global one that affects us all. It is a stark reminder that climate change knows no borders and that the time to act is now.



ISLAMABAD: People purchasing tomatoes from a stall at Sunday Bazaar Aabparra.

Unemployment crisis in Karachi city

Alisha Fawad

I am witnessing firsthand the growing number of individuals struggling to secure stable employment, which not only affects their livelihoods but also the overall well-being of our community.

The current unemployment crisis in Karachi is multifaceted, with several contributing factors.

One of the key challenges is the mismatch between the skills possessed by the workforce and the demands of the job market. This disparity has left many qualified individuals underemployed or, worse, without any source of income.

Furthermore, the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the unemployment situation. Many businesses, especially small enterprises, have faced immense challenges and, in some cases, have been forced to shut down, resulting in job losses for countless citizens.

The government's efforts to address this issue are commendable, but more comprehensive strategies are needed.

Initiatives such as skill development programs, vocational training, and incentives for small businesses should be prioritized to bridge the gap between job seekers and employment opportunities.

Additionally, collaboration between the public and private sectors, along with non-governmental organizations, is crucial to create a conducive environment for job creation.

By fostering entrepreneurship, supporting start-ups, and investing in emerging industries, we can provide a sustainable solution to the unemployment crisis.

It is essential that we raise awareness about this issue and encourage a collective effort to find solutions.

I urge policymakers, community leaders, and citizens alike to come together and address the pressing issue of unemployment in Karachi. Only through collaborative action can we hope to restore economic stability and prosperity to our beloved city.

Fuel prices shock trade, industry

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Shocked by the unprecedented fourth consecutive jump in petroleum product prices the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has said the move would worsen the economic crisis, multiplying cost of production and intensifying miseries for the trade and industry, as the government has raised petrol rate by 8.5 percent for the fortnight of this month.

FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that it has become almost impossible to run the industries at such a high cost. This was the fourth consecutive hike in petroleum prices while, in the tenure of the caretaker government alone, the petrol prices have been raised by almost Rs60 per litre, which was going to create a lot of problems for the already ailing economy as the production has been curtailed by many industrial units to a great extent due to high cost.

He said that the trade and industry was already overburdened due to recent increase in electricity tariffs which is aggravated by the extraordinary upsurge in petroleum prices, triggering severe anxiety not only amongst the masses but also the business and industrial community.

He criticized the caretaker government that it should have kept the prices of petroleum unchanged due to the falling landing cost of imported crude on account of the persistent rise in the rupee strength against the dollar in the last eight interbank sessions despite rising crude oil prices in the world market.

The FPCCI former President explained that the rupee closed at 296.85 for a dollar in interbank on Friday, reflecting more than Rs10 to a dollar gain. He recalled that the businessmen had forewarned the authorities several times over the last few months to address the teething problem in the import of the Russian crude, i.e. handling of oil cargoes; adjustments required vis-à-vis refining processes and commercial transactional procedures to settle oil payments.

Nevertheless, the authorities failed to listen to them and currently the country would have more Russian crude by now, which is cheaper by a whopping 40pc as compared to international markets today.

It is fact that the given economic crisis being faced by the country, the government has to take harsh steps to generate the required revenue for over-coming expenditures and fulfilling international commitments. However, instead of taking these steps back-to-back, the government should devise some kind of an effective strategy to ensure some sigh of relief to the masses and the industry who will not be able to bear the brunt caused by consecutive price hikes.

Anjum Nisar stressed that the emerging situation has to be efficiently addressed and handled very carefully otherwise, the rising petroleum prices and electricity tariffs would continue to increase the cost of doing business, which would terribly affect the industrial performance, raise unemployment and open the floodgates of inflation, particularly for the middle and lower segments of the society, besides making the poor poorer due to unbearable inflation.

The unexpected massive increase in petrol and diesel prices was widely felt as inflationary at the retail level and the State Bank of Pakistan may have to review its decision of leaving the key interest rate unchanged. He believed that the inflation would be in the range of 30-31 per cent in the ongoing month which is against the SBP's expectation to bring it down to 20-22pc.

After keeping its policy rate unchanged at 22 percent by the central bank, the government increased the petroleum prices by over Rs26 per litre making it clear that inflation would be higher in September. In my view, the SBP has already removed inflation projections from the current monetary policy statement, it seems that it is known that the previous inflation projection of 20-22 percent will not be met as global commodity prices are being passed on in the local market, he said. He said if the

exchange rate could not be kept under control like being done these days, the inflation could hit as high as 40 percent. Given the better expectation of agriculture output alongside lower than expected current account deficit for August, the SBP kept the interest rate unchanged at 22 percent. The SBP also mentioned that the dollar supply in the open market has increased due to the government's crackdown against currency hoarders, he said.

Anjum Nisar said that it is feared that the rest of 50 percent industries will also shut down due to the exorbitant energy tariffs, he said, urging the government to bring down petroleum and electricity prices to lower production costs. He said the surging fuel prices will lead to an increase in unemployment and hurt the underprivileged segments of society. High diesel prices will result in higher transportation costs for goods and adversely impact those industries that are too dependent on cargo shipping and freight services, he said.

The bad condition of roads

Gullalay Muhammad Bashir

Bad condition of the roads causes a lot of inconvenience to the people, resulting in traffic jams during the peak hours and frequent accidents. Many roads are under construction due to which other roads are getting crowded. The number of vehicles are increasing by leaps and bounds. The roads being non-metallic, they look like pools of water after a shower. Hardly any repair works are taken up in the roads. In fact, they have become dangerous. Two wheelers sometimes get the pavement, on this makes it difficult for the pedestrians. During and after the monsoon condition of roads become even worse.

I hope that, Keeping the above in view the Government will initiate the necessary steps to address the problem.

Unraveling climate crisis: Pakistan's battle with global warming



In brief

Netball Cup from Oct 9

ISLAMABAD (APP): PNF Netball Cup, under the auspices of the Pakistan Netball Federation, would kick off on October 9 at the PSB Coaching Centre, Karachi. According to the President of the Pakistan Netball Federation, Mudassir Arain, one male and four female category competitions would be held in the tournament. These competitions include boys under 17 and girls under 13, under 15, under 17, and open category competitions. The tournament would continue until October 12, and prizes would be distributed among the winning players at the closing ceremony. The registration process for the teams participating in the tournament will begin on October 1.

Boxers to head for China

ISLAMABAD (APP): The national boxing team would depart for China on September 19 to feature in the Asian Games to be held in China this month. According to Secretary General of Pakistan Boxing Federation Col (R) Nasir Ijaz Tung the squad includes four players and two officials. The players include three male and one female boxers. The male boxers include Zohaib Rasheed, Muhammad Qasim and Ibrahim while the female boxer was Fatima Zahra. The team would be coached by Olympian Muhammad Arshad Khan and the team manager will be Mahmood Riaz Leghari. Boxers from 45 countries would participate in the boxing event at the Asian Games, he said.

O'Sullivan beats Brecel

SHANGHAI (Agencies): Ronnie O'Sullivan won the Shanghai Masters for the fourth successive time with an 11-9 win over Luca Brecel. The 47-year-old Englishman trailed 4-3 at one stage before clinching three consecutive frames against the Belgian world champion. Breaks of 143 and 120 took O'Sullivan to the brink of victory and he held on despite a late rally from his opponent. It was the seven-time world champion's 18th successive match victory in the Chinese city. This was the first World Snooker Tour event held in mainland China since 2019, before the coronavirus pandemic, picked up where he left off, clinching the title for a fifth time overall after victories in 2009, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Camp begins in Dir Lower

DIR LOWER (APP): The Under-18 Basketball Coaching Camp under the aegis of District Sports Officer and District Administration Dir Lower got under way here at Government Higher Secondary School Hajiabad Tehsil Blombat on Sunday. The players will be coached and trained in the coaching camp by District Sports Officer Abrar Ahmed, President of District Basketball Association, Khalid Shah, Shah Naseem Khan and representatives of various associations, in addition to the founder, Fakhr-uddin Basketball, and players related to basketball participated in large numbers. While appreciating this initiative of the district sports department, he said that such coaching camps should be organized in the future as well, which will improve their talent. District Sports Officer Abrar Ahmed while addressing the players said that the sports department will organize such coaching camps for the future as well.

Harry Brook replaces Jason Roy in England World Cup squad



LONDON (Agencies): England have named batter Harry Brook at the expense of Jason Roy in the squad for their 50-over World Cup title defence.

Brook, who was left out of England's provisional World Cup squad, made the cut on Sunday despite a string of failures in the recent series against New Zealand.

But he was impressive in the Indian Premier League and the Hundred so skipper Jos Buttler has kept faith with the 24-year-old, saying last month the door was not closed for Brook.

Dawid Malan, who plundered 277 runs in three ODIs against New Zealand to be named player of the series, also made the squad and is a firm favourite to open the batting for England.

With Roy sidelined due to a back injury, Malan opened the batting against New Zealand and the 36-

year-old became the joint-fastest Englishman to get to 1,000 ODI runs, reaching the mark in 21 innings to match Kevin Pietersen and Jonathan Trott.

"We have selected a squad we are confident can go to India and win the World Cup," England men's national selector Luke Wright said in a statement.

"We are blessed with an incredibly strong group of white-ball players which was underlined by the performances in the series win against a very good New Zealand team.

"The strength of the group has meant that we have had to make some tough decisions on world-class players, with Jason Roy missing out and Harry Brook coming into the squad."

Roy, who was an integral part of the England side which won the 2019 World Cup, gave up his incremen-

tal contract with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in May to play more franchise cricket. England all-rounder and test captain Ben Stokes also returns having reversed his decision to retire from ODIs.

Stokes, who starred in England's victorious 2019 campaign on home soil, warmed up for the World Cup by smashing 235 runs in three innings against New Zealand. It included a knock of 182 off 124 deliveries — England's highest individual ODI score ever — in the third match earlier this week.

Bowlers Adil Rashid and Mark Wood were injury doubts but both were named in the squad.

England begin their World Cup defence with the first match of the tournament when they take on New Zealand in Ahmedabad on October 5 in a rematch of the 2019 final. The 10-team tournament runs until November 19.

England squad: Jos Buttler (captain), Moeen Ali, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes.

Jansen makes double contribution

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies): All-rounder Marco Jansen shone with bat and ball as South Africa won the fifth and final One Day International against Australia by 122 runs at the Wanderers on Sunday to complete a come-from-behind series victory.

Jansen scored 47 runs off 23 balls as South Africa overcame a slow start to set a formidable target of 315-9 after being sent in to bat first. He then took a career-best ODI haul of 5-39 off eight overs, as the visitors were dismissed for 193 in 34.1 overs.

The win ensured a 3-2 series victory for South Africa, who lost the opening two matches but bounced back with three successive wins to boost morale before next month's World Cup in India.

The new ball seamed around early in the thin Highveld air and saw South Africa struggle with opener Quinton de Kock, who has announced his retirement from ODIs after the World Cup, out cheaply in his last home innings. Heinrich Klaassen, who scored 174 on Friday, was then bowled out for six by Adam Zampa, who he had hit to all corners two days earlier.



But South Africa set about the bowling as Aiden Markram and David Miller put on 109 runs in 107 balls for the fifth wicket before the partnership was broken by the first delivery in ODI cricket by part timer Tim David. Markram top edged him to Michael Neser, who had dropped him earlier on 81, at deep square leg to depart seven runs short of his century.

David Miller and Jansen then continued the assault with Miller scoring 63 runs. There was also a late cameo from Andile Phehlukwayo, who hits three sixes in the last over to see South Africa did not hold back as they began their response, keep-

ing up the positive approach that has been a hallmark throughout the series, but Jansen took two wickets in the fourth over, dismissing David Warner and Josh Inglis to apply the brakes.

Captain Mitchell Marsh and Marnus Labuschagne put on 90 for the third wicket as Australia stayed well ahead of the required run rate but a potential match winning partnership ended when Marsh was caught on the third man boundary off Jansen for 71.

The giant bowler then dismissed Labuschagne (44) and Alex Carey (2) with spinner Keshav Maharaj ending any resistance with three wickets of his own at the end.

Carlos Sainz wins Singapore GP



SINGAPORE (Agencies): Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won a tense Singapore Grand Prix to end Max Verstappen's record-breaking run and Red Bull's hopes of an unbeaten season.

Sainz drove a tactical masterclass in the final laps, keeping Lando Norris' McLaren close enough that he had use of the Drag Reduction System (DRS) overtaking aid to keep charging Mercedes drivers George Russell and Lewis Hamilton at bay.

In a dramatic finish, on the final lap Russell crashed out while chasing Norris to hand the final podium spot to Hamilton.

Sainz's win was his second in F1 and Ferrari's first since his teammate Charles Leclerc won the Austrian Grand Prix on July 10 last year. In the time since, Red Bull had lost only one race, when George Russell won the

Brazilian Grand Prix in November.

Sainz's victory ended Verstappen's record run of 10 wins in a row as the huge pace advantage Red Bull had all year disappeared under the lights of Marina Bay. Verstappen had to settle for fifth position, his first race off the podium this year. What had been a quiet contest exploded into life in the final 10 laps.

Russell and Hamilton had been brought into contention when Mercedes used a Virtual Safety Car on Lap 45 of 62 to bring both drivers in for fresh tyres when the others did not. The pace advantage saw them quickly catch the lead three cars, but after both got by Leclerc with relative ease, Russell was unable to get past Norris, who was always within one second of Sainz.

When told how close Norris was behind at one stage, Sainz told Ferrari: "Yeah, it's on purpose." F1's rules allowed him use of the DRS overtaking aid, and the speed boost it gave Norris on the straights was enough to keep the McLaren driver ahead, which he did with some good defending driving four laps from the end.

Having failed to get by Norris on a couple of

occasions, Russell then clipped the inside wall and went straight on into the barrier on the final lap. That promoted Hamilton to third and Leclerc to fourth in the other Ferrari. Verstappen finished fifth, extending his huge championship lead over Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez, who finished eighth.

Verstappen is now 151 points clear; a win Sunday would have given him the chance to wrap up the title in Japan next week. Instead, the earliest he can do it is Oct. 8 at the Qatar Grand Prix. Red Bull has utterly dominated the season and will hope the race at Suzuka is business as usual. Alpine's Pierre Gasly was sixth, ahead of McLaren's Oscar Piastri.

Liam Lawson continued his impressive start to life in F1, scoring the first points in his career in ninth.

Lawson is expected to drive again at the Japanese Grand Prix, with Daniel Ricciardo still not ready to return to racing after breaking a hand in a crash ahead of the Dutch Grand Prix. Kevin Magnussen managed to snatch a point for Haas to reward the team for a strong weekend that had seen both cars start inside the top 10.

Pakistan beat Indonesia 5-0 to qualify for World Group-I playoff



ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan outclassed Indonesia 5-0 in the Davis Cup World Group-II tie and qualified for the World Group-I playoff on Sunday. The playoff will be held in the first quarter of 2024, while the draws for that

will be held on 20th of September. In the doubles match played at Aisam-ul-Haq Tennis Pavilion, Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad, tennis ace Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and the experienced Pakistan's No.1 Aqeel Khan beat

Indonesian brothers David and Anthony Susanto in an exciting, 3-set match, which kept the crowd on the edge of their seats till the last point.

The Indonesians won the first set 6-3, with the Pakistanis fighting back to

take a closely fought second set 7-5. The Pakistani aces dominated the 3rd set to win 6-2, and emerged victorious in the tie.

In another match, Muhammad Shoaib beat Gunawan Trismuwantara 7-6(4), 6-4 in the reverse singles, to give Pakistan a clean sweep. Shoaib was down in both the sets, but fought back bravely to clinch the match.

President Pakistan Tennis Federation Salim Saifullah Khan congratulated the Pakistan team for their remarkable victory and qualifying for the world group again.

Earlier on Saturday, both Aisam and Aqeel had defeated their respective opponents in singles competitions. President Pakistan Tennis Federation Salim Saifullah Khan appreciated the top quality tennis.

He congratulated the Pakistan team for winning and making it to Group-I playoff.

Messi-less Miami crushed 5-2 in Atlanta

MIAMI (AFP/APP): Inter Miami rested Lionel Messi and suffered their first defeat since the Argentine joined the club, with a 5-2 hammering at Atlanta United damaging their playoff hopes on Saturday.

Messi had not made the trip to Atlanta, after a busy run of games since making his Miami debut in late July. Miami coach Gerardo 'Tata' Martino said after the loss that Messi had been suffering from "muscle fatigue" and that it would have been "very reckless to bring him to play this game".

The 36-year-old sat out Argentina's World Cup qualifier against Bolivia in La Paz on Tuesday but watched his teammates from the bench. With no Messi last week, Miami defeated Sporting Kansas City 3-2 but this time it was a very different story for Martino's team.

Miami went ahead in the 25th minute with a superbly taken goal from in-form Ecuadorian striker Leonardo Campana. But the response from Atlanta, sixth in the Eastern Conference, was emphatic with three goals in eight minutes.

A glancing header from French midfielder Tristan Muyumba, which struck the inside of the post, was ruled to have crossed the line by the assistant referee. Five minutes later, Atlanta had the lead when Brazilian winger Xande Silva dribbled to the byline and his pull-back was turned into his own net by Miami defender Kamal Miller.

Miami's defence, without former Spain international left-back Jordi Alba, were reeling and Brooks Lennon added the third in the 44th minute with a sweetly struck shot.

Miami got back in the game in the 54th minute through a Campana penalty but -- while they have made a habit of comebacks with Messi --

there was no such revival this time.

As they pushed forward in search of an equalizer, Atlanta caught them on the counter with Greek striker Giorgos Giakoumakis slotting home his 14th goal of the season, bringing him level as joint top scorer in the MLS.

Another well-worked break resulted in the fifth in the 89th minute with Saba Lobzhanidze setting up Tyler Wolff to blast home.

Miami remain next to bottom of the Eastern Conference, six points behind D.C United who occupy ninth place, the last playoff spot. Martino defended the decision to leave Messi and Alba -- who he said also had muscle fatigue -- at home ahead of a busy run of games with league matches on Wednesday and Sunday before the US Open Cup final on September 27. "We risked worse consequences if they came to play this game," said the coach.

Comebacks - Eastern Conference leaders Cincinnati, already assured of a post-season berth, battled back for a 2-2 draw at last year's MLS Cup runners-up the Philadelphia Union. A Jose Martinez goal and a penalty from Daniel Gazdag had put Philadelphia in command, but the impressive Aaron Boupendza pulled a goal back for Cincinnati in the fourth minute of the second half.

The visitors grabbed a point when Boupendza found Brandon Vazquez with a magnificent low ball and the USA striker found the net. In-form Orlando City produced an even more impressive comeback at home to Columbus, winning 4-3 after trailing 3-1. Ramiro Enrique levelled in the 86th minute with an opportunist strike and then won the game in the seventh minute of stoppage time, taking advantage of chaos in the Crew defence.



In the Western Conference, Denis Bouanga scored twice for champions Los Angeles FC as they beat cross-city rivals Los Angeles Galaxy 4-2. Bouanga headed LAFC in front in the 23rd minute but the Galaxy struck back immediately with English forward Billy Sharp firing home his third goal in five appearances since joining the club from Sheffield United. But a Ryan Hollingshead strike restored LAFC's lead only for Japanese veteran Maya Yoshida to bring the Galaxy back on level terms again.

Bouanga's second and an 84th minute goal from Timothy Tillman clinched the derby win and allowed LAFC to narrow the deficit on leaders St. Louis City to six points. The New England Revolution had a tumultuous week with the resignation, after an MLS investigation, of their head coach Bruce Arena and then a reshuffle of the interim coaching staff.

A win at Colorado would have secured a playoff spot but the Revolution fell to a 2-1 defeat to a team which had won just one of their last 18 games and have the worst record in the league. The 'Hudson River derby' between New York City and New York Red Bulls ended goalless.

Int'l Digital Sports Journalism Training held in Azerbaijan ends

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The international digital sports journalism training in the historical city of Baku was completed with an impressive closing ceremony held at the International Olympic Committee Building.

The special guest of the ceremony held in the building of the Azerbaijan Olympic Committee was Changiz Hasanzada, Vice President of the Azerbaijan Olympic Committee. Certificates were given to journalists, Secretary General Ezer Ali, President of Azerbaijan Sports Journalists Association Aldar Ismayilov, General Secretary Roshan Benatali, Vice Presidents Nargis Mohammadzai and Natig Nasiro, Secretary General Pakistan Sports Writers Federation Asghar Azeem Khan, Shahid Khan Afridi Secretary Sports Writers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Head of the 11-member Pakistani sports writers' delegation and other important officials were present.

During the ceremony the President of International Sports Journalists Organization, Johnny Merlo, President of AIPS Asia Hei Don Jin and Secretary General Amjad Aziz Malik, specially presented videos regarding the training course and Azerbaijan Sports



Journalist Association and Azerbaijan Olympic Committee for extending all out support to the Pakistani journalists during their week-long visit to Azerbaijan for the Digital Media Course jointly organized by Pakistan Sports Writers Federation and Azerbaijan Sports Journalists Association.

Speaking at the event, Vice President Azerbaijan Olympic Committee Changiz Hassan said that the friendship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is wonderful, but unfortunately, there is no enthusiasm for sports. Hopefully, in the future, sports competitions between the two countries will also be organized. He said such steps would help both Pakistan and Azerbaijan athletes in future and both the countries would learn valuable things from each other's expertise.

He said such things

should be highlighted on all levels in order to draw a full map of players exchange program, attending each other's national events and exchanges of trained coaches, trainers besides extending all out support to each other's upcoming athletes.

He said, it is only possible that the sports media will highlight it, because the role of the sports media is very important for the promotion of sports. He said, "Hopefully your training visit will be useful to a great extent and Azerbaijan will be very useful for you all as far as your week-long stay and learning a lot of things will definitely be more productive."

On this occasion, the President of Azerbaijan Sports Journalists Association Aldrich Ismailo said that the delegation of sports journalists from Pakistan was visited during various historical places

including media institutions and sports academies.

It was said that different sessions were organized in training to increase the professional capacity of journalists. Addressing the ceremony, Secretary General of Pakistan Sports Federation Muhammad Asghar Azeem thanked Azerbaijan Sports Journalists Association and Olympic Committee.

He said that the training session in Azerbaijan was quite successful and the journalists were very impressed by the hospitality and love of the people here.

It should be noted that a training delegation regarding digital sports journalism organized by Pakistan Sports Writers Federation and Azerbaijan Sports Journalists Association has visited Azerbaijan, where they visited historical places, participated in various training sessions and meetings.



In brief

Jamal grieved over death

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah has expressed his grief and sorrow over the sad demise of the famous Balochi language poet Mubarak Qazi, which occurred late last Friday night. In a message of condolences on Sunday, the Minister prayed to Allah Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and to provide strength to the grieving family to bear this irreparable loss with patience and fortitude. The Minister further emphasized that Mubarak Qazi, through his poetry and literary contributions, will forever be commemorated and cherished.

Nine held for holding arms

RAWALPINDI (INP): Police have arrested nine illegal arms holders and liquor suppliers, recovering arms ammunition, and liquor from their possession during the crackdown here on Sunday. According to a police spokesman, Saddar Wah police seized 10 litres of liquor from Ehsan, and eight litres of liquor were recovered from Tahir. Similarly, Kaalr Syedan police held Arsanal, and Waqas and recovered eight bottles of liquor from their custody. While Saddar Barooni police recovered 05 litres of liquor from Numan. Following the operation, Taxila police recovered a 30-bore pistol each from Fahad, Farhad and Bilal. Mandra Police recovered one 30-bore pistol from Saifullah. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was in progress.

229,800 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 229,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 244,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1547.05 feet and was 149.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 146,000 cusecs and 120,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1235.40 feet, which was 185.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 18,300 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 134,400, 120,000, 91,800 and 42,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 27,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 22,200 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Sunday issued a power suspension programme for Monday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 08:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, Upper Topa, Patriata, TDCP, Mandala, NCP, Desto, Shahdara, Old Bri Imam, Shahpur, University, Mangyal Feeders, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Islamabad Circle, Chhata Bahara, Chhata Bakhtawar, Tramari, Lahtrar Road, Wahidabad, SES, Fazal Ghi, NDC-1, H-11/4, I-10/2, New Exchange, Kidney Centre.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers waiting for costumers at G-6 bazar in Federal Capital territory. —APP Photo

Over 90,000 Pakistanis embark on overseas job quest in August

ISLAMABAD (NNI): In 2023, a whopping 540,000 Pakistanis have decided to seek better job opportunities abroad. This trend has been on the rise, with more than 90,000 leaving their homeland in just August alone.

People from all walks of life are joining this migration. Among them, there are 232,749 laborers, 118,172 drivers, and even 5,589 engineers, 5,216 accountants, 2,261 doctors, and 1,012 teachers. It's a diverse group looking for a brighter future.

When we talk about skills, some are highly qualified (15,052), and others are highly skilled (31,130). But the majority fall into the skilled (197,719) and semi-skilled (57,516) categories. Unskilled workers make up the biggest chunk, with 238,865 individuals.

Saudi Arabia is the top choice for many, with 251,655 Pakistanis heading there for work. The United Arab Emirates comes next with 147,960, followed by Oman (39,901) and Qatar (39,479). Other countries

like Malaysia, Bahrain, Romania, Greece, and Iraq have also attracted Pakistani workers.

Keep in mind that these numbers only include people who officially registered with the Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment. Those going abroad for education or through different routes aren't counted here. Comparing to previous years, 2023 is a stand-out year. Last year, 832,339 Pakistanis sought jobs abroad, the highest since 2016.

Ustad Amanat Ali remembred on his 49th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Grand maestro Ustad Amanat Ali Khan on Sunday was remembered on his 49th death anniversary where music lovers from all walks of life have paid rich tributes for his unforgettable classical Ghazals sung by him and shared his work on social media platforms. Bestowed with the title of 'Ustad', Khan was a big name in the Pakistani music industry.



Born in 1922, Patiala, India, to a family of singers, he was the grandson of Ali Baksh Jarnail who was the founder of the Patiala Gharana. Soon after independence, he moved to Pakistan.

His concerts on Radio Lahore became quite popular, and he toured South Asia becoming the representative of Patiala Gharana in Pakistan, private news channels reported.

The late 1950s and early 1960s saw the rise of seraphic singer Ustad Amanat Ali Khan, electronic channels reported. Insha Ji Utho, possibly one of his most famous ghazals penned by famous writer and poet Ibn-Insha.

The longing and touch of sadness in the poetry have been expressed brilliantly by the legend. Countless classical singers and showbiz personalities of today remember Khan and his art. They believe his name will always shine due to his sweet, melodic voice.

He is among very few classical singers who became famous both in classical as well as in Ghazal formats of singing. He was awarded 'Pride of Performance' by the government of Pakistan in 2009. Ustad Amanat Ali died in 1974 and was laid to rest in Mominpura Graveyard, Lahore.

10 to 15 decisions of SC required to be revisited: Irfan Qadir

ISLAMABAD (NNI):

Former attorney general and prominent Supreme Court of Pakistan lawyer Irfan Qadir on Sunday said that the former chief justice had wrongfully suspended the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023.

In comments as Justice Qazi Faez Isa has sworn in as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan on Sunday (today), Irfan Qadir said that the incumbent CJP has to redress the decisions taken by the former chief

justice of the top court.

The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 — a bill that required the formation of benches on constitutional matters of public importance by a committee of three senior judges will be heard by a supreme court bench on Monday (tomorrow).

An eight-judge bench headed by the former CJP on April 13, had suspended the enforcement of the Supreme Court (Practice &

Procedure) Act, 2023.

Irfan Qadir said, he expected that the suspension of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 will be set aside.

He was opined that 10 to 15 judgments are required to be corrected. "I hope Qazi Faez Isa will correct those decisions of the court," Qadir said.

"Justice Qazi Isa has to address division in judges and unify the court," he said. "He has to restore the image of the top court," he added.

Crackdown: SNGPL removes 323 illegal connections, recovers over Rs75.4 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Determined to bring down the Unaccounted for Gas (UFG) ratio, the Regional Directorate of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) launched a massive crackdown on the elements involved in the theft of the scarce and precious commodity, which continues unabated.

During the ongoing anti-gas-theft operations, the raiding teams so far unearthed more than 323 illegal connections and recovered Rs75.4 million from defaulters.

Sharing details, Islamabad Regional SNGPL General Manager Azhar Rashid Sheikh in an exclusive chat with APP informed the special teams not only identified but also removed more than 270 illegal meters and 53 direct connections and recovered millions of rupees from the defaulted consumers.

He vowed that the region-wide crackdown against the gas pilferage would continue till knocking down all the elements involved in illegal tapping, causing loss to the national

economy and depriving the consumers of gas, which was already in shortage due to the fast depletion in the country's existing hydrocarbon reserves and high-price in the international market.

Accordingly, he said a massive operation to curb gas theft, recover dues, and remove illegal connections was in full swing across the Islamabad region on directives of the federal government.

So far, he said raids had been conducted in various areas including Chattah Bakhtawar, Gungal, G-7, I-14, E-18 Islamabad, Bhara Kahu, Tarlai Wah Cantt, Fateh Jang, and Attock.

"During the drive more than 270 illegal meters and 53 direct connections have been removed, FIRs (First Information Reports) have been lodged against 37 individuals. Gas thieves have been penalized with over Rs 90 million fines, and legal action has resulted in the recovery of Rs 75.4 million" he added.

To get the required results, GM Azhar Rashid said the company had increased the number of raiding teams to gear up the ongoing opera-

tions against gas theft and make more recoveries from the defaulters.

He praised that SNGPL Managing Director Aamir Tufail's guidance had led to the establishment of a special task force in the Islamabad Region to step up action against gas theft. For this purpose additional resources had been allocated to get the support of law enforcement agencies, he added.

Answering a question, he reiterated that stringent actions were being taken against employees involved in any unlawful activities as so far 25 to 30 individuals had been blacklisted, while legal proceedings were underway against 40 to 50 officials.

To another question, the GM said the company was committed to ensuring uninterrupted services to domestic consumers throughout the year. Customer Service Centers were operating around-the-clock seven days a week, and any complaint related to illegal activities would be promptly addressed by SNGPL authorities.

13 outlaws arrested: drugs, liquor and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD (NNI):

Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 13 outlaws during the last 24 hours from different areas of the city and recovered liquor, drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directives, the Karachi Company police team arrested an accused namely Zeeshan Muhammad and recovered 1100 grams heroin from his possession. The Sumbal police team arrested an accused namely Javed Khan and recovered one 30

bore pistol with ammunition from his possession.

Likewise, the Tarnol police team arrested two accused namely Adnan Ali and Sajid and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition and 560 gram hashish from their possession. The Sangjani police team arrested an accused namely Tariq Khan and recovered 180 gram heroin from his possession.

Similarly, the Shams Colony police team arrested an accused namely Tariq Jamil and recovered 1210 gram hashish from his possession. The Khana police team arrested an accused namely Abdul Hamid and recovered one 9mm pistol with ammunition from his possession.

Moreover, the Koral police team arrested an accused namely Ishaq Ismail and recovered 20 liters liquor from his possession. The Kirpa police team

arrested two accused namely Abdul Raheem and Qasim Khan involved in illegally refilling gas cylinders.

Furthermore, the Phulgran police team arrested an accused namely Nazar Rehman and recovered 120 gram heroin from his possession. The Shahzad Town police team arrested two accused namely Adeel Saeed and Mian Ehatisham and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition and 1210 gram hashish from their possession.

Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan directed all senior officials for effective crackdown against the accused involved in criminal activities and to ensure the safety of lives and property of citizens on priority basis.

Two students killed

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least two students of a private university were killed when a rashly driven truck rrammed into their motorbike on the National Highway, near the Halanaka area in the wee hours of Sunday.

According to details, rescue sources, the victims identified as Hasnain, 19, and Samiullah, were on their way on a bike when the truck rrammed into their two-wheeler, killing Hasnain on the spot, and injuring Samiullah, a private news channel reported.

Critically injured was admitted to hospital, where he could not survive and died of his injuries. The truck driver fled the scene, leaving his truck on the road. Police reached the scene and took the truck in custody, and started investigation.

PMDC issues full registration to 13,888 doctors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has issued full registration to further 13,888 doctors, who completed their house jobs successfully.

According to an official of PMDC, the council has issued 2,806 registrations to doctors with additional postgraduate qualifications. He said that the Licensing Department of the council during last nine months issued more than 41,004 renewals, and 13,208 provisional registrations to new graduates.

He said that around 9,440 good standing certificates were issued to doctors who intended to proceed to

work abroad. The official said that the Pakistan Medical Council right after assuming the charge and in very short span of time started working dedicatedly for doctors, students and relevant stakeholders and took all necessary steps to resolve their genuine and relevant issues.

President PMDC Prof. Dr. Rizwan said that the department's priority is to facilitate doctors, students and other stakeholders in the larger interest of Pakistan. He added negligence of any sort will not be tolerated. He added that all doctors have been advised to revalidate their registration certificates in time.

He said that quality education and research play a significant role in the prosperity of any nation and Pakistan has no other option except the promotion of education for dealing with the confronted challenges.

He said that all available resources will be utilized and other support to improve the quality of education in OPF schools. He said that measures would be taken to resolve all issues of educational institutions.

Citizens ask authorities concerned to launch crackdown against 'Beggar mafia'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Citizens from various cities while expressing their utmost concern over a sudden surge in the number of beggars demanded the authorities concerned to intensify the efforts and conduct raids in different areas and take action against organized professional beggars.

The main purpose of these mafia is to exploit the citizens and loot them financially by any possible means either through begging or by robbing them, said a group of shopkeepers while talking to a private news channel on Sunday.

The number of beggars are being increased with every passing day, adding, hordes of beggars are a

common sight at various places such as intersections, traffic signals, hospitals, bus stand, railway station and shopping malls which need to be address on priority basis.

The concerned department should make sure that there are proper laws in practice to discourage this mafia from tightening its roots in society, said a female pedestrian in local bazaar.

"The only way to discourage them is that people should give money to relevant charity organizations so that money can be utilized properly," suggested another citizen.

A student commented that the people are confused about the actual and the professional beggars as both of

them show the same characteristics, adding, professional beggars should be handed over to social institutions and legal action should be taken against the beggars who are involved in any crime.

A city traffic warden also asked that public is requested to discourage such factors as it will not only improve the society.

An elderly resident added that beggars are a source of nuisance for residents, adding, in the absence of any strict action by the authorities they obstruct the movement of vehicles while seeking alms.

Begging should be declared a criminal offense and those who beg despite warnings must be penalized, demanded a motorist.

The begging culture is not as simple as it seems, said a female student, adding, there are criminal clans of organized crime like a mafia in cities.

The beggars can easily be resettled and can be sent to any rehabilitation centers if the administration shows some intent and decides to use its existing available resources, said a social activist Farzana Bari.

Children beggars should be sent to government schools and teachers engaged to teach them in the shelter homes, she added.

The government should come up with a strict laws to ban begging and to start opportunities for beggars to live with dignity, she suggested.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Experts Sunday underlined the need to create awareness among the people about the adoption of pre-

cautionary measures against dengue and to keep the surrounding areas clean from dengue larvae as twin cities' authorities have made efforts to identify dengue hotspots.

Talking to the PTV news channel an Infectious Diseases expert in Polyclinic Dr Amna Bibi said that the spread of vector-borne dengue has become a serious public health problem in both cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, adding, that dengue has become a seasonal illness and every year majority of people are affected by it.

She said it can be prevented by keeping the house and surroundings dry and clean, adding, that we should take steps to remove

stagnant water and handle wet garbage carefully.

In the evening, doors and windows must be closed," she added.

She also asked the CDA and health services directorate that with all department's collaboration they should step up against the dengue virus and play an active role in the elimination of this deadly virus from the city.

Teams of the Health Services Directorate must have conducted the fumigation and spray in different sectors of the city including katchi abadis, nullahs, streams, particularly the potential dengue virus breeding areas, she added.

Replying to a question, the Dengue expert explained the symptoms include sudden high temperature, severe headache, pain in the eyes, muscle and joint pains, rashes, nau-

sea, and dryness in the mouth. But in severe cases, it can also lead to liver enlargement, internal bleeding, circulatory shutdown, and even death.

"Majority of patients are undergoing treatment in various hospitals of cities, adding, health authorities are maintaining a strict watch and all sorts of assistance are being offered to the patients", she added.

She also cautioned against the use of medications like aspirin, ibuprofen, and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), adding, instead, he recommended using paracetamol for fever and pain relief.

To another question, she said people with such diseases as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, or other chronic conditions are always at a higher risk of developing severe dengue.

One killed, five injured

LAGHMAN (Khaama Press): Local authorities in Laghman reported that a house roof collapse killed one person and injured five others. Khair Mohammad Ghazi, the head of the Natural Disaster Response said that the incident occurred in the Bidpah district of the province after the roof and a house collapsed, killing one person and injuring five others. All those affected by this tragic incident belong to one family, highlighting the devastating toll on this tightly-knit group.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Rabi-ul-Awwal 02, 1445 — Monday, September 18, 2023

Free of cost health service

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): A mobile health team of Ibni Sina Hakim Specialization Hospital in western Herat province offer free of cost health service to the people in the far-flung areas. Hospital's Head Abdul Jabbar Naeemi told Pajhwok Afghan News due to the deteriorated economic situation of people in the far-flung areas they had decided to provide free of cost health service to the people through a mobile team.

Women's online varsity providing education



KABUL (Agencies): Fourteen thousand Afghan women are currently studying through the Woman Online University which offers courses across 14 faculties for free.

The university has 450 professors and lecturers based in Afghanistan and around the world who provide the classes.

"In 14 faculties, we have about 14,000 students from all over Afghanistan, even from remote provinces. Despite all the economic problems that exist, including internet issues, girls still join us so as not to stay away from academic environments," said Adila Zamani, one professor from Woman Online University.

"We believe that there should not be any disruption in the educational process of girls because the education of girls is a prerequisite for the progress of a society," she said.

Lecturers teach Afghan girls for free and course materials are provided to them on the website.

"I feel happy that as a professor at the Women's Online University, we are a source of service for the women of our country. Woman Online University has provided education in homes and online for the women of our land," said another professor.

Meanwhile, the students of this university have urged the Islamic Emirate

to remove educational restrictions.

The US National Security Council's spokesman John Kirby also recently called for the restrictions on education to be lifted.

"If the Taliban want to be recognized, if they want to be seen as a legitimate government, they must fulfill the commitments they have made, including how to deal with women and girls, which includes the education of girls and young women," said Kirby.

Islamic Emirate officials, however, have repeatedly emphasized that they provide rights to women and girls within the framework of Islamic Sharia.

Consequences of gender apartheid

KABUL (Khaama Press): Gender apartheid typically refers to a situation where an individual's gender becomes a criterion for accessing resources, opportunities, and social, economic, and political rights. Policies based on this form of apartheid affect various segments of society and undermine it from within.

Gender apartheid, commonly referred to as gender-based violence, is a manifestation of crimes against humanity. It not only widens gender disparities in society but also creates a humanitarian crisis in gender-divided communities. A prominent example of the consequences of gender apartheid is Afghanistan in 2022 and 2023. It ranks at the bottom of the global list regarding gender inequality and is the only country facing such dimensions of a humanitarian crisis.

Erosion of Social Trust: Crimes against humanity erode social trust. Individuals and communities witnessing these crimes lose trust in systems and relevant organizations due to a lack of belief in justice and human rights. Most importantly, distrust among different genders undermines collaboration and reduces cooperation between women and men to the lowest level.

Humanitarian Crisis Creation: Crimes against humanity can lead to humanitarian crises. Millions are displaced from their homes, seeking refuge elsewhere. Youth and children become vulnerable and face psychological harm, while societies, as a whole, come under immense pressure.

Lack of Accountability and Injustice: Crimes against humanity often occur due to a lack of accountability and justice against the perpetrators. This leads to victim despair and helplessness, and the perpetrators continue committing inhuman crimes even more vigorously.

Economic Inequality: Gender apartheid leads to economic inequality between genders. Women usually have limited access to economic resources and employment opportunities. This may result in reduced income for women, women's poverty, and their dependence on men for basic needs. Economic inequality harms women financially, socially, and psychologically, limiting their avenues for progress and development.

Undermining Women's Rights: In a gender apartheid system, women systematically have their fundamental rights denied. They may face restrictions in accessing education, employment, political and economic freedoms, and decision-making rights concerning themselves and their families. These discriminations diminish women's capacity and power in society and erode women's confidence and capabilities in the community.

In conclusion, crimes against humanity have severe and devastating consequences with long-term impacts on both societies and individuals.

IE increasing efforts to raise Chabahar port activity

KABUL (TOLONews): Officials in the Islamic Emirate said that they have increased their efforts to develop the activity of Iran's Chabahar port with the aim of not harming the merchants of the country and not relying on a single transit route.

Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Islamic Emirate, emphasized that with the increase of the capacity in Chabahar port and the activation of the railway of the route with Afghanistan, the problems of the merchants will be solved to a large extent.

"We are trying to prevent losses to our traders. Our traders should not rely on one country, one path, and one way. Chabahar is active now," said a spokesman for the Islamic Emirate.

"Our intention is good, friendly relations based on economic benefits and good neighborliness," said Akhond Salam Jawad, a spokesman of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment also said that by solving the challenges in Chabahar port,

Afghanistan's international trade and transit process will be further developed.

"In order to resolve the technical issues of Chabahar, the government of the Islamic Emirate should act as soon as possible so that we have an alternative way....," said Khan Mohammad Sarfraz, an official of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment.

"Chabahar port is very important to reach the markets of India exclusively and also the transit of Indian goods through Afghanistan to Central Asia. But, unfortunately,

during the last twenty years, sufficient port equipment has not been installed there," said Azraksh Hafizi, a political analyst.

Earlier, the officials of the Afghanistan Railway Department announced that the Chabahar-Nimroz railway project would be completed as soon as possible and they described this project one of the fundamental priorities of the department for the development of trade and transit and to facilitate the transportation of commercial goods between Kabul and Tehran.

Yasini elected Republican's Muslims body head for California

ATLANTA (Pajhwok): For the first time an Afghan origin US citizen Abdul Nasir Yasini has been appointed head of the Republicans Muslims Committee in the California State of United States of America.

During an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News Abdul Nasir Yasini said he was elected with majority votes on the behalf of the party Head Jessica and Assistant Head Korin Regan for California.

"I am the first Afghan to be elected as the head of Muslims Committee at the state level," he said.

He added the Republican Party enjoyed good relations with Muslims and share things in common but Democrats have nothing to do with the religion, the support abortion but Muslims and Republicans considered this act illicit.

He said he not only wanted to encourage Afghans but all Muslims to

support Republicans in the election.

Afghan cultural society head in California said they will appoint Muslim candidate in areas where majority people are Muslims so that the candidate could pave his way to the Senate.

Yasini said they will try their best the expose Afghans in the US politics and play effective role in the government and politics of this country.

"I will try to work for Afghans and all Muslims not only in the state of California but at national level to be considered as an effective political and social force in American politics". Yasini said so far he has served Afghans in various fields within the framework of the Afghan cultural society and worked hard organized them.

A large number of Afghans live in California and after regime change in Afghanistan thousands of



more Afghans arrived in the state.

Nisar Ahmad, head of the Indian Muslims in California, welcomed Yasini's appointed, and assured to work together for the welfare of Muslims.

Farhad Yousufzai, an Afghan living in California, also welcomed the appointment of Yasini and termed the move a pleasant news for Afghans.

Yasini, 50, hailed from Afghanistan's Nangarhar

province he studied in Pakistan and USA and lived in California from the past 20 years and have his own business.

It is pertinent to mention that former US Presidents Ronald Regan, Gorge Bush and Donald Trump served as US presidents on the Republicans tickets.

Last year and Afghan US national Ayesha Wahab elected for the Californian state council in midterm elections.

Nangarhar families reconcile, end 34 years enmity

JALALABAD (Pajhwok): Two rival families have reconciled and ended 34 years of enmity in the Rodat district of eastern Nangarhar province, thanks to mediation from local tribal elders and religious scholars.

Triggered by a land dispute between Jan the families of Mohammad Khan and Ajab Khan, the enmity left three people dead and as many wounded.

Deputy Governor Maulvi Syed Ahmad Banori, who attended the jirga, said the four decades conflict had resulted in many enmities that must end.

He urged officials and tribal leaders to continue mediating between rival parties to banish hostilities.

Maulvi Ziaullah Hakimi, a religious scholar, called Islamic religion of peace and brotherhood.

He believed such enmities should be converted into friendships through the mediation of tribal elders



ers and religious scholars.

Gul Ahmad, a jirga member and tribal leader, said they had mediated between the two families for about one month and eventually they agreed to pardon each other.

Abdul Mateen, another member of the mediation team, thanked both families for accepting their request and reconciling.

Enayat Rahman Amin read out the jirga declaration, which says: "Both sides should forgive each other without any deal. If any family try to harm the other, it will have to pay five million afghanis in fine and all their property will be seized."

Syed Mohammad, a member of Jan Mohammad's family, said

the feud had erupted when both elders (Jan Mohammad and Ajab Khan) were alive. Even after they died, the enmity lingered on for years.

He thanked jirga leaders for efforts to end the enmity and urged mediators to extend their endeavours to other areas as well to eliminate hostilities among families there.

Teacher caught on video beating a student held

FARYAB (TOLONews): The teacher seen in a video abusing a student in Shireen Tagab district of Faryab province has been detained, provincial officials said.

In a video, which went viral on social media, a teacher of a religious seminary was beating his student. The incident is said to have happened six months ago in Sayad area of Shireen Tagab district. However, the video has recently been released on social media and has sparked outrage among Afghans.

"The teacher of the Darul Hifaz (religious seminary) is beating up his student. After the Mujahideen

(Islamic Emirate forces) were informed of the issue, they went and arrested the teacher. The teacher is under investigation now," said Shams Mohammadi, head of the Information and Culture department of Faryab.

Human rights activists said that beating students is against Islam.

"The children who are being beaten, they become violent in the future," said Mohammad Ajmal Qadiri, a human rights activist.

"Most of the time in the schools, at religious seminaries, and within families, the children are facing violent behavior. This causes the children to be violent in the future," said Zakiullah

Mohammadi, a university instructor.

Islamic Emirate's spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said that the beating of the students in the schools and religious seminaries is forbidden.

"There are some guidelines in this regard and also rules and discipline. There is no place for beating there (at seminaries). If someone commits such an action, they will be punished," Mujahid said.

There have been many incidents of harsh treatment and the beating of students by their teachers in the schools and seminaries previously as well, which has sparked a public outcry.

Kabul residents complain increasing power outage

KABUL (Pajhwok): The residents of capital Kabul have complained against the increasing power outage while Da Afghanistan Breshna Shirkat (DABS) termed the ongoing outage as normal.

Mohammad Saleem, the resident of Kabul's Darulaman locality, said there is electricity load shading sometimes it exists and sometimes not.

"Most of the time we are without electricity during evening and we have to do our dinner in the darkness, the electricity returns at 1:00am or 2:00am," he

said. He asked the DABS to address the load shading issue.

Sharifullah, the resident of Kabul's 19th Municipal District, said he is also faced with the electricity outage issue.

"Electricity goes off at 4:00am and returns at 1:00pm, again it goes at 6:00pm and returns at 9:00pm, water supply also depends on electricity, some of our plants at home dried up due to the lack of water."

He demanded equal distribution of water.

Hikmatullah Maiwand,

spokesperson for the DABS, said due to water shortage the internal production of electricity had declined.

"There is no issue with the imported electricity, there is change in the local electricity resources which not serious."

Afghanistan import 440MW electricity from Tajikistan, 202MW from Turkmenistan and 102 MW from Iran, according to this year's report.

The capacity of local production is 150MW in which 100MW is produced by private sector.

British imams dismiss concerns over girls' education in Afghanistan

LONDON (Agencies): A group of British Muslim scholars who recently visited Afghanistan has accused the mainstream media of completely distorting the reality of what is happening in the country.

Addressing about 250 people at Queen Mary University in London, the scholars spoke about the security and peace that now exists in Afghanistan after so many years of war, as well as the Islamic society that is now being created.

The scholars, who were appearing at the launch of the Prosper Afghanistan organization, also addressed the controversial issue of girls' education following its suspension at secondary level and above last year.

The scholars who addressed the event were Shaykh Haitham Al Haddad, Shaykh Suliman Gani, Shaykh Hamid Mahmood, Shaykh Ammar al-Madani, Mufti Ismail Satia and Shaykh Abdulkerim Karahani.

Sheikh Haitham Al Haddad said the level of professionalism of the government leaders he

met was "really amazing... They really want to do something for their country and for the Ummah and may Allah help them to do that."

Mufti Ismail Satia said: "We went to Afghanistan with a very open mind, we did not go siding with anybody. I found Afghan people to be very kind, generous, big-hearted and resilient. But the greater impact it had on me was that it brought back to me the stories of the Sahaba that we read. They reminded me of those who sacrificed for Islam and those who were willing to do anything for Islam. We don't think people like this exist nowadays but speaking to people over there and the ulema, it made me realize that these people have the same zeal as the Sahaba."

Sheikh Hamid Mahmood said: "Before leaving for Afghanistan I had never seen anything positive in the mainstream media, but after speaking to members of the Afghan government I realized that they were not just trying to free themselves from physical sub-



jugation and colonialism, but also from financial, economic and intellectual enslavement."

And Sheikh Ammar al-Madani said: "The image we have of Afghanistan is totally different to the realities on the ground. The happiness and contentment that the people are

feeling is totally different to what is being portrayed through media channels. My request is that any information you seek is through proper channels."

The delegation of prominent British imams and Muslim scholars visited Afghanistan in July and August and was led by

the Human Aid and Advocacy charity in coordination with Prosper Afghanistan.

Human Aid & Advocacy said the Muslim leaders traveled to Afghanistan in order to better understand the humanitarian needs of the Afghan people and witness some of the current aid

projects established by the charity in the country.

These included an orphanage, a widow's skills training center, a vocational skills center, and an aid delivery program to Kapisa province.

Regarding the issue of girls' education, Sheikh Haitham Al-Haddad told the audience that the issue was being used by the West to demonize Afghanistan. He said that in any society emerging from war there is a hierarchy of needs and security and the economy comes first.

"If we are genuinely concerned about Afghanistan the first question should be what is the security situation like? And 2022 was the first year in over 40 years when there was no war whatsoever in the entire area of Afghanistan which is something to be praised.. Secondly, in terms of economy Afghanistan is one of the top ten countries in terms of reducing inflation. And if people are concerned about women they should first ask if women are being harassed?"

Meanwhile, Sheikh Hamd

Mahmood said that girls' education had not been banned per se, but rather "liberal, secular education had been suspended."

He said the IEA's Acting Foreign Minister told him that the Islamic Emirate does not consider girls' education to be haraam, and that all girls are still being educated at primary level.

Moreover, he said that girls could continue schooling until university level if they chose to become medical professionals and teachers or if they studied in a Dar Ul Uloom.

Sheikh Hamd cited the minister as saying that western secular influences were being driven into the minds of the students who were speaking against the Sharia and many vices were creeping in, so the ulema were taken aback and took this matter directly to the IEA leader. He said for 20 years they were united on the battlefield and now when it is time to rebuild the country they cannot tolerate division and therefore temporary suspension of liberal, secular education took place.

Siraj stars as India rout SL for Asia Cup crown

COLOMBO (AFP): Pace bowler Mohammed Siraj returned figures of 6-21 to lead India's rout of Sri Lanka by 10 wickets as they clinched their eighth Asia Cup title on Sunday.

Siraj got four wickets in one over to help skittle Sri Lanka out for 50, a total the Indian openers Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill surpassed in 6.1 overs for an impressive victory ahead of next month's one-day international (ODI) World Cup at home.

Sri Lanka's miserably low total in the 50-over contest left a nearly packed house disappointed after they witnessed just 116 minutes of play.

The hosts elected to bat first following a delayed start due to rain and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah

struck first with the wicket of Kusal Perera, caught behind for a duck in the first over.

Siraj soon took over as he made the ball swing and seam in overcast conditions to easily surpass his previous ODI best of 4-32.

He got Pathum Nissanka for two and then struck on successive balls to send back Sadeera Samarawickrama (0) and Charith Asalanka (0), but a hat-trick was averted.

Dhananjaya de Silva hit a boundary but Siraj had him caught behind with the next ball, much to the delight of the Indian fans.

Siraj got his fifth with the wicket of Sri Lankan captain Dasun Shanaka, equalling an ODI record for the fastest five-wicket haul from his first 16 balls of the

match. Kusal Mendis hit three boundaries before becoming Siraj's sixth wicket, although Sri Lanka avoided the lowest-ever ODI total of 35 by Zimbabwe.

After Virat Kohli's over-throw went for a boundary, and six more runs to the total, Sri Lanka pushed past their lowest ODI total of 43 scored against South Africa in 2012.

Hardik Pandya took three wickets to wrap up the innings in just 90 minutes. Mendis' 17 and an unbeaten 13 by Dushan Hemantha were the only double-digit scores in an innings that featured five ducks.

Shubman Gill, a centurion in the previous match, began with a boundary in the opening over on his

way to an unbeaten 27 and fellow opener Ishan Kishan (23) soon joined the party.

The left-handed Ishan smashed fast bowler Matheesha Pathirana for two successive boundaries, and three more in a row from Gill gave India victory in the tournament's shortest final.

Rohit Sharma's India dropped just one match in the tournament after they lost an inconsequential Super Four contest against Bangladesh.

Sri Lanka, who won the previous edition of the Asia Cup played in the T20 format, came in as underdogs and snuck into the Super Fours with a dramatic win over Afghanistan but went down without a fight in their 11th final.



COLOMBO: India's players celebrating with trophy after winning during Asia Cup Final match between India and Sri Lanka at R. Premadasa Stadium.

3 firefighters die in Turkey helicopter crash

ISTANBUL (AFP/APP): Turkish divers searched Sunday for the bodies of three firefighters who died when their helicopter crashed into a water reservoir near the western resort city of Izmir.

The helicopter went down while picking up water to douse a forest fire on Saturday night.

The team included three Kyrgyz nationals and one Turk. One of the Kyrgyz firefighters was rescued and rushed to hospital in good condition.

"We learned with sadness that the crew members on our helicopter, which crashed into the dam while responding to the forest fire... lost their lives," local deputy mayor Erkan Ozkan said. Live television images showed rescue boats and divers attempting to recover the bodies and raise some of the debris.

Global warming caused by human-caused greenhouse gas emissions is changing weather patterns and contributing to a years-long drought across swathes of Turkey.

Turkey has funnelled resources into its emergency response efforts after being gripped by devastating fires in 2021 that killed nine people and heaped political pressure on President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Erdogan responded by pushing through Turkey's delayed ratification of the Paris Climate Accords and investing in new firefighting planes and helicopters.

Crackdown against bank managers launched

ISLAMABAD (INP): The authorities have launched countrywide crackdown against bank managers involved in Hawala and Hundi business.

"Eight bank managers have been booked in cases across the country," sources said adding: "The cases have been registered in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Faisalabad".

"A bank manager, Zeeshan Shaikat, has been arrested from Faisalabad in case," according sources. "Investigators have recovered stamps of 12 different companies from Zeeshan Shaikat".

Moreover, the record of crores of rupees Hawala Hundi transactions also found in mobile phones.

According to sources, details of different bank managers' accounts have also been unearthed.

Multinational air exercise Bright Star-2023: PAF contingent concludes participation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) contingent concluded its successful participation in the multinational tri-services air exercise, Bright Star 2023, held at Mohammed Naguib Military Base in Egypt.

This two-week-long exercise brought together a total of 30 countries, including prominent participants such as Pakistan, United States, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Greece and Qatar, said a PAF press release issued here Sunday.

The exercise showcased the exemplary performance of PAF's contingent and its state-of-the-art JF-17 Thunder fighter jets.

This participation not only highlighted PAF's commitment to regional and international cooperation but also underscored its capabilities and prowess

to operate in diverse and challenging environments.

Since its inception in 1977 as a bilateral training event between the United States and Egypt, the Bright Star Exercise has grown into a remarkable multinational initiative, promoting combined force interoperability and shared learning among participating nations to counter regional hybrid threats.

Pakistan Air Force, with its commitment to regional stability and international cooperation, actively immersed in this exercise, emphasizing the profound strategic significance of this collaborative endeavor. The PAF contingent, comprising dedicated air and ground crews, demonstrated exceptional capabilities during the exercise, highlighting the prowess of the pride of Pakistan, the JF-17 Thunder aircraft.

Through rigorous training and realistic aerial warfare scenarios, PAF reaffirmed its operational readiness and its commitment to tackling contemporary strategic challenges.

The PAF's distinguished engagement in this prestigious event stands as a testament to its resolute dedication to the cause of global peace and security.

Through Exercise Bright Star 2023, Pakistan Air Force has once again proven its commitment to upholding glorious traditions and fostering strong partnerships with the global community.

Pakistan Air Force looks forward to future collaboration with Air Forces of allied countries and to continue developing its capabilities to meet the evolving challenges in the face of contemporary security threats.

'Govt launches strict drive against power theft'

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali says interim government has launched a strict drive against power theft in the country which is yielding fruitful results.

Talking to a private news channel, he said effective measures are being taken to improve power supply system and eradication of power theft is among the top priorities. He said government has established a central control room in the power division to monitor the ongoing campaign against power theft.

The minister said with strict directives IESCO had launched the crackdown against electricity thieves

and their facilitators in all circles, adding that we are collaborating with all related departments and law enforcement agencies on the district level to ensure that the process is carried out swiftly.

The crackdown will continue against the elements involved in electricity theft with the cooperation of the relevant departments, he added.

Replying to a query, he replied that because of the electricity thieves and those who refuse to pay bills, others have to pay higher bills, adding that we need to stop these practices with the hope that electricity prices may come down.

He further said that the govt focused on improving

the management of power-related departments, adding, that we are looking at their board of governors and will make changes in the management.

To another question, the minister said that the ministry had prepared a list of officers who were involved in the theft, adding that involved officers were being reshuffled and they would be removed from field jobs.

He also stressed for bringing reforms into the power sector on a priority basis and highlighting the importance of reforms in the energy sector that reforms were crucial in the energy sector for the economic growth of the country.

Prepare for a long war in Ukraine: NATO chief

BRUSSELS (INP): NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg has warned there will be no swift end to the Ukraine war, in an interview published Sunday, as Kyiv pushes on with its counteroffensive against Russia.

"Most wars last longer than expected when they first begin," Stoltenberg said in an interview with Germany's Funke media group.

"Therefore, we must prepare ourselves for a long war in Ukraine."

The conflict began in February 2022 when Moscow sent its forces into Ukraine, bringing war back to Europe for the first time

in decades.

Kyiv launched its counteroffensive in June, pushing back against entrenched Russian positions in the south and east, but it has made limited gains.

"We are all wishing for a quick peace," said Stoltenberg.

"But at the same time we must recognise: if President (Volodymyr) Zelensky and the Ukrainians stop fighting, their country will no longer exist."

"If President (Vladimir) Putin and Russia lay down their weapons, we will have peace."

On Ukraine's ambitions to join the alliance,

Stoltenberg said: "There is no doubt that Ukraine will eventually be in NATO."

Kyiv had "moved closer to NATO" at a summit of the alliance in July, he said.

"When this war ends, we need security guarantees for Ukraine. Otherwise, history could repeat itself," he added.

At the July summit in Vilnius, NATO leaders agreed that Ukraine could join the alliance once certain conditions are met, and US and German officials made it clear that these would include Kyiv carrying out reforms to protect democracy and the rule of law.

Ranipur Haveli murder case investigation officer changed

KHAIRPUR (INP): The authorities have changed the investigation officer of high profile murder of a child maid at Haveli of influential Pirs of Ranipur on Sunday.

The investigation officer of 10-year-old Fatima's murder has been changed on the instructions of the anti-terrorism court hearing the case. The investigation of the murder case has been taken from IO Bachal Qazi to DSP Safiullah Solangi.

The court had expressed its dissatisfaction over

investigation being conducted by Inspector Bachal Qazi and ordered handing over of the probe to an officer of the DSP rank.

The former investigation officer was even failed to get mobile pin code of main accused Asad Shah during a month-long investigation.

Child maid Fatima died in gruesome conditions in the Haveli of Asad Shah in August, and a video of her death went viral on social media. Despite passage of more than four weeks, co-accused Hina Shah, who is

the wife of main accused Asad Shah, has not been arrested.

Khairpur Police recently conducted raid in Defence Society of Karachi in search of two accused of the murder.

Police raided residence of the family of influential Pirs of Ranipur at Khayaban-e-Shamsher for arrest of two nominated accused in the crime, Hina Shah and Fayyaz Shah, at the residence of Niaz Shah, a brother of Fayyaz Shah.

Hafiz Naeem gives call for Karachi shutdown on tomorrow

KARACHI (NNI): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has given a call for citywide shutdown on September 19 (Tuesday) to protest against the inflation and inflated electricity bills.

While addressing a press conference today, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman appealed Karachiites for an all-out protest in the city on September 19 by jamming all major arteries in Karachi. Later in the day, the JI leader also presided a sit-in protest at Shahrah-e-Faisal.

Reduce the petroleum products prices or face the music, the JI leader told the caretaker government at a press conference held at Idara Noor-e-Haq, the JI Karachi headquarters, here on Sunday. Later in the day,

the JI leader also presided a sit-in protest at Shahrah-e-Faisal.

Speaking at the presser, the JI Karachi chief said that youth would take to 15 designated points on Tuesday evening and jam all designated points by turning off their vehicles.

The JI leader strongly lambasted the caretaker government and dubbed it a continuation of the legacy of the previous coalition government, a press release read.

He said that the caretaker government has increased the PoL prices for the third time in just a single month. He added that raising the PoL and electricity prices at a time when the US dollar has been losing its value was quite illogical.

The rulers should have realized that the people are on the brink of their tolerance. He said that the country has been run by mafias and the mafias will be the first ones to escape if the country defaults. He said that silence by victims support the oppressors. He further said that masses will have to come forward for their due rights.

He said that the new chief justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan has assumed the office and it would be his test if he takes his first notice on the PoL prices and decides in the favor of masses or not.

Hafiz Naeem further said that the party will also write a letter to the chief justice in this regard.

He demanded the

Caretaker Prime Minister to curtail subsidiaries and luxuries offer to elite in the public sector. He also demanded him to use 1000 CC car if he is sincere to the masses and the same should be followed by judges and generals. Similarly, he said, free petrol or electricity or compensation in this regard should be cut off immediately to all public sector officers and office holders.

He appealed the masses to come forward for a long struggle against injustice and oppression as it is the only way forward in the prevailing situation.

Earlier, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) decided to stage sit-ins outside four Governor Houses and in front of the power companies' offices.

10 Afghan Daesh supporters held in Islamabad crackdown

ISLAMABAD (NNI): In a crackdown on foreign immigrants staying illegally in Islamabad, a task force formed by intelligence agencies has rounded up 10 Afghan nationals.

Sources said that those taken into custody were the supporters of a militant outfit, Daesh, and they were residing in different areas of the federal capital. They revealed that those arrested also had national identity cards (NICs) with them.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad most recently, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar said that an effective policy had been put in place

to stop Afghans from entering Pakistan illegally.

He clarified that the policy would cover the Afghans without documents, and those who had created fake identities.

He made it clear that illegal refugees would be sent back to their countries. "If someone wants to come to Pakistan, it should be through legal paths and through the issuance of visas," he said.

Similarly, presiding over a meeting in Islamabad on Friday to review progress on the government's plan to crackdown on those involved in illegal practices, the prime minister

said that the government would return all "illegal" Afghan immigrants to curb smuggling of goods and foreign currency so that the fast deteriorating country's economy could be revived.

The development comes as Pakistan continues to face an economic slowdown for the last one year, with its foreign exchange reserves depleting, currency devaluing sharply and inflation rising to record highs. Pakistan had first opened its borders to Afghan refugees in the 1980s after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, becoming the largest refugee-hosting country in the world.

According to the UNHCR, more than 4.4 million Afghan refugees had returned to their homeland since 2002, but around 1.4 million still live in refugee camps, villages and urban centers across Pakistan.

In the last few days, police in Karachi have arrested hundreds of Afghan nationals for allegedly residing in the country illegally.

But a senior diplomat from Afghanistan and a human rights activist, disputing the claims made by Pakistani authorities, said that many of those apprehended possessed valid documents.

North Korea's leader wraps up Russia trip with drones gift

MOSCOW (AFP/APP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un left Russia on Sunday after a rare six-day visit that appeared to solidify his country's ties with President Vladimir Putin -- fanning Western fears that Pyongyang could provide Moscow with weapons for its assault on Ukraine.

Kim's tour of Russia's far eastern region, which began Tuesday, has focused intensely on military cooperation, including a symbolic exchange of rifles with Putin and an inspection of state-of-the-art Russian weapons.

Kim's first official visit abroad since the coron-

avirus pandemic has sparked concerns that Moscow and Pyongyang will defy Western sanctions to secure an arms deal that could help the Kremlin continue its assault against Ukraine.

Before departing Vladivostok, the Far East Russian city just over the border with North Korea, Kim was presented with five explosive drones, a reconnaissance drone and a bulletproof vest as gifts from the governor of the Primorye region, which borders China and North Korea.

He also visited the Far Eastern State University and appeared particularly

pleased as he watched a walrus show at a local oceanarium.

Summing up the North Korean leader's visit, Russian Natural Resources Minister Alexander Kozlov, who accompanied him on his last day, said "a lot" had been discussed. "Kim Jong Un was very interested in and paid attention to minute details," Kozlov said.

He made no mention of any agreements concerning military matters, but said the two sides discussed increasing supplies of grain and the resumption of regular air travel. The two countries also discussed reviving long-muted infrastruc-

ture projects, he said.

Government officials from the two countries also agreed to meet in Pyongyang in November, Kozlov added. At the end of Kim's visit, official Russian video footage showed him waving goodbye from his heavily armoured train to a Russian delegation, before the Russian march "Farewell of Slavianska" was played as the train departed.

Russia and North Korea, historic allies, are both under rafts of global sanctions -- Moscow for its Ukraine offensive, Pyongyang for its nuclear weapon tests.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa becomes new CJ

(Cont... from Front Page)

June 21. Former CJP Bandial yesterday expressed best wishes for his successor.

Justice (r) Bandial served as the top judicial officer for over 19 months; he was appointed on Feb 2, 2022, though his notification had been issued on Jan 17. Whereas, Justice Isa will serve as chief justice for over a year, until Oct 25, 2024. He took the oath as a Supreme Court judge on Sept 5, 2014.

It is pertinent to mention here that President Alvi had filed a reference of misconduct against Justice Isa in the Supreme Judicial Council in May 2019 on the recommendation of then Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government.

However, a 10-judge

Supreme Court bench led by Justice Bandial set aside the presidential reference against Justice Isa in June 2020, absolving him of the charge of misconduct for allegedly not revealing three offshore companies in the name of his wife and children.

Consequently, the proceedings against Justice Isa pending in the SJC also stood terminated. However, the apex court then ordered the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to conduct an inquiry into the allegations of non-declaration of foreign assets.

Later in an exciting turn of events, the Supreme Court in April 2021, by a majority of six to four, overturned its June 2020 order that required verification and subsequent find-

ings by the tax authorities on three foreign properties after accepting his review petition.

Justice Isa was born on October 26, 1959 in Quetta. In his early years, he was a part of the Bar of England and Wales in the 1980s and was enrolled as an advocate of the Supreme Court from Balochistan. He has practiced law for over 27 years before all the high courts, the Federal Shariat Court and the Supreme Court.

Later, he also served as a member of the Balochistan High Court Bar Association, Sindh High Court Bar Association, and Life Member of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and chief justice of Balochistan during different periods.

After CJP Isa's assump-

tion of office, composition of SJC, JCP altered

Soon after Justice Qazi Faez Isa became the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP), the composition of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) has also been changed.

The CJP and two senior-most judges of the apex court are members of the SJC.

Justice Sardar Tariq is already a member of the SJC, while Justice Ijazul Ahsan has become a member of Judicial Council.

Justice Muneeb Akhtar, on the other hand, has become a member of the judicial commission, which appoints judges.

Justice Sardar Tariq, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah

are already members of the commission.

Chief Justice of Pakistan heads the commission while four senior judges are its members.

Other members of the commission include: a retired judge, law minister, attorney general, and members of the bar council.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa took oath as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) at a ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, following the retirement of Justice Umar Ata Bandial.

He was administered the oath of office by President Arif Alvi. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, top military officials, caretaker federal ministers, senators and foreign ambassadors, attended the ceremony.