

QUETTA VOICE

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Effective representation of young women demanded in assemblies in Pakistan

Finance minister says economic situation 'worse than anticipated', no fiscal space available for subsidies

ISLAMABAD: As the country continues to brave rising inflation, interim Finance Minister Shamsah Akhtar on Wednesday warned that Pakistan's economic situation was "worse than anticipated" and the government did not have "fiscal space" to provide subsidies.

Her remarks, made during a meeting of the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance today, asserted that the interim set-up had "inherited" the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, hence, it was "non-negotiable".

The finance minister's statement comes as Pakistan remains plagued by the inflated cost of living, particularly exorbitant electricity prices that have forced residents to take to the streets across the country.

So far, the caretaker government has failed to come up with any relief measures as it tries to strike a balance between avoiding drawing the IMF's ire and cabinet note that the interim set-up could not give any relief to consumers, but it could allow breaking up the bills into four to six instalments. "Even in case of instalments, the government will have to get prior permission from the IMF," the source said.

Addressing a meeting of the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance today, Akhtar said government institutions were suffering "unbearable losses" and underscored the need to accelerate privatisation. According to the finance minister, 70 per cent of Pakistan's tax revenue was being spent on debt relief. Moreover, she said the rupee was under pressure due to the dollar's low inflows and high outflows.

"The next elected government would have to re-engage with independent power producers," Akhtar stated. She went on to say that if the IMF agreement was not implemented, the dollar inflow would stop and the economic situation would worsen. But at the same time, the minister highlighted that measures other than the IMF programme need to be taken. "Unfortunately, we have done everything to weaken the economy," she lamented, adding that the Federal Board of Revenue's revenue was low while the expenditure was high. The finance minister also debunked the perception that the caretaker government had "limited powers". "We have limited options and will work within them," she said. She further stated that the previous government had agreed on "adjustments" with the IMF and the interim set-up could not do anything in this regard.

Akhtar added that the proposal to withdraw facilities for the privileged class was under consideration and a briefing would be given to the committee on the economy after a week. Prior to the finance minister's briefing, a number of committee members raised concerns regarding rising dollar and sky-high electricity bills. PPP Senator Sherry Rehman highlighted that there was a long list of taxes in power bills. News Desk.



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ing with the IMF regarding relief measures for electricity consumers and an announcement was expected soon. A source privy to the meeting told Dawn that the cabinet note that the interim set-up could not give any relief to consumers, but it could allow breaking up the bills into four to six instalments. "Even in case of instalments, the government will have to get prior permission from the IMF," the source said.

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Firing on Sariab Road Quetta leaves a police man dead

COAS visits Tilla Field Firing Range near Jehlum

News Desk: ISLAMABAD: General Syed Asim Munir, the Chief of Army

set for the exercise with a view to validate operational readiness of the formation in

COAS praised the troops for their combat proficiency and offensive spirit.



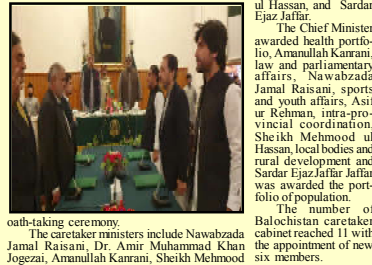
Staff (COAS) visited Tilla Field Firing Ranges near Jehlum today. COAS witnessed Field Fire and Battle Drills.

On arrival, COAS was briefed on training objectives challenging environment. COAS appreciated the synergy displayed by Airforce, Army Aviation and ground troops in execution of various operational drills. He also appreciated high morale and battle worthiness of the troops. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Lieutenant General Syed Aamer Raza, Commander 4 Corps.

6 member Balochistan cabinet sworn in

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In the second phase, a six-member caretaker Balochistan cabinet was sworn in on Wednesday evening. Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar administered oath to the newly appointed caretaker cabinet. Chief Minister Balochistan, Ali Mardan Domki, provincial ministers, senior officials and people belonging to various walks of life also participated in the



oath-taking ceremony. The caretaker ministers include Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai, Amanullah Karraani, Sheikh Mehmood ul Hassan, and Sardar Ejaz Jaffar.

The Chief Minister awarded health portfolio, Amanullah Karraani law and parliamentary affairs, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, sports and youth affairs, Asit ur Rehman, intra-provincial coordination, Sheikh Mehmood ul Hassan, local bodies and rural development and Sardar Ejaz Jaffar Jaffar was awarded the portfolio of population.

The number of Balochistan caretaker cabinet reached 11 with the appointment of new six members.

Firing on Sariab Road Quetta leaves a police man dead

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: Unknown accused opened fire and killed policeman on Sariab Road on Wednesday morning. Police sources said the armed accused opened fire and left a police constable identified as Akhtar Hussain. The attackers managed to escape unhurt from the spot.



Police reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident. Police collected evidence from the spot of the incident.

Police sources said the police constable was going to his home after completing his duty when attacked on Sariab Road.

The dead body of the policeman was shifted to the civil hospital Quetta. A large number of people also reached the civil hospital after the incident. Police sources termed the incident as an act of targeted killing in the city.

Effective representation of young women demanded in assemblies in Pakistan

Razzaq Sheikh:

ISLAMABAD: Women parliamentary leaders belonging to different political parties of Pakistan emphasized the need for effective representation of young women in the national and four provincial legislative assemblies and recommended increasing the proportion of women in parliament and issuing tickets to young girls on general seats. They were addressing a national consultation on women issues to mark the tenth anniversary of the Forum for Dignity Initiatives, held under the Cassini Dara program here on Tuesday.



The central vice president of the Pakistan Muslim League -N and former Speaker Balochistan, Raina Hameed Khan Duran, former opposition leader from MQM in Sindh Assembly, Rana Ansar, former member of Pakistan people's Party in Punjab Assembly, Sania Karraani, former member of Awami National Party in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly, Shafuta Malik,

PT Former member of IS Samira Shams, member of Karachi Metro Corporation Princess Rai were prominent among others who addressed the session. The speakers said that 20% of women have played a very dynamic role in the Parliament of Pakistan. "If the performance of the last five years is examined, they said, it revealed the national and in the four provincial assemblies, the attendance of female assembly members and their interest in assembly business was more than that of men. Women also enjoyed the privilege of ninety-eight percent attendance in the National Assembly during five years, while the approvals related to the protection of human rights, the role of women was prominent in 29 laws." The speakers further said that women have to work ten percent more than men to advance in the political process and by reaching the assemblies, women have practically proved that they were diligently passed the law. At the start of the program, FDI Pakistan Executive Director Uzma Yaqoob highlighted the institution's ten-year performance and the effective participation of all marginalized sections, including young women, in the democratic process. She stressed the need to make the measures fruitful and in this context, it is necessary to add clauses with substantial results to the basic manifesto of the political parties with the consensus of the political parties. The host organization presented souvenirs and flowers to the women parliamentary leaders who joined the program from across the country.

Imran moves IHC against ATC judge's appointment to special court hearing cipher case

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the appointment of Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) judge, to the special court that was recently established to hear cases filed under the Official Secrets Act.



Earlier today, Judge Zulqarnain extended the PTI chief's remand in the cipher case till September 13. The hearing was held in Attock Jail, where the former premier is currently incarcerated in a graft case.

The developments come a day after the IHC suspended the PTI chief's three-year jail sentence in the Ioshakhana case, in which he was convicted on August 5.

However, on the heels of the verdict suspension, the special court had directed Attock jail authorities to keep him in "judicial lockup" and produce him today in connection with the cipher case.

The cipher case pertains to a diplomatic document which reportedly went missing from Imran's possession. The PTI alleges that it contained a threat from the United States to oust Imran from power. Proceedings against Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the PTI vice chairman and former foreign minister, are also under way in the same case. A day ago, in a letter addressed to the Attock jail superintendent, a copy of

which is available with Dawn.com, was filed through PTI lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat and named the state through the law ministry secretary, the interior ministry secretary, the FIA director general, the Islamabad chief commissioner, deputy commissioner and inspector general of police, the Adiala and Attock jail superintendents, and Judge Zulqarnain as respondents in the case.

The application also raised objections to the law ministry's notification allowing the trial to be heard in prison. It alleged that the special court judge was "lacking the essential qualification" for the role, citing the qualification of an ATC judge was defined under section 13(2) of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997.

"Therefore, reducing the rank and status of learned administrative judge ATC 1, Islamabad to the status of a magistrate is a mockery of the law and void-ab-initio," it added. It went on to state that an ATC judge was defined under Sections 13 (establishment of ATC) and 14 (composition and appointment of presiding officers of ATCs) of the ATA according to which, the presiding judge of an ATC, "under no stretch of imagination, could be a magistrate". The petition further said that the appointment was "contrary to law" and "void-ab-initio" as the special court judge was not a magistrate under section 4(n-a) of the CrPC, which defines a magistrate.

Detailing the grounds against the moving of the special court to the Attock jail, the plea said the production order issued by the judge was a "judicial order, which has neither been recalled nor reviewed" by the court concerned. It added that the respondents were not vested with any such powers under section 9(2) (court of session) of the CrPC. Citing the "security concerns" conveyed by the interior ministry, the petition argued that the "respondents never considered" allowing Imran to appear before any Islamabad court via video when he had expressed similar concerns. "The claim in the name of security is a farce, false and misleading," it asserted, while also terming the notification "bereft of reasoning, logic and non-speaking." While stating that the "right to fair trial, merit and justice and fair play demands" that the trial be "held openly with access to all incidental", the plea suggested that "if in any case, the respondents wanted to judge things from the public, the in-camera hearing trial of the petitioner" could be held at the court building in the FIC. The petition further said that the cipher case was at its pre-trial stage, at which the venue of the trial could not be changed. It added that the law ministry had no authority to extend its jurisdiction to Punjab and determine a venue that does not lie within the federal government's administrative control. The petition will be taken up for hearing by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq tomorrow. News Desk.

A box of gold bars

By Rafiq Zakaria

Issue of governance in Balochistan

Editor: Asim Khan
Bal governance has always been the main obstacle in the way of a developed and prosperous Balochistan...

The bench remarked that the poor performance of the Chief Secretary Balochistan, Captain (R) Fazal Asghar shattered and deteriorated the governance in the province. This is perhaps for the first time that the court has passed such harsh remarks against a C.S.

When we discuss all these roads lead towards governance. Only good governance can ensure the implementation of orders passed by honorable courts. The question arises that why the bench lost its confidence in the administrative civilian set up and passed such harsh remarks.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan has repeatedly spoken about ensuring good governance in the province. Although, positive strides made in some areas. However, his words are yet to be translated into action when it comes to ensuring governance in the province.

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Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan has repeatedly spoken about ensuring good governance in the province. Although, positive strides made in some areas. However, his words are yet to be translated into action when it comes to ensuring governance in the province.

Only the province can come out at par with other developed parts of the country. The ruling coalition needs to review its strategy and ensure good governance to address the issue of law and order, poverty, unemployment and development.

EVERYBODY inside and outside Russia knows that standing up to Russian President Vladimir Putin is a risky mission. In the past several years, especially since the war in Ukraine began, Putin has only tightened his iron grip. Little news from the outside gets in, and detractors like Alexei Navalny are banished to labour camps.

Then came the biggest surprise of the war in Ukraine. Putin's forces were suddenly turned around and began to march towards Moscow. Prigozhin said this was done because of the out-of-control corruption in the war ministry and because the military leadership in Moscow was corrupt and making big blunders for which the soldiers had to pay with their lives.

In the meantime, the Wagner militia, which led by Prigozhin, a Russian oligarch, was the commander-in-chief of the Wagner Group, a pro-Russian paramilitary mercenary force that advanced towards Moscow with the intent of challenging the Russian government.

after it reportedly seized military sites in Rostov-on-Don, the march was suddenly called off. News from the Wagner president of Belarus, a vassal state supporting Russian efforts in Ukraine, said that he had brokered a truce between Putin and Prigozhin.

Prigozhin told his Wagner militia members that he was going to take his troops to the Central African Republic as a guest of President Faustin Touadera. About 6,000 members of the Wagner militia are deployed outside Russia, including in Africa.

At the palace, Prigozhin reportedly talked with the owners and representatives of various gold mines, which were protected by guards belonging to the Wagner militia.

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The hardest hit

By Abdullah Fadi

AS monsoon rains bear down on Pakistan, children's vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather again comes to the fore. Seasonal rains have already wreaked havoc, displacing communities, damaging homes and vital infrastructure, and claiming the lives of at least 211 people, including 87 children.

What little food that is washed away, and access to essential services like clean water and electricity, is severely disrupted.

Many of the hardest-hit districts were already under a state of emergency. Pakistan has a window of opportunity to make climate investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and resilient services that bridge equity gaps and reach children, mothers and families in underserved areas.

As Pakistan undergoes a period of political transition, climate education must remain a priority. Flood recovery and rehabilitation continue. Pakistan has a window of opportunity to make climate investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and resilient services that bridge equity gaps and reach children, mothers and families in underserved areas.

While Pakistan cannot alter the course of climate change, there is a clear need to invest in its children to reduce their vulnerability to climate change in the future. Last year's floods made pre-existing inequities and deprivations painfully obvious: it is the poorest, most vulnerable groups, boys and women living in underserved areas who are bearing the brunt of climate change.

are malnourished. This is vital for not only education and nutrition, but also health, protection, water, hygiene and sanitation. Sadly, the children affected by the floods in 2010 are again bearing the brunt of last year's devastation. Without real change and societal transformation, the future for children in affected communities looks bleak. Poverty has become a vicious cycle of intergenerational poverty, increasing inequality and worsening outcomes. Last year's climate devastation was a wake-up call for the world. With the right choices and investments, Pakistan can become a global leader on climate change solutions. This requires urgently addressing the underlying socio-economic inequities and deprivations expected for far too long.

The action must start at home, with governments and the private sector contributing and playing a pivotal role, including the private sector, philanthropists, civil society and communities. With Pakistan's house in order, the government in the global community will have no option but to take its own moral and ethical responsibilities and make good on commitments to support Pakistan. There is no time to lose. The caretaker government and the expected incoming elected government must prioritise sound fiscal policies, such as broadening the tax base and public financing for children. This will lead to the economic gains needed to address chronic malnutrition and increase access to quality education. UNICEF is committed to supporting the government of Pakistan to strengthen and expand essential services for children and families and build back resilient systems. With the right choices and investments, Pakistan can become a global leader on climate change solutions. This requires

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The gathering storm

By Zahid Hussain

INFLATED electricity bills in the country have triggered an eruption of public anger, leading to the emergence of protesters against the privileged elite. Events like the IMF have been a prairie fire engulfing the entire system. The ongoing inflation has been aggravated by the approach of the monsoon season. Angry protesters are now out on the streets threatening to bring down the edifice of the state. It is not just a hybridised interim administration that faces the public's wrath. Stuck in a political limbo, the government in the country, the options for the caretaker government are limited. The crisis over excessively priced electricity indicates a structural problem that has been aggravated by flawed policies pursued by successive governments.

The situation has posed a dilemma for the PML-N, with elections approaching. It will be hard for the party to go to the polls with such a liability. The optics of the former prime minister's cabinet members arriving in London for consultations with the supreme court is hardly comforting for party supporters and voters. The party is also seen as a lack of resolve to react to the public protests, particularly in its former stronghold of Punjab, just two weeks after its government ended. It is apparent that the decision to include excessive taxes in the electricity bill was taken by the caretaker administration.

What has made the situation extremely complex is the political uncertainty. The spontaneous outburst of public anger has all the potential of turning into a mass movement against the existing system. You just have to look at the chain of protests against the privileged elite. Events like the IMF have been a prairie fire engulfing the entire system. The ongoing inflation has been aggravated by the approach of the monsoon season. Angry protesters are now out on the streets threatening to bring down the edifice of the state. It is not just a hybridised interim administration that faces the public's wrath. Stuck in a political limbo, the government in the country, the options for the caretaker government are limited. The crisis over excessively priced electricity indicates a structural problem that has been aggravated by flawed policies pursued by successive governments.

shifted the burden to the common people. It is a lame excuse that it was necessary to meet IMF conditions. The fiscal gap could have been bridged by various measures, such as per the requirement of the IMF rather than fleecing the public. With little to show for its performance during its 16-month rule, and now with street protests breaking out, it is hardly surprising that the government has decided to call for a general election. As suggested by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in order to complete the delimitation process required under the recently concluded population census. Given this uncertainty and the prevailing confusion in party ranks, it is hardly surprising that Nawaz Sharif has yet again delayed his return to the country. He is now expected to come back in late October.

Meanwhile, the former minister with the defence portfolio has become a thorn in the side of the government. He has been demanding that elections be held within 90 days as stipulated in the Constitution. It seems that the PPP's changed position on the election timetable is for reasons of expediency, as the party doesn't want any delimitation of constituencies in Sindh that could result in an increase in National Assembly seats in Karachi at the expense of the rural areas. The issue has become a contentious with the MQM now siding with the PML-N over the delay.

Game of words

By Maseeha Lodhi

EVERYtime there is a tragedy or a violent incident in the country, the official response is the same. First, there is the usual round of condemnations. Then there is an expression of sympathy for the victims, photos with them, and resolve to deal 'firmly' with those responsible for the atrocity.

But often words and tweets are all that are offered rather than tangible actions to prevent the next tragedy. Soon, the incident is forgotten, and the government as well as the media move on. The underlying problem responsible for the tragedy is left to fester and flare up again.

Consider the horrendous attack on the churches and homes of the Christian community in Jaranwala by violent mobs. This was followed by strong words and calls for 'inter-faith harmony' by government leaders, an appearance by the caretaker prime minister and Punjab chief minister to track down and punish the perpetrators of the rampage. Were any meaningful actions taken to signal that the state would tolerate such behaviour, whatever its motivation? No. And not for the first time. Attacks on minorities have continued with impunity as the deterrent 'rule of law' is rarely enforced in such attacks simply in its place. The guilty are rarely

caught or prosecuted, much less punished. This is evident by the absence of convictions in most previous incidents of violence against minorities.

Moreover, there is a lack of protection for minorities and their places of worship or efforts to calm the situation when there is a clear and present danger to their safety. Beyond delivering homilies, governments have, in fact, responded to religious violence by religious extremists, that is, with unintendedly encouraged rather than deterred them.

The reliance on words rather than actions is, of course, not limited to official reactions to tragedies and violent events. It is pervasive in every area of government functioning and has become a familiar practice among political leaders and other managers of state. Sermons are delivered with tireless frequency and exhortations are issued that overseas investors will flock to the country. Investors are expected to respond to the government's take advantage of opportunities and rush forward. When the government is discredited and its policies are widely discredited, there has been a precipitous decline in FDI in recent years. Even the modest level of \$2 billion in FY 2022 (0.4 per cent of GDP) declined by 25pc in FY 2023. It is now negligible as a consequence

Missile heroes

By Aisha Khan

In a world where recognition often gravitates towards the apex of power, the unsung champions of success remain hidden in the machinery of achievement, always first in the line of confronting challenges and last in receiving credit.

While headlines chronicle the triumphs of a few, it is the many that propels victory and makes success possible. Mountains climbing serves as a perfect analogy for this. This space was used effectively by the Pakistan Foreign Office in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio to create a niche role for itself by drafting the language used in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Over the years, somehow the token presence of the country in the global climate change arena was maintained through its participation at various summits. On reaching the summit, the triumphant mood was palpable, but little mention is made of the official elaborations in this sector has not been possible.

As the climate journey of Pakistan is replete with stories of contributions made by people who worked silently from behind the scenes to make the world a more habitable, but in many not adequately recognised.

Climate negotiations provide a multilateral platform where countries get the opportunity to demonstrate leadership capacity for pitching creative ideas, lobby for agendas and secure support for agreements by consensus.

Seeing only through the narrow lens of National Determined Contributions takes away from the larger purpose of the multilateral process. This is a platform for debate, discussion, sharing perspectives and making the process forward.

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Neurosurgeon removes worm from Australian woman's brain

CANBERRA (NP) - A wriggling worm has been plucked from the brain of an Australian woman by a neurosurgeon who is investigating her mysterious symptoms. Surgeon-in-Chief Priya Bandi was performing a biopsy through a hole in the 64-year-old patient's skull at Canberra Hospital last year when she used forceps to pull out the parasite, which measured 8 centimeters, or 3 inches.

"I just thought 'What is that? It doesn't make any sense. But it's alive and moving,'" Bandi was quoted Tuesday. "It continued to move with vigor. We all felt a bit sick," Bandi added of her operating team.

The creature was the larva of an Australian native roundworm not previously known to be a human parasite, called *Ophidascaris robertsi*. The worms are commonly found in carpet pythons in Bandi and Canberra infectious diseases physician Sanjaya Senanayake are au-

thors of an article about the extraordinary medical case published in the latest edition of the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. Senanayake said he was on duty at the hospital in June last year when the worm was found.

"I got a call saying, 'We've got a patient with an infection problem. We've just removed a live worm from this patient's brain,'" Senanayake told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The woman had been admitted to the hospital after experiencing forgetfulness and worsening depression over three months. Scans showed changes in her brain.

A year earlier, she had been admitted to her local hospital in southeast New South Wales state with symptoms including abdominal pain, diarrhea, a dry cough and night sweats.

Senanayake said the brain biopsy was expected to reveal a cancer or an ab-

normality. "This patient had been treated - for what was a mystery illness that we thought ultimately was an immunological condition because we hadn't been able to find a parasite before and then out of nowhere, this big lump appeared in the frontal part of her brain," Senanayake said.

"Suddenly, with her (Bandi's) forceps, she's picking up this thing that's wriggling. She and everyone in that operating theater were absolutely stunned," Senanayake added.

The worms' eggs are commonly shed in snake droppings which are eaten by small mammals. The life cycle continues as other snakes eat the mammals.

The woman lives near a carpet python habitat and forages for native vegetation called warrigal greens to cook. While she had no direct contact with snakes, scientists hypothesize that she consumed the eggs from the vegetation or her contaminated hands.

Soaring energy prices threaten Pakistan's manufacturing and export sectors

SLAKOT (NP) - Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik has warned that soaring energy prices are threatening Pakistan's manufacturing and export sectors. In a statement on Tuesday, Malik said that the recent surge in energy prices, as evidenced by the issuance of electricity bills with an alarming hike of up to 80 to 100%, was a substantial setback for the manufacturing and export sectors of the nation. He said that the substantial increase in the electricity component within the manufacturing cost, effectively doubling the burden, would place exporters at a disadvantage amidst intense international competition. Malik expressed his grave concerns, saying that the skyrocketing energy costs had made it arduous for exporters to maintain their competitive edge and sustain international commitments. He also expressed apprehensions about the potential cancellation of orders and the subsequent implications on exporters' capacity to meet their international obligations. Malik urged Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwar-ul-Haq Khan to take immediate cognizance of the situation and provide urgent relief for the export sector through the re-introduction of Regionally Competitive Energy Tariffs tailored specifically for the five crucial export-oriented sectors. He said that the re-introduction of Regionally Competitive Energy Tariffs was not just a necessity; it was a substantial lifeline for the industry, exports, and the collective economic future of the nation. The SCCI President's warning comes at a time when Pakistan is facing a number of economic challenges, including a widening trade deficit, rising inflation, and a depreciating currency. The government has taken a number of measures to address these challenges, including devaluing the currency, raising interest rates, and imposing import restrictions. However, it remains to be seen whether these measures will be enough to prevent the economy from further decline.

Five killed, six injured in trailer-van collision

RAWALPINDI, Aug 29 (NP) - Five people were killed and six others injured in a horrific road accident in Rawalpindi on Tuesday, rescuers and police said. A trailer collided with a van near Old Toll Plaza in G-Block area. The dead and injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment, said the rescue officials.

The deceased included four men and a woman. Four women and two men also sustained injuries in the accident. Over speeding is said to be the cause of the fatal accident.

USDollar reaches new heights against Pakistani rupee

ISLAMABAD (NP) - The US dollar's relentless surge against the Pakistani rupee shows no signs of abating, reaching record highs in both the interbank and open markets on the second day of the business week. According to details, the dollar's value climbed by an additional 75 pascas in the interbank market, settling at an alarming 302.75 rupees. In the open market, the dollar remains at a historic level of Rs316. Within a mere two weeks, the US dollar has appreciated by a staggering 13 rupees in the interbank market and 20 rupees in the open market. On Monday, the rupee concluded the day in an all-time low against the US dollar, closing at 302.

FIA Interpol nabs wanted suspect from Riyadh

KARACHI (NP) - Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Interpol Pakistan with the assistance of Saudi Arabia has successfully apprehended the wanted suspect, Qurban Ali, from Riyadh.

As per the Interpol spokesperson's statement, the apprehended suspect was wanted by the Punjab Police, and a case had been registered against him in Islamabad for multiple counts.

QUETTA: Employee's of Metropolitan Corporation hold protest at Manan Chowk.

Sudan army chief heads to Egypt on first trip abroad since conflict

KHARTOUM (NP) - Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan departed Tuesday on a flight to Egypt for his first trip abroad since fighting began with mercenaries in April, the country's ruling Sovereign Council said. General Burhan would hold talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in the latest development in the two countries' council said in a statement. Burhan, who heads the council, was accompanied by intelligence chief Ahmad Ibrahim Muffaddal and interim foreign minister Ali al-Sadeq, it added.

The war between the Red Sea city of Port Sudan where he made a fiery address to troops, vowing to fight the RSF who he branded mercenaries to "end the rebellion". "We are mobilising every-where to defeat this rebellion, defeat this treason, by these mercenaries who come from all over the world," Burhan told cheering troops. "We are concentrating all our efforts on the war, to put an end to the rebellion," he said. His comments came a day after Daglo released a statement detailing a 10-point "roadmap" to end the war and build "a new state".

University of North Carolina faculty member killed in campus shooting

WASHINGTON (NP) - A faculty member at the University of North Carolina was shot dead in a shooting on campus, officials said where a suspect was arrested and the threat was cleared by late afternoon. "I'm devastated that the UNC (University of North Carolina) community lost a faculty member in an act of violence on campus," the institution's chancellor, Kevin Guskiewicz, said in a statement. "Police were notified; shots being fired at the Chapel Hill, North Carolina, campus early Monday afternoon, the chancellor said. He added the suspect was apprehended and taken into custody. "Police issued an 'all clear' for the campus around two hours later and said there was no further immediate threat. During the stand-off, there was heavy police presence around the campus, media footage from the scene showed. Police had earlier released the male suspect's image on X, formerly called Twitter, when he was not yet in custody and described him as a 'person of interest in today's armed and dangerous person situation.'"

PIAF warns govt to join protests if increase in power tariff not withdrawn

LAHORE (NP) - Chairman Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Fahimur Rahman Sagol has said that the association will carry on its commitment of raising the voice of the business community. While addressing the reception organized by the representatives of Disposable Packaging Association on Tuesday, he said that traders are the backbone of the economy and the caretaker government should take immediate steps to reduce electricity rates otherwise the PIAF will also join the protest movement. He said the government should refrain the policies in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and the issues of the business community should be resolved immediately.

Market, Amnarki, Urdu Bazar and Hussainwala traders from adjacent markets were welcomed and inaugurated for joining the association will carry on its commitment of raising the voice of the business community.

On this occasion, Mian Hameed Nisar, Fahimur Rahman Sagol and others said that the daily joining of various parties in PIAF is a proof of the effectiveness of PIAF for businessmen. PIAF is the power of businessmen and the voice of businessmen who has been advocating for the rights of businessmen and solving their problems at every forum. For the last 26 years, PIAF has been advocating for the business community not only in Lahore but also at the Pakistan level from the platform of Federation of Pakistan Chambers.

The host Ahsan Mahmood and Asim Bazar, Mian Hameed Nisar thanked the PIAF leaders for the honor and said that they will have no stone unturned to serve the traders and transporters along with the PIAF family. In addition to PIAF senior leaders, Malik Muhammad Khalid and PIAF executive committee member Khalid Parvez, Mian Muhammad Nawaz, Sheikh Abdul Manan, Madsar Masood, Malik Abad Amin, Mian Khuram Ilyas, Malik Nadeem, Anees Arshad, Naeem Khan, Zehra Sohail, Malik Sajjad Afzal Sheikh, Umar Sarfaraz Sheikh, Rana Muhammad Nadeem Abbas, Sheikh Fayyaz, Rana Kashif, Abdul Hafeez Asim from Abkari Road, Mahmura and others visited Abkari Road, Science

Robber killed, shopkeeper injured in fire exchange

LAHORE (NP) - A robber was killed and shopkeeper injured in a fire exchange during a robbery attempt in a shop, police said on Tuesday.

According to details, two veiled robbers barged into a shop in Islamabad area of Lahore and attempted robbery. An exchange of fire took place in which one robber was killed while other managed to escape. Shopkeeper Umar Jamal was also injured in firing of the robbers.

The body of killed robber and injured shopkeeper were shifted to hospital.

DIG Operation, SSP Pakistan Super and Additional SP City Selman Zafar also reached the scene of crime.

ICCPO conducts online open forum

ISLAMABAD (NP) - Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan organized an online open forum, providing residents with direct access to senior police officials and ensure the resolution of public problems.

During this interactive session, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan personally addressed public inquiries while AG (Operations) Saad Khan was also in attendance. Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan attentively listened to citizens' concerns and promptly directed relevant officers to find immediate solutions. Many of the issues raised by the callers were of a personal nature and related to police station matters.



ISLAMABAD: Jamal Shah, Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture visiting Al-Saeed Printing Press Mando khail Plaza Mission Road Quetta.

PEW opposes immediate privatization of power distribution companies

LAHORE (NP) - Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch Brigade (PEW) Muhammad Aslam Khan said on Tuesday that electricity distribution companies should not be immediately privatized by taking advantage of the chaos in the country on the issue of electricity bills.

The practice of repeated failed experiments should be abandoned, as it may be in the interests of influential elites, but it is against the country's interests, he said. In a statement issued here, Aslam Khan said that before the privatization of discoms, the masses should know how much relief they have gotten since Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC) failed and the experiment with IPPs didn't work, he said. He said that no privatization of discoms should be such a private power producer are earning trillions of rupees. He said that the former premier was fired from their jobs, after which the officers of any government did not have the courage to lay hands on the white-collar criminals in the white-collar industry. Despite this looting coming to the limelight, this sector remains a favourite of top politicians and bureaucrats, who he added.

Bushra Bibi gets bail in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (NP) - The accountability court in Islamabad on Tuesday approved the bail plea of Bushra Bibi, the wife of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman. The Toshakhana case till September 12.

Ae Judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulaqain heard the case and granted bail to Bushra Bibi till September 12 in the Toshakhana case. Bushra Bibi's bail was accepted against surety bonds worth Rs500,000. The ex-first lady has been accused of keeping a locked, chain, earrings, two rings and bracelet from the Toshakhana gifts. She is also accused of keeping gold, diamond necklace bracelet as well as gold and diamond rings, earrings and bracelet. The NAB has maintained that the gifts were not submitted to the Toshakhana to calculate their prices. The Toshakhana issue became a major sticking point in the political parties after the Election Commission of Pakistan disqualified the PTI chief for making "false statements and incorrect declaration". The reference, which alleges that Imran failed to share details of the gifts he retained from the Toshakhana (during his time as the prime minister) was filed by lawmakers from the ruling coalition last year. The judgement added that the former premier was found to be indulged in corrupt practices under sections 167 and 173 of the constitution. "A criminal proceeding will be initiated against him over filing a false statement."

One killed in road accident

SARGODHA (NP) - A man was killed in a van-truck collision on Kotommin-Sargodha road on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Akhtar Ali, 44, a resident of Noori Manika area. He was traveling to Sargodha from Kotommin on his van when a speeding truck collided with the vehicle. The accident comes at a time when road accidents are on the rise in Pakistan. According to a recent report by the National Highways and Motorway Police, over 12,000 people were killed in road accidents in Pakistan in 2022.

Lawyer shot dead, protest held against incident

SARGODHA (NP) - An unidentified armed man gunned down a lawyer here on Tuesday. Lawyers and community held protest demonstration against the incident. According to details, unknown miscreants shot dead the Advocate Chaudhary Anwar Advocate near Salam area of Sargodha while he was on his way to Bhalwal. As a result of firing, Chaudhary Anwar Advocate was killed on the spot and attackers fled the scene. The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem.

Pakistan expresses interest in joining World Canal Cities Organization

ISLAMABAD (NP) - Pakistan has expressed its deep interest in joining World Canal Cities Organization. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque attended the opening ceremony of the World Canal Cities Forum held in Yangzhou, Jiangsu, China, and showed interest in joining the organization to promote bilateral cooperation. Speaking at the opening ceremony of World Canal Cities Forum, the Ambassador underlined the role of canals as conduits of commerce, culture and connectivity. Expressing his sentiments about the scenic landscapes and rich culture of Yangzhou, he acknowledged the historic importance of Yangzhou as a major city along the Grand Canal. According to Gwadar Pro, the Ambassador also briefed the audience on Pakistan's canal system along the Indus River, which was among the largest in the world irrigating over 48 million acres. He also expressed Pakistan's interest in joining the World Canal Cities Organization he acquainted in Yangzhou. The Ambassador expressed his deep admiration for the developmental strengths of Yangzhou and highlighted his desire for learning from the Chinese developmental model, which had improved the lifestyles of the Chinese people starting from grassroots level.

Recalling the already existing sister-province relationship between Jiangsu and Punjab, he underlined the need for practical and result-oriented sister-city relationship with Yangzhou.

Pakistani rupee drops to another historic low against US dollar in interbank

ISLAMABAD (INP): Amid lackluster response from the caretaker government and the central bank, the Pakistani rupee continued to slide into historic lows against the US dollar in the interbank market.

According to the figures obtained from the forex dealers, the local currency hit rock bottom against the greenback as it shed 20 more paise, taking the US dollar to a historic high of Rs303.25 during the first session in the interbank market on Wednesday.

KP government approves funds for University of Peshawar

PESHAWAR (INP): The caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has approved much-needed funds amounting to Rs 325 million under the salary head for the University of Peshawar (UoP).

According to media reports, the Finance Department has started the necessary official procedure for the release of funds to the UoP. The Vice-Chancellor of the university had earlier written an application to the provincial government for the release of funds to overcome the financial issues of the university. In a notification to the vice-chancellor, the provincial government informed that funds have been released to pay the salaries of the university staff for the month of August.

Imran Khan's remand in cipher case extended for 14 days

ATTOCK, Aug 30 (INP): The special court set up to hear cases under the Official Secrets Act extended PTI Chairman Imran Khan's judicial remand in the cipher case by 14 days. The hearing of the cipher case involving the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman was held at the Attock Jail following an official approval from the Ministry of Law.



KARACHI: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Nazki presenting a model of Tughril Class frigate 'PNS Shah Jehan' to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Not possible to run industry, trade with expensive electricity: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Council Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the people are tired of inflated power bills.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he said that the electricity tariff should be revised downward immediately, otherwise, the ongoing protests across the country will intensify, which will destroy law and order and cause great damage to the unstable economy.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that electricity has become an expensive electricity that is not possible to run industry, trade, or any kind of business. He demanded that the electricity generated and distributed system and the entire infrastructure should be improved.

The business leader said that instead of continuously increasing the cost of electricity, free electricity distribution should be stopped to reduce the circular debt. WAPDA and the police should be brought on the same page to increase the recovery, or a separate force should be raised for the recovery of outstanding bills.

Pakistan to launch 5G services within 10 months

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunications Dr Umar Saif has decided that the 5G services will be launched in Pakistan within 10 months. The development emerged after a pivotal meeting between Saif and Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Maj Gen (R) Haleem Rehman.

Dr Umar Saif expressed unwavering determination to eliminate hurdles by establishing a priority-based criterion. He specifically highlighted that upcoming plans related to telecommunication services would be actively addressed in alignment with this proactive stance.

Dr Umar Saif shed light on the paramount importance of optimal spectrum utilization and the coordinated deployment of the 5G network. He underscored the significance of ensuring the quality of telecommunication services, thus enhancing the experience for consumers.

Senior US diplomat Nuland urges 'timely' and 'fair' elections in Pakistan

WASHINGTON (INP): Senior US diplomat Victoria Nuland spoke on Tuesday with Pakistani Foreign Minister Ijaz-ul-Abbas Jilani and discussed the importance of 'timely' and 'fair' elections in South Asian nation, the US State Department said.

Nuland, who was ousted in a parliamentary vote of no confidence last year - being at the center of it. A Pakistan high court on Tuesday suspended the jailed former prime minister's sentence on corruption charges, but he will remain behind bars as a judge had already ordered his detention in another case.

Saudi Crown Prince may visit hours-long visit to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Saudi Crown Prince (Crown Prince) Mohammed bin Salman may pay a short visit to Pakistan in the second week of next month, diplomatic sources said on Wednesday.

who was ousted in a parliamentary vote of no confidence last year - being at the center of it. A Pakistan high court on Tuesday suspended the jailed former prime minister's sentence on corruption charges, but he will remain behind bars as a judge had already ordered his detention in another case.

KARACHI: A view of stop work on nullah near Hyeri market creating problems for locals. Need attention of concern authorities.

Pakistan discusses relief in electricity bills with IMF

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has contacted the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over proposed relief in electricity bills, sources said on Wednesday.

The caretaker federal cabinet on Tuesday decided to seek nod from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for providing relief in electricity bills to the power consumers.

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Hyderabad: Residents of Kalimuri have been protesting against non-availability of water drainage on Government College University Road for the past two months.

US Master T10: Pakistan's Sohail Khan picks up the most wickets

LAUDERHILL, Florida, (INP): The US Masters T10 League came to a thrilling end as the Ben Dunk-led Texas Chargers defeated Misbah-ul-Haq-led New York Warriors via Super Over in the Final.

The tournament which was played between Atlanta Fire, California Knights, Morrisville Unity, New Jersey Tritons, New York Warriors and Texas Chargers, provided blockbuster entertainment from the 18th to 27th August 2023. Aaron Finch, who played for the California Knights, emerged as the highest run-getter of the tournament with 236 runs.

PTI leader Halem Adil Sheikh moves SHC against his arrest warrants

KARACHI (INP): Former PTI opposition leader in the South Assembly Halem Adil Sheikh who has been nominated in the May 9 riots case appeared on the scene after a long time on Wednesday.

Sheikh said that he got a protective bail from the court. The department has also informed that the South High Court too had barred the authorities from arresting farmers to use water judiciously and not to steal water from canals.

Six farmers caught stealing water from canals in Sargodha

SARGODHA (INP): An irrigation task force team caught six farmers on the charge of water theft from canals in Sargodha district on Wednesday.

Rawalpindi reports 12 more dengue cases, tally rises to 188

RAWALPINDI (INP): Rawalpindi district reported 12 more dengue cases on Wednesday, raising the total number of confirmed cases to 188.

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Hyderabad: Caretaker Provincial Minister Mines and Minerals Development Mir Khuda Baksh Marri at a press conference at Shabbah Hyderabad.

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Dr Sajad informed that the district administration had registered 57 FSRs, issued tickets to 15, sealed 34 premises, and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 against the violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours.

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The minister discussed for relief over electricity bills with the IMF, the finance ministry sources said.

The caretaker federal cabinet on Tuesday decided to seek nod from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for providing relief in electricity bills to the power consumers.

Pakistan Army organizes free medical camps across Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Army organized free medical camps in remote areas of Sindh, where a team of qualified army doctors conducted comprehensive medical examinations for the general public on Wednesday.

The medical camps provided state-of-the-art diagnostic services, including ECG, ultrasound, and various medical tests, in addition to the free medical consultations.

District administration launches crackdown against beggars in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (INP): The district administration in Peshawar launched a special campaign against professional beggars on Wednesday.

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