

QUETTA VOICE

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Over 200 Balochistan Govt vehicle still with former ministers, advisers

Syed Ali Shah:
QUETTA: Over 200 vehicles owned by the Balochistan government are still with former provincial ministers, advisers, and parliamentary secretaries. "Former lawmakers are reluctant to return government's vehicles", a well-placed source in the Balochistan government told Daily Quetta Voice. He requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

So far, former provincial ministers have returned 45 vehicles to the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD), an officer of the department mentioned. He stated, that six ministers were still reluctant to return official vehicles to the S&GAD.

S&GAD provides 3 vehicles to each minister officially

Officially, every minister is entitled to get three vehicles from the S&GAD, the officer revealed. However, most of the ministers, advisers and parlia-

mentary secretaries managed to get official vehicles from officers including secretaries, managing directors, project directors, etc. in their respective departments, the officer narrated. The former lawmakers kept these vehicles in their native towns and tried to keep them until the general elections. The Election Commission of Pakistan must ask the Balochistan government to make sure of the recovery of official vehicles as early as possible so that the vehicles cannot be used in elections, three key sources in the civil secretariat told Daily Quetta Voice.

A caretaker minister is yet to get a bulletproof vehicle from the former minister

The number of vehicles can be more than what is reported by this Daily. There was no word from the former lawmakers who regard official vehicles. One of the caretaker ministers who also requested anonymity said that his bulletproof vehicle was with a former minister. The former minister is not handing over the vehicle to him, the caretaker minister lamented.



Customs personnel allegedly killed a young man in Quetta

Maman Mandokhai:

QUETTA: Customs personnel allegedly opened fire and killed a young man in the city's Imdad Chowk area on Monday morning. The charge was vehemently denied by the customs officials. However, friends and family members accused the customs officials of opening an unprovoked fire and killing the young man on the spot. "Customs officials opened fire and killed my relative Qasam Agha on the spot", a young relative of the victim standing on the spot of the incident told reporters. However, the customs spokesman said smugglers opened fire on customs officials in the morning when they (customs) tried to stop a truck loaded with smuggled goods. The dead body of the young man was shifted to the civil hospital Quetta. A large number of people reached the hospital. "We want justice and action must be taken against the responsible customs officials", Syed Abdullah, another relative of the victim demanded.

family's version and said that the smuggler sitting in a private car opened fire on them. "We are not aware of the killing of any person", the Spokesman Customs said. He said they had only seen this news on social media.

Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister, Jan Achakzai said the Chief Minister Ali Mardan Dornki has already taken notice of the incident. He said the incident would be investigated by the provincial government.

Police officials also reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident. No first information report was registered against the responsible personnel till the filing of this report.

Negotiations held between the victim's relatives and customs officials

However, a well-placed customs official told Daily Quetta Voice that the victim's family members and customs reached a reconciliation. He said the collector of customs Balochistan and other senior officers held negotiations with the family members of the victim and reached a reconciliation. He preferred not to share the details about the reconciliation.

Customs unaware about the killing

The customs officials however rejected the

3 robbers killed in Sakran area of Hub

Ilyas Kamboh:

HUB: Police claimed to have killed three robbers in the Sakran area of Hub on Monday morning. Police sources said the robbers were engaged in incidents of robberies when a police party reached the spot.

There was an exchange of fire between robbers and the police. The exchange of fire left three robbers dead.

The dead bodies were shifted to the Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir Khan Hospital Hub. However, the police party remained safe during the exchange of fire.



Pakistan-KSA joint Exercise in Counter Terrorism domain held at Cherat

News Desk:

ISLAMABAD: The closing ceremony of the Pakistan-KSA "Joint Exercise in Counter Terrorism domain AL BATTAR-1" was held at Cherat, the military's media wing said on Monday.

The two-week-long exercise commenced on 22 August 2023 with the participation of Special Forces contingents from two brotherly countries, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

His Excellency Mr. Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy, the Ambassador of the Kingdom

of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan and along with senior military leadership witnessed the final day activities of the exercise.

Combat Aviation along with the Special Forces of both countries displayed their professional excellence. The Exercise concluded with the Fly Past.

The exercise was aimed at further harnessing the historic military-to-military relations between both brotherly countries, including murturing of joint employment concept against counter-terrorism and identifying areas of mutual interest for future military collaborations.



3 martyred in Pakistan Navy helicopter crash in Gwadar

GWADAR: Two Pakistan Navy officers and one soldier were martyred on Monday in a helicopter crash in Balochistan's Gwadar, a spokesperson for the navy said.

In a statement, the spokesperson said that the helicopter crashed during a training flight in Gwadar.

"The helicopter crashed during the flight due to a possible technical fault", the spokesperson said. "As a result of the accident, two officers and one jawan of the Pakistan Navy lost their lives," the spokesperson added.

The spokesperson added that an investigation had been launched into the incident.

Interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar expressed grief over the loss of lives in the helicopter crash, state-run PTV News re-

ported, adding that he prayed for the bereaved. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Alvi prayed for the departed souls and hailed the services of martyred naval officers to the nation. Meanwhile, in a statement posted on the PPP's account of X, former president Asif Ali Zardari also expressed sorrow over the incident and extended condolences to the families of the martyrs.

Additionally, interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti also paid tributes to the "brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty" and prayed for the departed souls and their families. Former prime minister and PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif expressed regret over the incident and prayed for the martyrs and their families.

Balochistan needs motorway not a ministry

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan needs motorway not a ministry

Editorial:

Balochistan needs a motorway, not a ministry in the federal cabinet as demanded by the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP). The ruling party expressed reservations about its share in the federal cabinet during its lawmakers' meeting chaired by the chief minister, Ali Mardan Domki. The party demanded a fair share in the federal cabinet and mentioned that it has sufficient representation in the Senate and National Assembly (NA). Simply, the party demands another federal ministry. The track record shows ministries offer no panacea to the ills of Balochistan. In fact, Balochistan that covers half of the country in terms of the area has not a single kilometre motorway. Although, most parts of the country connect through motorways from Islamabad to Peshawar, Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad, Sukkur, and other cities. Linking Balochistan with the rest of the country through a motorway was not and is not on the radar of governments. Construction of motorways across the country has reduced the sufferings of masses in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, Balochistan has not been on the agenda of rulers with regard to the construction of motorways to enable its masses to cover long distances in a short time.

Nawaz's nationalist partners also fail to construct a motorway. National Alliance of former ruling Pakistan Muslim League (N) failed to launch construction of a motorway in Balochistan despite having considerable ties with former premier Nawaz Sharif. Similarly, chief minister Ali Mardan Domki has repeatedly lamented that the province has no motorway. But, as yet, the mount pressure on the federal government to convince it to launch the construction of the motorway. Motorway, for the people of Balochistan, seems to be day-dreaming since the Quetta-Karachi highway, commonly called the "Silver Highway" has not been expanded, and work on its dualization is yet to be commenced. The RCD highway is a one-lane road that has heavy traffic as it connects the capital cities of two provinces. Since its construction by Iran and Turkey under the banner of RCD, it has never been improved, although the traffic has greatly increased on this road. Moreover, the lack of motorway police, except at some spots, is a serious cause of concern. There are no checks by the traffic controlling agencies on the \$13 km highway. Check papers and driving licenses are not checked, while there is no action against those who violate the safety rules. The ruling governments are not taking any steps for the construction of a motorway to address the long-standing demand of the people of Balochistan. Indeed, this would be a great service to the people. For the federal government, it must demonstrate responsibility by turning its words into action and bring Balochistan at par with other parts of the country.

According to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), Pakistan is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change. Pakistan will face a \$26 billion annual loss. The greenhouse gas emissions of Pakistan are 0.7% which is nearly negligible. Greenhouse gases are resulting in the increase in temperature of the planet earth.

Pakistan received heavy rainfall in this monsoon. The rainfall was followed by extreme flash floods in many parts of the country. The provinces, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Sindh, and Balochistan particularly received heavy rain and flash floods. Till now most damages are recorded in the Balochistan province.

Balochistan is the most vulnerable to climate change:

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climate change. Many times this province has faced different types of natural disasters due to climate change. Drought is the major threat to Balochistan as Barkan the district of Balochistan faced a prolonged drought of 22 months from 1999 to 2002, and Quetta experienced severe droughts in 2000, 2004, and 2008. During this monsoon season, Balochistan faced extreme floods in almost every part of the province. The floods swept away dams and destroyed the buildings, bridges, roads, and bridges in Balochistan, KPK, and Sindh. The communication links were destroyed by the merciless waves of the flash floods. This resulted in the breakdown of physical and economic ties between the provinces. The provinces faced food shortages, as all the roads were broken and the bridges collapsed. Train service was also suspended due to the collapse of a bridge

in Bolan, a district of Balochistan. Punjab is also facing smog and air pollution as a result of climate change. Sometimes the density of smog becomes such high as the province in general system remains suspended every day for days.

Balochistan totally paralyzed due to floods:

The floods have destroyed the infrastructure in Balochistan. The primary source of income for Balochistan is agriculture. 85 percent population is agricultural. Floods destroyed crops on large scale, and people face economic issues. Life in the province was totally paralyzed as it faced a prolonged Sui gas suspension. The government announced 7 days holiday for all educational institutions in the province, due to the continuous

floods. The floods claimed many precious human lives. Most of them were children, women, and aged men. The provincial government and Federal government seemed very weak to cope with the situation. Balochistan's government called for the Pakistan Military to be stationed in the different flood-affected areas of the province in order to handle the unwanted incidents. The National Disaster Management Commission (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Commission (PDMA) need to make disaster management plans to handle such situations. It should highly train its employees so that human lives can be saved. Dams must be built on emergency bases to prevent floods and store water for drought-like situations. The dam construction work should be strictly supervised to increase the construction quality of the dams.

The provincial government must ensure zero encroachment in the waterways.

Pakistan as a developing country needs the cooperation of the international community:

Pakistan's economy is many based on agriculture and climate change is adversely affecting its crops. Climate change is having an impact on the seasonal conditions of Pakistan in which summer will get longer and winters will be shorter. Pakistan is economically weak and it is difficult for the country to fight climate change. As a developing country, it has limited resources and poverty is spread all over the country. The average daily income is around 2 dollars. The highest income is from greenhouse gases are developed countries. Interestingly only 10 countries emit 68 percent of the greenhouse gases.

Breathhtaking Florence

By Abbas Nasir

IT is the holiday season in Europe, and which traveller hasn't read endless articles singing the praises of the sophisticated French cuisine and lambasting Italian drivers for their insane antics on the roads, including highways?

Having flown into Rome on a work-related visit for a couple of days 25 years ago, my own experience of the Italian drivers was very limited, apart from the fact that they seemed a jolly bunch. I don't recall any particularly dangerous manoeuvres. They loved to drive fast but not carelessly.

After we finalised our holiday plan for this year, I read up on driving in Italy. Believing that not one piece made me feel comfortable about driving several hundred kilometres over a week period. We left our current home in Spain exactly a week ago where we live in a small town between Valencia and Alicante.

The first day's drive north some 600 kilometres along the sea brought us to the first overnight stop at my brother-in-law's house in the serene Catalonia hills, overlooking from a distance the seaside resort town of Roses, about 15 minutes from the border.

The next day, we drove along the French

Riviera, making the night stop in Nice at an over-priced but comfortable hotel, almost red staff. We were tired, so I picked up some wraps/sandwiches from a deli for a quick bite before going to sleep. They were poor value for money and quite bland.

The following morning, we set off on the final day of this leg of the journey. I was tempted to make a pit stop in Monaco, but bearing the exit, saw the kind of cars that were headed there on their way to the Monaco Grand Prix. The Italian drivers on the twisting mountain highway with dozens of hairpins seemed to maintain a safe, comfortable distance, and if they wished to overtake, they moved into the correct lane well ahead of the manoeuvre. I was baffled how stereotypical a fair-sized Tuscan home, a former farmer's house, with lush green grounds, barely a 15-minute drive to the city

did not care much for rules, but the police over the years have ticketed them into submission. Italy told us is said to have the largest numbers of speed cameras in Europe.

Driving today on Italian motorways appears safer than in France and possibly Spain, with the latter having picked up bad French habits such as jumping lanes to overtake without as much as a perfunctory glance at the rearview mirror. Drivers to check if a fast-moving vehicle is already approaching in the fast lane. Our first taste of the mind-blowing Italian food came during a motorway service area, where my experience is that one always has to pay over the odds for pretty mediocre food.

The birth of the modern pizza, two vegetarian and one with meat. The warm, freshly made paninis were mind-blowingly good; so full of flavour and very reasonably priced. Then, on the way to the Tuscan coast, we had a pizza, and you name it. Portions are generous and the food is just so full of flavour. We arrived in Florence at an Airbnb apartment that is part of a fair-sized Tuscan home, a former farmer's house, with lush green grounds, barely a 15-minute drive to the city

centre, to a very warm welcome by our generous hosts, Mary and Serena, and her husband, Guido. Within minutes, we were made to feel like family.

My partner and I, 30 years, Carmen, wrote the brief background note for our daughters and I, and it is shared here to wish you to get a sense of exhilaration. Florence brings to you. "If you love art, it is easy to fall prey to the Stendhal Syndrome: that obsessive, almost fanatical, sometimes with lethal consequences, that the beautiful and plentiful works of art of the city of Florence provoke in certain people."

Whether it is the unrelenting creation of Michelangelo's David in the Galleria dell'Accademia, or the vibrant scenes of the birth of Vermeer in Spring, a normal human being feels overwhelmed and insignificant. "Florence takes your breath away every few seconds. Patronised by the Medici family, an astonishing number of great geniuses, flourished over more than a hundred years in the Tuscan capital. It has produced some of the most beautiful and celebrated art and literary works ever produced."

WHAT purpose do rape scenes serve on screen? Are they necessary to plot points, when most of the studies show their harmful impact and how they have profited in Wired in 2015, they feed "into real-life misconceptions about sexual assault that are often used to deprive rape survivors of legitimacy or justice?"

Their not doing this while reading the reactions on social media on Monday about a new drama, *Hadza*, which isn't based on the gang rape of a woman in September 2020.

I asked my editor if I could write about why dramas need to show sexual violence. She said women and what impact fictionalised stories of real incidents have on the public. Before writing this piece, I watched a few episodes before weighing in. *Hadza* is a progressive, strong-willed, fierce female role I rarely see on TV. She's an unapologetic feminist. She is sexually assaulted on a motorway, and I understand how upsetting that must be to the survivors of rape, who reached out to a journalist to share her anguish. There is no responsible

A sorry incident

By Muna Khan

The producers and Khan have done their drama is about the movie, case, but many folks are not buying it. The government announced 7 days holiday for all educational institutions in the province, due to the continuous

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feel like entertainment on screen. We most concern shows where the use of sexual violence is exploitative and gratuitous. The entertainment industry has profited from the pain of survivors — all for the sake of ratings or public awareness. It is regurgitating terrible tropes and stereotypes, like whether a woman's choice of clothing provoked her rape. However, as such problematic as such choices are, they are not a response. This enforces a regulator's control on people's choices. To those who have trauma and trauma, many progressive voices have landed in the same camp. The right wing, which show Law and Order SVU has fictionalised stories of real incidents have on the public. Before writing this piece, I watched a few episodes before weighing in. *Hadza* is a progressive, strong-willed, fierce female role I rarely see on TV. She's an unapologetic feminist. She is sexually assaulted on a motorway, and I understand how upsetting that must be to the survivors of rape, who reached out to a journalist to share her anguish. There is no responsible

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bad, or else, they think you are," Roxane Gay wrote in her book *No One Is That Bad*.

I know from my time in the newsroom how hard it is to get staff to report on the sexual violence man-rap, minus words attached to them. It is frustrating to get them to just use the word "rape", especially when it comes to men judging. It is frustrating to get them to just use the word "rape", especially when it comes to men judging. It is frustrating to get them to just use the word "rape", especially when it comes to men judging.

There is much work to be done. Perhaps the drama industry needs to own up to its failings. They can read the massive amount of literature on how fictionalised rape scenes impact survivors and audiences. One American film, *The Accused*, an American 2015 study, for example, said they would rape women if they knew they would not be prosecuted. Here, not everyone is willing to agree on the definition of rape. I think rape can be used to make a big point about Pakistani society, but I think we should discuss it on a cinematic subject. This should not be confused with me calling for a ban on rape scenes. Just like rape scenes serve no purpose. What does serve purpose is stacking unrealistic pressure groups, calls for, and conversations with filmmakers, artists, educators.

Power failure

PRESSURE is mounting on the caretaker government and the establishment on multiple fronts — political, economic and legal. Several developments have fuelled more uncertainty at a time when the country is already in a tense and unsettled state. This has created the prospect of greater instability ahead. The conflation of crises could even push the country towards a tipping point.

Nationwide street protests by traders and members of the public over the sudden and excessive rise in electricity bills have confronted the government with a challenge. It is now struggling for a response that can quell the protests but also not appear to stand-by agreement with the IMF, which provided the financial bailout the country needed to avert a debt default.

While talks with Fund representatives are underway to find a way to provide 'relief' to consumers, protests continue across the country. These protests come on the back of a cost-of-living crisis fuelled by record inflation

— mostly the result of economic mismanagement by governments in the recent past. This has worsened people's plight in a deteriorating economic environment amid a more telling example of a policy that only privileges the elite while the public pays the price. With the rise in petroleum prices and more painful measures ahead, public discontent is likely to intensify, not dissipate. Already, cities across the country have seen a complete shutdown strike by retail establishments in response to a call by the traders' association. Such strikes have obvious economic consequences. Meanwhile, the government is growing for elections to be held in 90 days, as stipulated by the Constitution. Last month, the Election Commission of Pakistan ruled this out when it issued a schedule indicating it needs four months for fresh elections, which it said it would complete by December. This followed approval of the new

population census, secured by the PDM government from the Council of Common Interests in its final days in power. The ECP's decision to delay general elections and not specify a date prompted speculation that the polls could be pushed to February and even beyond. Uncertainty was also fuelled by installation of a gratuitously large caretaker government, which is to act as if it were anything but a short-duration arrangement.

The action delay predictedly provoked an outcry from several political parties, as well as a spate of legal challenges. Imran Khan's PTI and the PPP demanded elections within the 90-day time frame. The 90-day party to the unanimous CCI decision under digital means. Its latest decision suggests it has doubts on whether elections will even be held after completion of the delimitation process. U-turn is also an effort to distance itself from its former coalition partner, PML-N. A constitutional decision is for its patrons to take.

By Muteha Lodhi

Response to administrative actions taken against some of its sympathisers, hoping the establishment will remedy this. In any case, this has left PML-N isolated as the only major party that wants a delay in elections. The signals a lack of confidence in its electoral prospects, especially after Shehbaz Sharif's lacklustre tenure. The Supreme Court Bar Association has filed a constitutional petition in the apex court that seeks suspension of the ECP's decision to hold elections on the new census. It points to the ECP's responsibility to convene elections within 90 days of the Assembly's dissolution. The Bar Council of Pakistan has also filed a petition with the court.

"Riots were triggered off by soaring prices, by imbalances, or by hunger. But these grievances operated within a popular consensus as to what were legitimate and what were illegitimate practices..."

E.P. Thompson's influential 1971 piece on the 19th-century riots documented a deeper sense of norms and obligations found within 18th-century English society. It laid out what ordinary people thought the responsibility of the state was in holding the sovereign (or the state), is supposed to be. The argument was that protest and rioting is not just because of hunger and deprivation, but also because there is a moral dimension to the responsibility on the part of higher powers. He called this the "moral economy" of the poor.

Burning bills

By Umair Javaid

"Riots were triggered off by soaring prices, by imbalances, or by hunger. But these grievances operated within a popular consensus as to what were legitimate and what were illegitimate practices..."

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Recent protests against exorbitantly high electricity bills in Pakistan can be understood from the same perspective. They are a function of the mass impoverishment, even though the relentless food inflation, raising electricity tariffs,

and stagnant incomes; and a product of total frustration at the state for violating its basic obligations towards citizens.

The deprivation story is straightforward in Pakistan, nearly everyone, except for a select few, has to pay for electricity. When it is as data from the 2018-19 Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) shows, 80 percent are usually the third biggest expense for the average Pakistani household around Rs50 per kWh, and transport fuel.

Four years ago, when average electricity tariffs were less than Rs20 per kWh, households were spending between 15 to 20 percent of their monthly incomes on electricity. Today, the average price of a unit of electricity is around Rs50 per kWh. Incomes have not gone up by anywhere close to that amount, and so the electricity bill is now spending close to 50pc of their monthly expenditure merely to keep the lights on. The consequences of this spike, as one

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Extra running time of trains in time-table cost millions to national exchequer

ISLAMABAD (INP): At transcendental practice in Pakistan Railways has been noticed as trains having least stops, additional section speed arrive at destination in more time against those having more stops and less section speed.

Despite repair of the railway track and increase in section speed, the trains were taking more time than the schedule time raising a question mark on performance of the officers responsible for making time table besides resulting in additional fuel consumption causing loss of millions of rupees to the national exchequer.

During a research conducted by INP News Agency, it was revealed that though condition of railway tracks has been improved besides enhancing the section

speed but despite all this, the trains arrive at the destination with hours of delays. The Railway Headquarter and Division held each other responsible for constituting the time table of trains and avoided to disclose the reasons for delay of trains.

Time table of trains with special focus on Mehr Express, Thal Express and Attock Passenger having same route from Bisal Junction to Daudkhel extended over 121 kilometers, was scrutinized during the investigation.

At the time of constituting time table, the section speed from Bisal Junction to Daudkhel was 50 kilometers per hour and this section lying between Attock and Kotri was named as ML2. The running time of Attock Passenger on 121 ki-

lometer Daudkhel to Bisal Junction with 12 stops is three hours one minute, running time of Thal Express with seven stops is 3 hours and 42 minutes, while running time of Mehr Express on the same track is 3 hours and 36 minutes.

In response to data shared by INP with Peshawar Division and PR Headquarter, they denied that it was not true that the train which has least stops arrives the destination earlier than other. The Peshawar Division was in the opinion that Thal Express has 10 coaches while Attock Railcar has seven coaches due to which Attock passenger despite having more stops takes less time to reach the destination. However, the PRs Engineers turned down the opinion saying that number of coaches of passen-

Hot, humid weather expected

ISLAMABAD (INP): Mainly hot and humid weather is expected in plain areas of the country during the next two-to-four hours.

However, rain-thunderstorm is expected at isolated places in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pothohar region, Islamabad, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Temperature of some major cities recorded on Sunday morning.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shams had Akhtar called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar.

Businessmen vow to continue protests till power tariff hike withdrawal

KARACHI (INP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has pledged to carry on protests until government withdraws unprecedented hike in power bills and rising fuel cost.

The FPCCI's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar stated that the power bills triggered country-wide protests, demanding that the government to abolish imposed taxes on electricity, saying that increase in electricity bills is unbearable and demanded relief from the government.

In July, the then federal cabinet gave its go-ahead to a massive increase in the base tariff of electricity by up to Rs7.50 per unit against the national average tariff determination of Rs4.96 by the power regulator National Electric Power Regulatory Authority.

The regulator had hiked the tariff to increase revenue collection for the loss-making power distribution companies during the current fiscal year. According to a Nepsa statement, the revised national average tariff for the 2023-24 fiscal year has been

determined at Rs29.78 per unit kWh, which is Rs4.96 per unit higher than the previously determined national average tariff of Rs24.82.

While the regulator cited the rupee's devaluation, high inflation and interest rates, the addition of new capacities and overall low sales growth as reasons behind the increase, it was actually hiked to meet one of the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund of introducing structural reforms in the energy sector. He said that the increase in electricity bills would be much higher after including surcharges, taxes, duties and levies, besides monthly and quarterly adjustments. Anjum Nisar said that IPPs were earning huge profits in dollars, but the businesses were badly suffering due to exorbitant power tariffs and the rising cost of doing business. He said that PPA in Pakistan had made energy cost highest in the region and uncompetitive in comparison to regional competitors. This may lead to the loss of more export orders and render many more people jobless. Despite the tariff surge, he said, power companies would not be able

to recover the targeted revenue loss of around 28-30%. At the same time, it will force many consumers to stop paying their bills, which have become unbearable.

Anjum Nisar asked the government to undertake fundamental reforms in the power sector to make electricity affordable. Besides, the government should launch a crackdown on the habitual power bill defaulters like putting them behind bars. He the latest increase in power tariff would prove counterproductive as it has taken the cost of industrial production up by at least 30% or more in one month. He pointed out that a large number of industrial units had closed down in the past one year due to the government's strategy to cool the overheated economy. Not a single company is operating at 100% production capacity these days.

The BMP Chairman observed that the rising interest rates, the uncertain rupee value, soaring fuel prices, higher gas and power tariffs, and unabated food inflation were extremely serious issues that needed to be addressed by the government on a priority basis.



KARACHI: Pakistan NAV officials handling over the sized Narcotics to NF officials.

Karachi police arrests four 'street criminals'

KARACHI (INP): Sindh police conducted an operation at Karachi's Bilal colony and arrested four suspected individuals on Monday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) in his statement claimed that all four arrested individuals were involved in street crime activities in the metropolis.

Karachi police to arrests, four street criminals. "The suspects used to open fire, if the victim resisted during robbery, and often used police caps during their criminal activities," SSP maintained.

Sindh DG health orders action against sale of medicines at exorbitant rates

KARACHI (INP): District Health Office (DHO) to take immediate actions under police supervision against illegal selling of drugs.

According to the details, Sindh's Director General (DG) Health expressed concern about the price increase of medicines and penned down a letter to the Drug Inspector. In the letter, DG health directed the

The accused had also robbed Special Branch official Karachi's Bilal colony and snatched his mobile phone, official weapon and flee from the scene.

lanveer's mobile phone has also been recovered from the possession of the arrested accused. SSP further added that the culprits used to sell the stolen mobile phones to Jahanzaib for Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000, adding that the buyer - an IT expert - used to change the IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) of the stolen mobile phones.

DG Health in his letter sought a report from the drug officer for non-supply of medicines and sales of medicine in black-market. There are many medicines which are not available in the health directed the

Over 100 injured in Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM (INP): More than 100 people were injured in violent clashes in Tel Aviv between Eritrean government supporters celebrating an Eritrea Day event and opponents of President Isaias Awkerh, Israeli police fired stun grenades to break up the clashes, while some protesters hurled stones at police and set fire to trash bins, Reuters journalists at the scene said. Footage on social media showed Eritrean government supporters beating anti-government protesters with clubs. Israeli medical officials said more than 114 people had been treated for injuries, including about 60 police officers.

The violence broke out around an event organised by the Eritrean embassy to mark Revolution Day on Sept. 1, which commemorates the start of the Eritrean War of Independence against Ethiopia in 1961. Isaias has ruled since Eritrea gained independence in 1993. Human rights groups have condemned his government as being highly repressive and the country is under U.S. and EU sanctions for alleged abuses.

The district administration has also taken all necessary measures to maintain peace and order during the Urs. The Urs is a major religious event in Pakistan, and it is expected to attract a large number of devotees. The arrangements made by the Sindh Department and the district administration are aimed at ensuring that the devotees have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Thousands of devotees to attend annual Urs of Data Ganj Bakhsh

LAHORE (INP): The three-day 980th Urs of Hazrat Ali Hajveri, popularly known as Data Ganj Bakhsh, will begin on September 5 at his shrine in Lahore. Thousands of devotees from across Pakistan and abroad are expected to attend the annual festivities.

The Urs will start with a traditional 'chaddar' laying ceremony at the shrine. The Awaqf Department has made elaborate arrangements for the devotees, including Langar (free food), mehfil-e-naat (religious gatherings), qawal (Sufi music), and talqin (spiritual programs).

Waiktrough gates and CCTV cameras have also been installed inside and around the shrine to ensure security. The district administration has also taken all necessary measures to maintain peace and order during the Urs.

The department has finalized some special arrangements for the devotees as free Langar. The Awaqf Department will provide free food to the devotees at the shrine. Mehfil-e-Naat: Religious gatherings will be held at the shrine, where famous naat khawan (poets who recite naats, or poems in praise of the Prophet Muhammad) will perform.

Sufi music programs will also be held at the shrine. Spiritual gatherings will be held at the shrine, where ulema (Islamic scholars) will give lectures and guidance to the devotees. Security: Walkthrough gates and CCTV cameras have been installed inside and around the shrine to ensure security.

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amiri-Moghaddam called on care taker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali.

Development of SAARC countries linked with durable peace: Iftikhar Ali

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that economic growth, prosperity, and development for all countries of South Asia is linked with durable peace in region.

While chairing a virtual conference titled "The Role of Afghanistan for durable peace in the region" here on Sunday, he said, "South Asia has long been plagued by instability and conflicts that have hindered the region's progress and potential."

He said, "One of the major concerns contributing to this instability has been the presence of terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, which have posed a severe threat not only to Afghanistan but to neighboring countries, including Pakistan."

"Counter-terrorism cooperation and collaboration closely with regional and international stakeholders, especially Pakistan, to eliminate terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, can help eradicate the breeding grounds for extremist elements and bring about much-needed stability," he added.

TENDER NOTICE				
Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether through Electronic or Manual Bidding, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA-GOB. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- Bid Security 2% The Executive Director (S&S) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items:				
S.No	Tender Name	Last Date and Time of Bid Submission	Tender Opening	
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2	Local Purchase of Disposables Lab. Central items (Total Items: 60)	18 September, 2023	02:00 PM	02:00 PM

Procurements shall be made under the Solicitation Public Procurement Rules-2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents Bidding Procedure: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE-232400551971, TSE-232400551971). Tender Documents: The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.gov.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of prescribed tender fee. Address: Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Hospital, Masing Road Quetta. Phone no: 012282116, Fax no: 012282101 Email: qud@bpps.gov.pk

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
S&S

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CP No.499403, te tender.gov.pk, appgk, f@bpps.gov.pk

ISLAMABAD: A long que of passengers waiting at Pak secretariat metro station after huge price hike in petrol people use to avail this service despite cars and bikes in twincities.

Petroleum sales in Pakistan decline 8pc YoY in August 2023

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan witnessed a significant 8.0 percent year-on-year (YoY) decline in petroleum product sales for the month of August 2023, according to industry experts.

The sharp drop in sales was predominantly attributed to a staggering 64 percent YoY reduction in Furnace Oil (FO) sales, largely driven by the nation's decreased reliance on FO-based power generation. The decline in FO sales can be attributed to the addition of new local coal-based power plants, a trend experts have been closely monitoring.

However, the month of August did bring some positive news for the industry, with Motor Spirit (MS) and High-Speed Diesel (HSD) sales surging by 5.0 percent and 11 percent YoY, respectively.

This growth was attributed to the absence of heavy rainfall compared to the previous year, creating a more favorable environment for these products.

On a month-on-month (MoM) basis, the petroleum industry did experience a 4.0 percent increase in sales during August 2023, driven by a rising fort-

nightly pricing trend throughout the month. MS sales increased by 2.0 percent MoM, totaling 0.67 million tons, while HSD sales witnessed an impressive 11 percent MoM growth, reaching 0.55 million tons. In contrast, FO sales plummeted by 18 percent MoM, falling to 0.12 million tons, reflecting the earlier-mentioned shift in power generation methods.

For the first two months of the fiscal year 2024, Pakistan's total petroleum product sales declined by 7.0 percent YoY, amounting to 2.76 million tons.

Analysing the performance of individual companies in the petroleum sector, it was noted that Pakistan State Oil (PSO) experienced an 8.0 percent YoY reduction in August 2023, primarily due to an 86 percent YoY plunge in FO sales. Conversely, MS and HSD reported robust growth, with 15 percent and 32 percent YoY increases, respectively.

Meanwhile, Attock Petroleum Limited (APL) and Shell Pakistan Limited (SHEL) saw declines of 2.0 percent and 11 percent YoY, respectively, while HASCOL's off-take witnessed a remarkable 27 percent YoY jump.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Law and Justice Ahmad Irfan Aslam called on President Dr. Arif Alvi.

Russia says Ukraine launched drone attacks on Kursk region

MOSCOW (INP): Ukraine launched drone attacks on the Kursk region of Russia overnight from Sunday to Monday, with the Russian defence ministry saying its forces had shot down two drones after midnight on Monday.

The drone attack on the Kursk region, which borders Ukraine to its west, began around 1 a.m. Monday (2300 GMT Sunday), the defence ministry said on the Telegram messaging app. This followed a report Sunday evening by the governor of the Kursk region, Roman Starovoi, that debris from a downed drone sparked a fire at a non-residential building in the city of Karachov.

One of Russia's biggest nuclear plants is about 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) from Karachov, but there were no reports the plant was affected or targeted, Starovoi did not say which building was damaged in the Sunday evening drone attack, but Russia's Baza news outlet, which has good sources among law enforcement agencies, said drone de-

bris fell on the roof of the security services building. The full extent of the damage was not immediately reported. Reuters could not independently verify the report.

Drone attacks on Russian targets, especially in Crimea annexed by Moscow in 2014 and in regions bordering Ukraine, have become almost a daily occurrence since two drones were destroyed over the Kremlin in early May.

The attacks have disrupted flights in and out of Moscow in recent weeks. Ukraine rarely takes direct responsibility for such drone strikes but says destroying Russian military infrastructure helps a counteroffensive Kyiv began in June. Russia recognises first crew to use hypersonic missile in Ukraine - JASS. The first Russian crew to use hypersonic, air-launched Kinzhal missiles during Moscow's military operation in Ukraine has been presented with state awards, the Russian TASS state news agency reported on Monday.



QUETTA: A view of huge garbage on Art School road due to strike of Metropolitan Corporation employees creating problems for locals.

RCP demands Election Commission to issue election schedule

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has asked the Election Commission to release the schedule of general elections in the country.

The HRCP said that the uncertainty surrounding the elections should end and new delimitations should not be used as an excuse to further delay the general polls.

In its statement, the HRCP added that there were reports of sectarian divisions being fuelled to create an artificial political space for far-right political parties.

In a statement issued by HRCP, it was said that the caretaker government should also look into the public protests, take note of the issues due to which people were being mobilised.

The Election Commission (ECP) has decided to shorten the timeframe for fresh delimitation of constituencies, announcing the exercise will now be concluded by November 30 this year. According to a press release issued here Friday, the ECP made this decision after feedback from different political groups as part of its ongoing consultations process on the roadmap for the next general elections. Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding power sector.

Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi's health 'deteriorates' in jail

ATTOCK (INP): Former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi's health condition has deteriorated in the Attock Jail on Monday sources said on Monday. Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi is being transferred to the PIMS Hospital for his medical examination under strict security.

It may be noted that Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi was rearrested by Islamabad police under 3-MPO soon after his release on the orders of Lahore High Court.

The LHC had ordered the additional registrar for security DIG Operations, and other senior police officials to ensure that Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi returned safely to his home.

Soon after he was shifted to Islamabad, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad ordered his detention for a period of 15 days under the Pakistan Maintenance of Public Order (MPO). Elahi is among several PTI leaders who have been booked under the MPO amid the crackdown against the party in the aftermath of the May 9 riots. It is pertinent to mention here that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) arrested Elahi over failing to provide information to the accountability bureau in assets beyond the means case against him, his son Moin Elahi and other family members.

World Cup focus as Australia all-rounder may skip India series

PERTH (INP): Star Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has admitted he could miss his side's upcoming ODI series against India and may enter this year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup with very little cricket under his belt.

Maxwell is still battling ankle soreness from the leg injury he suffered at a friend's birthday party last year and is currently in Australia awaiting the birth of his first child.

While Maxwell is still harbouring aspirations of making a fleeting appearance during Australia's ODI series in India later this month, the 34-year-old maintains being fit for the World Cup is his primary focus.

"I still want to play some part of that India series," Maxwell said. "But I'm not feeling any pressure on it. The selectors and the staff have been brilliant with me as well. They don't want to put too much pressure on me to sort of set that date because they know they've got a bit of extra time before the World Cup."

"So instead of rushing it and probably putting myself a week or two behind, being able to give myself extra time and make sure we get through the whole tournament."

A veteran of Australia's two most recent World Cup campaigns in 2015 and 2019, Maxwell is a vital cog for the five-time champions given his ability to score quickly and contribute with the bat, ball and in the field.

Maxwell has not played for his country since he featured in an ODI against India in Wankhede in March and hasn't taken the field at any level since making a one-off appearance in an English County Championship match for Warwickshire at the start of July.

He was set to play in the T20I component of Australia's ongoing tour of South Africa, but soreness around his ankle saw him return home.

"I don't think I could have predicted how sore I was going to be once I got to South Africa," Maxwell said.

"But it was one of those things. Even when I went to train that day, I still felt fine. There was nothing wrong. Something just got impinged. I think one of the tendons around my ankle was a little bit inflamed, there's a bit of swelling, so it kept on catching which meant it just gave me a bit of pain."



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) President Sardar Akhtar Mengal addressing a press conference.

Milk retailers protest for price hike in Karachi

LAHORE (INP): After the sugar and vegetables crisis, Karachi is likely to witness a milk crisis as well on Monday.

Milk vendors across the metropolis have announced the suspension of milk purchases, following the tensions escalating between milk sellers and dairy farm owners. As per the details, the milk vendors' protest announced to suspend the milk procurement from Monday [today] as the price decision - which was delayed on July 01 by the milk sellers and dairy farm owners - is not being reversed. Last week, the Karachi Milk Retailers Welfare Association announced to close the sale points across the metropolis from Monday for an indefinite period for demanding a price hike. The retailers have announced to stop the sale of loose milk across Karachi from Monday for an indefinite period. The milk retailer association staged a protest at the Karachi Press Club (KPC) today and demanded a hike in the milk price. The association gave a 72-hour ultimatum to the local administration to make a decision regarding the milk price.

Pakistan learns from invaluable Chinese experience in e-commerce: Envoy

BEIJING (INP): Pakistani Ambassador to China, Moin Haque said that Pakistan is learning from the invaluable Chinese experience in e-commerce, and these partnerships exemplify the strength of our collaboration.

Addressing a sideline forum-titled "China E-Commerce Convention" at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFITS), Haque said that China's visionary Belt and Road Initiative has paved the way for increased connectivity and economic collaboration between our two nations, Gwadar Pro reported.

"Through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), we are witnessing the creation of modern infrastructure that facilitates trade, investment, and e-commerce."

"We are looking for viable solutions to transform our E-commerce by looking at the Chinese benchmarks, and remove the obstacles creating market distortions in the way

of economic prosperity," he added.

He further said that as a testament to our commitment to expanding our e-commerce footprint, Pakistan has established online pavilions on various e-commerce platforms in China, including JD and Douyin. Chinese companies like Kaishou and Alibaba are also doing business in Pakistan.

"These initiatives have allowed Pakistani products to find their way into Chinese markets, offering a taste of our nation's rich culture, craftsmanship, and trade potential."

"We are learning from the invaluable Chinese experience in e-commerce, and these partnerships exemplify the strength of our collaboration," Haque stated. The ambassador further said that in August this year, more than 200 Chinese businessmen visited the 1st Food and Agri Expo in Karachi, showing a lot of interest in buying Pakistani agro and food products and introducing them on E-Commerce platforms.