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Pakistan isolated in world during Imran Niazi's tenure: PM Shahbaz

Says Nawaz Sharif to return next month to lead election campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Imran Khan Niazi had ruined relations with the friendly countries and isolated Pakistan in the world. The prime minister, in an interview with 'WeNews', said that an effort was made to create a bloc and isolate Saudi Arabia through that bloc. "What a sad incident and what a fallen thought that a friend who helps you like a brother and family without any condition or greed and we become ungrateful and forgetful of its kindness," he added. The prime minister said that the two brotherly countries could never have imagined such a bad situation that happened during Imran Niazi's tenure. Terming the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief's narrative that his (Shehbaz's)

government was brought in power under an American conspiracy, a pack of lies, the prime minister said if the contents of the cipher, which was printed in the international newspaper, were true, then it was a very big crime. With regard to the news about the cipher published in the international journal 'The Intercept', he said that two meetings of the National Security Council regarding the cipher were held under his chairmanship. In a meeting, the then Pakistani ambassador and current Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed clearly stated that there was no talk of conspiracy in his meeting with the United States official Donald Lu. The then Chief of Army Staff General Bajwa and other services chiefs also confirmed that there was no conspiracy hatched

against Pakistan, he added. "Imran Niazi's narrative was that America tried to topple his government because he was more attracted to China and Russia, so tell me that if our government was formed through the American conspiracy, would we get oil from Russia? Would our relations with China be restored which were destroyed by Imran Niazi? So this one proof is enough," he added. Regarding the delay in finalizing the name of caretaker prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif said there was a mistake in understanding that the caretaker prime minister's decision was to be taken tomorrow. "It is not the case because there cannot be a consultation between the prime minister and the opposition leader before the National Assembly is dissolved." The prime minister

said that the phase of dissolving the Assembly was completed last night, and after that he had the first meeting scheduled with the opposition leader today in which the caretaker prime minister's name would be discussed. He said that right now he could not reveal the name of the caretaker prime minister, but assured that the matter would be revealed soon. Regarding Pakistan's relations with India, the prime minister said that ties with the neighbouring country could not be restored without finding a just solution of the Kashmir issue because the Kashmiris had made great sacrifices to get their rights and thousands of them have died in 75 years. The hearts of Kashmiri mothers and daughters were torn, children and the elderly were martyred and the val-

ley of Kashmir turned red with their blood, he added. The prime minister made it clear that without resolving the issue of Kashmiris' right to self-determination, relations with India could not be normalized in any way. Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif would come back to Pakistan next month and face his cases in courts. The prime minister, in an interview with a private news channel, said after the formation of the caretaker government he would visit London to consult Nawaz Sharif on his plan for return. Nawaz Sharif would lead the election campaign of his party and would be the next prime minister for the fourth time if the PM-LN won the next election, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition, Raja Riaz Ahmad calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif as part of the consultation process for selection of the Caretaker Prime Minister.

Institution of Senate have to be more empowered: We accepted new population census in larger interest of province seeing ground realities, says CM Bizenjo

Says issue of Balochistan would not be resolved with increase of two or four seats in National Assembly

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has categorically stated that we have accepted the new population census in a realistic manner and that seeing facts, in which the ratio of population increase in Balochistan is higher than other provinces. He said that the issue of Balochistan would not be resolved with increase of two or four seats in the national assembly, rather the institution of Senate would have to be empowered for the purpose, which has equal representative of all the provinces. He stressed that we need to wage struggle to strengthen and empower Senate. It has been our stance

from the day one that the backwardness, land and law order situation may also be included in the formula of distribution of resources in the NFC Award. The province can benefit from this in the NFC Award. He stated so in a policy statement issued here on Thursday. The Chief Minister described the ongoing debate on the new population census by some political circles as meaningless and said that those making criticism on the new census should determine those responsible who caused harm to the province's interests by reviewing the population census conducted in 1998 and 2017. The Chief Minister once again invited all political parties of the province

to sit together and get accepted the interests of province from the federation. He strongly believed that if we didn't come on one page then the federation would never give us our due rights. He stressed that all political leadership should adopt a joint course of action together instead of making criticism on each other. To a query, the Chief Minister dispelled the impression that only the population of Balochistan has been reduced, if viewed, then ratio of population of the province has been increased. He on the occasion stressed that we need to make struggle for special grants to be given to the backward districts of the province.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Member Central Committee of BNP Mir Khurshid Jamaldini meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Govt. taking concrete steps for promotion of mother languages, says Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the government is taking concrete steps for development and promotion of mother languages. He said that there is also a key role of the newspapers and periodicals being published in Pashto, Brahvi and Balochi languages in promotion of the mother languages. The Governor was speaking to the Chief Editor of Pashto daily, Nowai Zowand, Syed Anwar Shah who called on him here at the Governor House on Thursday. The Governor said that there is a great importance of mother languages, which

is also guaranteed in the charter of United Nations and to the constitution of Pakistan 1973. He said that the mother languages are not the source of expression only, rather it is a long process of heritage from one generation to the other. The Governor also said that the local language newspapers and periodicals not only keep the general public aware of the latest happenings and circumstances around them, but they also play key role in promotion and development of the thousands years old languages. Syed Anwar Shah on the occasion apprised the Governor about the issues being faced by the newspapers and periodicals being published in local languages.

Pakistan, Iraq sign convention for elimination of double taxation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has initiated negotiations on the convention for the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on Income, Capital and the Prevention of Tax Evasion with the Republic of Iraq. In this connection, tax delegations of both the countries met here for the first round of negotiations from August 7 to 9, 2023, said a news release issued here on Thursday. After detailed deliberations, a consensus was achieved and draft of the convention was initiated by the respective heads of delegation on August 9th. The convention would not only provide safeguards against double taxation on the income of the residents of both the countries but will also promote economic cooperation and enhance investments.

Court terminates Imran's bail petition in Al-Qadir Trust case

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC) on Thursday terminated the interim bail petition of PTI chairman Imran Khan due to non-pursuance in Al-Qadir Trust case connected with a scam worth Rs190 million. However, the court disposed of the pre-arrest bail case of Bushra Bibi after the NAB officials stated that no arrest warrants had been issued against her. The AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir announced the verdict against the bail petitions of former prime minister and his wife. On the query of the judge, the NAB Prosecutor Sardar Muzafar Abbasi informed the court that no arrest warrants had been issued against Bushra Bibi. Her lawyer, Khawaja Haris said that the inquiry

into the case had been converted into investigation. Intizar Panjutha Advocate prayed to the court to pass an order refraining the arrest of his client in future in the said case. Khawaja Haris prayed to the court to extend the interim bail of Imran Khan and grant him exemption from appearance as he was in jail. NAB prosecutor Sardar Muzafar Abbasi said that the defence could file the exemption from appearance request for one day. The court earlier reserved the judgment on the bail petition of the two accused and later terminated the bail petition of Imran Khan. However, the bail case of Bushra Bibi was disposed of after the statement of NAB.

Police firing on protesters in Lakki Marwat, one person killed, 4 injured

LAKKI MARWAT (Online): One person was killed and 4 were injured during police firing on protesters in Lakki Marwat. The police firing incident took place in Dara Pizo area of Lakki Marwat city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). There are reports that the people of Wanda Jogi

were protesting on the Indus Highway since late night against the arrest of their associates while the police opened fire on the protesters following exchange of bitter words. Police sources said that the police had arrested 4 people over the dispute with the Lakki Cement Factory.



QUETTA: Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan Imran Gichki meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

CM annoyed over increasing incidents of terrorism in Quetta and other areas

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has expressed his annoyance over the increasing incidents of terrorism in Quetta and some other areas of the province. In a statement issued here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that the anti-state elements want to create the environment of fear and harassment through terrorism and subversive acts on occasion of the Independence Day. The Chief Minister was concerned that the tendency of terrorism has been increased in the month of August for last few years. He stressed that it is unavoidable to take effective security measures in order to cope with the threat of terrorism in Quetta city. He said that the people

and city can't be handed over to the terrorists in this manner. He said that the everyday blasts and subversive acts are creating very negative impression from Balochistan. He asserted that no one would be allowed to devastate the peace established due to the sacrifices of general public and security forces. He urged the police and other security institutions to ensure sustainable peace in the province. In addition to this, foolproof security plan should be prepared for the Quetta city, adding he directed. He also said that it is right of the people to celebrate Jashne Azadi without any fear and threat. Meanwhile, he condemned the bomb blast on Moti Ram road and expressed sorrow over injuries caused to three persons in it.

23 KP cabinet members resigned

PESHAWAR (APP): 23 out of 25 members of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's caretaker cabinet on Thursday tendered resignations. The caretaker chief minister had invited the cabinet members for tea here and informed them that the Election Commission had written a letter to seek resignations from members having political affiliations. According to CM Secretary Pir Haroon Shah, Fazl Elahi, Himayatullah, Taj Muhammad, Zafar Mahmood and Rehmat Islam Khattak were among the members who tendered resignations.

Flash flood sweeps away four in Zhob

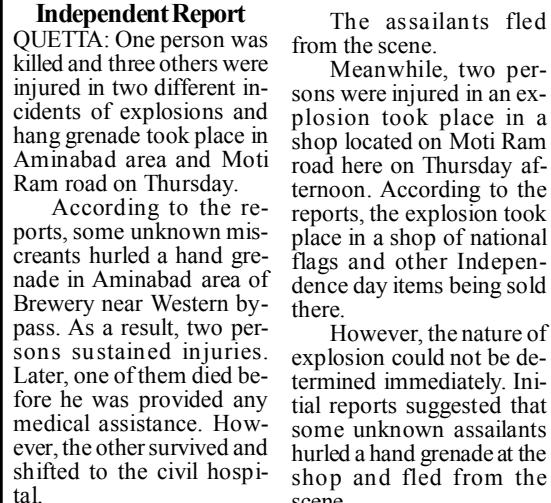
QUETTA (INP): Four people were swept away in flash floods due to torrential rains in Zhob district of Balochistan. Due to heavy rains in the Mount Sulaiman range, a car was washed away in flash flood at Shirani area on Zhob-DI Khan Highway, resulting in the death of four people. According to administration sources, two women and two children are among the dead. A man and a woman remained safe in the incident. The affected family belongs to Quetta. Traffic flow has been suspended in Shirani area between Quetta and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to flooding. The administration said that people should avoid traveling on the highway until it is cleared. On the other hand, according to the Met Department, rain was likely in Islamabad, Upper Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir today. Besides that, the coastal areas of Sindh could also receive rain.

To reach consensus on caretaker PM's selection PM, opposition leader to meet again today

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Raja Riaz met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday as part of the consultation process for the selection of the caretaker prime minister. After detailed deliberation, the two leaders decided to meet again today (Friday) to reach a consensus on selecting a name for the caretaker prime minister. As per the constitution, the prime minister had invited the opposition leader to a meeting regarding the appointment of the caretaker prime minister.

One person killed, three injured in two different explosions in Quetta city, suburb

Independent Report QUETTA: One person was killed and three others were injured in two different incidents of explosions and hand grenade took place in Aminabad area and Moti Ram road on Thursday. According to the reports, some unknown miscreants hurled a hand grenade in Aminabad area of Brewery near Western bypass. As a result, two persons sustained injuries. Later, one of them died before he was provided any medical assistance. However, the other survived and shifted to the civil hospital. The assailants fled from the scene. Meanwhile, two persons were injured in an explosion took place in a shop located on Moti Ram road here on Thursday afternoon. According to the reports, the explosion took place in a shop of national flags and other Independence day items being sold there. However, the nature of explosion could not be determined immediately. Initial reports suggested that some unknown assailants hurled a hand grenade at the shop and fled from the scene.



QUETTA: A view site of hand grenade attack at Moti Ram Road

Mariyum urges journalists, media workers to remain united for implementation of PEMRA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Information Secretary of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and former Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Thursday urged the journalists and media workers to remain united and ensure implementation of PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023, which would replace the 2002 PEMRA Ordinance, a black law intro-

duced by Perviz Musharraf. Mariyum Aurangzeb thanked all the media organizations including All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) for their guidance and support in the preparation of the PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023.



QUETTA: Chairman Journalist Welfare Fund Committee, DGPR Kamran Asad presiding over meeting of Committee

8 of a family die as van collides with truck

LAYYAH (Online): At least 8 persons of a family died and 6 others were injured in van-truck collision in Layya Thursday. The accident took place in Adda Hafiz Abad, Tehsil Chobara. The Rescue teams rushed to the scene and

shifted the bodies and injured to Tehsil hospital. Medical aid was provided to the injured in the hospital. According to sources the speedy passenger van was on its way from Bhakkar to Mian Channu and it collided with a truck at adda Hafizabad.

PIA gets new CEO

KARACHI (INP): Air Vice Marshal (retired) Muhammad Amir Hayat has been appointed Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on Thursday. According to PIA spokesperson, the appointment of Muhammad Amir Hayat has been made for a year. Earlier, the retired Air Vice Marshal was working as acting CEO of PIA. The position of the CEO has been lying vacant after Air Marshal Arshad Malik completed his three-year tenure on April 25. Arshad Malik was appointed in October 2018. The appointment was made after, the federal government approved the appointment of the chief executive officer (CEO) of the national flag carrier Pakistan International Airlines, last week. The federal cabinet approved the summary through circulation. Sources told ARY News that Hashim Raza and Mazhar Uddin were also being considered for the PIA's top slot. The prime minister rejected the recommendation to appoint the PIA CEO for three years.

Alvi opens cardiac centre, stresses Islamic principles of welfare, service

LAHORE (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi underscored the intrinsic purpose of Islam as advancement and progress of society. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Sarwar Shahida Memorial Cardiac Centre and Research Institute here on Thursday, he emphasised that engaging in charitable endeavours was a distinctive trait of Muslims. He lauded those who contribute to their nation's betterment, labeling them as true heroes.

President Alvi's speech centered on the idea that Islam encourages a spirit of compassion and mutual

support among individuals. He reiterated that while governments may change, the underlying national structure endures. Highlighting the growth of philanthropy among Muslims after the formation of Pakistan, he stressed the pivotal role of individuals in assisting the marginalised. Drawing from the examples set by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Khulafa-e-Rashidin, President Alvi conveyed the importance of service to humanity. He pointed out that Islam assigns societal responsibilities, a notion evident from the Quran's

opening chapter. Pakistan's core objective, he maintained, is rooted in Quranic teachings of serving society and nurturing a strong sense of responsibility.

The president encouraged virtues such as charity, truthfulness, respect for elders, empathy, and cooperation, particularly in the younger generation. While acknowledging the government's role in addressing major issues, he emphasised that every individual in the Islamic framework has a role to play in serving others.



LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi unveiling plaque during ground breaking ceremony the Sarwar Shahida Memorial Cardiac & Research Institute.

Pakistan is committed to complete eradication of polio virus: Governor

LAHORE (Online): Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Leslie Scanlon met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. In the meeting, issues of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in health, trade, environment and mining sectors were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Pakistan is committed to complete

eradication of polio virus, we are grateful for the support of the Canadian government in this regard, he added. The Canadian High Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Pakistani government to combat polio. Governor Punjab further said that Pakistanis living in Canada are playing a positive role in the development of Canada. He said that Pakistan is keen to further expand bilateral cooperation with Canada in trade, environment, and people-to-people contact.

PTI former MNA Gulzar shifted to Adiala jail

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI former MNA Shandana Gulzar has been shifted to Adiala jail.

According to sources Shandana Gulzar has been detained in Adiala jail for 15 days. She has been detained under DC Islamabad orders under 3 MPO.

Sher Afzal Khan counsel for PTI had said Police and the personnel in plain clothes have abducted Shandana Gulzar. On the other hand Islamabad police had confirmed the arrest of Shandana Gulzar.

Two ghost employees suspended

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Two ghost employees among dozens reported to have been deputed in Municipal Corporation, were suspended on Thursday after an enquiry.

Administrator Municipal Corporation Asghar Laghari sought attendance of the employees during surprise visit. He found that 27 employees were collecting salaries worth lacs at their homes while absent from the office since induction.

The administrator suspended two employees on the spot while served show cause notices on rest of the fifteen employees.

KP Governor says: Govt, military shares best vision towards facilitation of business, investment

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has said that the government and military leadership have best vision and approach towards the facilitation of business community and promotion of investment in the country.

Addressing an awards distribution ceremony under the auspices of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) here at Governor's House on Thursday, he said that there are minerals worth trillions of rupees in the mountains of the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and urged the apex trade body to conduct research on the treasures

hidden in the mountains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan and play a role in ensuring the development and prosperity of the country by utilizing these minerals and natural resources in a better manner.

Besides, the Caretaker Provincial Minister Fazal Elahi, Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister Malik Maher Elahi, FPCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Vice President Masoodur Rehman, SAARC Chamber Anjum Nisar, Chairman of Businessmen Panel Shah Zeb, FPC CI Coordinator Sartaj Ahmad Khan, former caretaker provincial minister Adnan Jalil along with former presidents of FPCCI, Peshawar.



KARACHI: Victims of ASF Tower/Arabian Vista are holding protest demonstration for demanding ownership rights, at Shahr-e-Faisal near Natha Khan Bridge in Karachi.

Brands offering Independence Day discounts to customers

ISLAMABAD (APP): With only a few days left in the Independence Day celebrations, falling on August 14, different fashion brands and outlets in the federal capital have started offering good discounts on dresses, shoes, and other accessories to attract buyers, especially women. Every year, famous brands offer good sales and discount offers on the occasion of Independence Day giving an opportunity to the people to buy good

stocks for the next whole season. "Buying summer dresses and other seasonal accessories at full price has become difficult for the working class during the prevailing inflation so we wait for such occasions to come", Aisha Naz, a mother of three children said.

Talking to APP, she said that "We always buy clothes for ourselves and kids at the sales offered on Independence Day and other such occasions for the next season".



KARACHI: Police officials from Crime Scene Unit and Police Investigation Department are being given hands-on training at the mock crime scene in Sindh Forensic DNA and Serology Laboratory (SFDL) held at ICCBS University of Karachi.

PRCS chairman lauds AJK chapter's services for humanity

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society AJK Ejaz Raza was called on National Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari here on Wednesday. The meeting was aimed to discuss the on-going relief operations in a recent land sliding incident that struck the village Damishi/Abhijar in district Muzaffarabad.

During the meeting, a significant step towards strengthening humanitarian efforts and disaster

response was discussed besides focusing on collaborative strategies to enhance relief operations, healthcare services and community engagement.

The Chairman PRCS briefed about the recent land sliding incident in district Muzaffarabad and on-going relief operations. Besides, both the chairmen engaged in a comprehensive discussion about the current state of humanitarian activities within AJK and the broader goals of the PRCS.

CM attends funeral prayer of martyred policeman

PESHAWAR (APP): The funeral prayer for a policeman who was martyred by unknown assailants in Peshawar took place at Police Lines.

Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan, along with CCPO and other police officials, attended the funeral prayer.

The attack occurred when unknown assailants on a bike opened fire on policemen who were on their way to duty in the morning. Police constable Sarwar Shah embraced martyrdom in the incident.

The chief minister and police officials laid floral wreaths on the martyr's coffin. Prayers were offered for the elevation of the martyr's rank, and a police force rendered a salute. Chief Minister Azam Khan condemned the incident of firing on the policeman.

CS orders I-Day celebration with grandeur

LAHORE (APP): Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman on Thursday issued directions to all the deputy commissioners regarding celebrations of the Independence Day in a befitting manner.

He directed this while presiding over a high-level meeting here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting reviewed preparations to mark the Independence Day and decided that fireworks display would be held in all district

headquarters at 12 night on August 13, while concerts of national songs would be organized in all districts at 8pm on August 14.

The Chief Secretary Punjab said that freedom was a great blessing, it should be valued.

He said the purpose of celebrating Independence Day with grandeur was to make the young generation aware of the importance of freedom. He said that living nations celebrate Independence Day with great enthusiasm.

International News

Ukraine-Russia war: Putin 'considers coming face to face with world leaders' at G20 summit

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian president Vladimir Putin is considering attending the G20 summit in person, a Kremlin source has claimed.

The summit is set to take place in September in New Delhi, India, focusing on the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

But Putin hasn't ruled out his attendance, the Kremlin official told NBC News, seeking to "re-launch himself on the world stage" ahead of next year's election. Likewise, the official claimed that Putin is keen to win over countries that aren't solid in their support for Russia in its invasion of Ukraine. Af-

ter world leaders condemned Russia's war, Putin did not participate in the event in Bali in 2022. The news comes just one day after Russian president Vladimir Putin pledged to ramp up border defences following a surge in drone attacks.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said NATO-member Poland had already announced plans to strengthen its military, and he expected significant NATO forces and weaponry to be deployed in Finland. Russia claimed it shot down two Ukrainian drones headed for Moscow, one near a major airport to the south of the city and one to

the west of the capital. Russian president Vladimir Putin is considering attending the G20 summit in person, a Kremlin source has claimed. The summit is set to take place in September in New Delhi, India, focusing on the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

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India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) is seen on a television screen as he addresses the lower house Lok Sabha in New Delhi.

India PM Modi's government defeats no-confidence motion

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: The government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi defeated a no-confidence motion in parliament on Thursday after a fiery speech by the premier at the climax of a three-day debate.

Opposition lawmakers — who had brought the motion over months of ethnic violence in Manipur state — walked out of the chamber, prompting a furious rebuke from the premier, with the government then winning the vote.

The walkouts, according to broadcasters, included Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi, who on Wednesday said Modi's government was "set on burning the whole country".

Modi denounced them, saying: "Those who

don't trust democracy are always ready to make a comment but don't have the patience to hear [the rebuttal]."

They would "speak ill and run away, throw garbage and run away, spread lies and run away", he added, to cheers from his own benches.

"This is their game and the country can't expect much from them."

The no-confidence vote was dismissed by the government ahead of the vote as a headline-grabbing gimmick ahead of a general election next year.

Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has a large majority in the 543-member lower house, and is widely expected to win a third term in power.

Ecuador presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio assassinated, one suspect dead

Monitoring Desk QUITO: Ecuador presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio, a vocal critic of corruption and organised crime, was killed at a campaign event on Wednesday, authorities said, amid an upsurge in violence in the Andean nation blamed on drug traffickers.

Local media reported some 30 shots had been fired at an event in the north of the capital, Quito. Video footage posted on social media showed Villavicencio getting

into a car after the event, before the sound of apparent gunfire and screaming. Ecuador's police and Interior Ministry did not respond to repeated requests for comment about the details of the killing, but outgoing President Guillermo Lasso confirmed police safely detonated a grenade left behind by the killers. "This is a political crime, which has the character of terrorism, and we do not doubt that this murder is an attempt to sabotage the electoral process."

Hong Kong arrests 10 for 'foreign collusion' over pro democracy fund

Monitoring Desk HONG KONG: Hong Kong police arrested 10 people on Thursday under the city's national security law, accusing them of providing financial support to overseas dissident groups pushing for sanctions against the Chinese finance hub. Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law on Hong Kong in 2020 after huge and sometimes violent pro-democracy protests the year before.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas fires nearly all governors in West Bank in major upheaval

Monitoring Desk RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas fired most of the governors in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, responding to long-standing demands for a political shake-up as frustration grows with the semi-autonomous Palestinian Authority.

Abbas issued a decree dismissing the governors of eight provinces under Palestinian administration in the occupied territory. The upheaval included the res-

tive northern cities of Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem, the focus of a recent surge in Palestinian militancy that has undermined the authority's leadership. Only three areas — including Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian Authority — retained their governors. The president's office said that he would form a committee to suggest replacements.

Although the decision is unlikely to have an immediate impact on the

ground, experts said it signals Abbas' recognition of the authority's deepening unpopularity and his desire to show that he is heeding calls for change in the face of mounting difficulties. "It gives the authority a new face, which is important particularly as the governors are in charge of all security matters," said political analyst Jehad Harb. "But it won't change anything really. (Abbas) is trying to rebuild some public trust, but it will take much more."



Hong Kong arrests 10 for 'foreign collusion' over violent pro-democracy protests.

Five Turkish soldiers killed in operations in Iraq - ministry

Monitoring Desk ANKARA: Five Turkish soldiers were killed in a clash with militants in a clash with militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in northern Iraq, Turkey's defence ministry said on Thursday.

The conflict took place in Zap region, where Turkey has been carrying out a cross-border operation called "Claw-Lock".

Ankara says the offensive is a measure to prevent the PKK from using Iraq as a base to carry out attacks in Turkey.

A Turkish defence ministry official said all five soldiers were killed in the

first round of fire by the PKK militants while they were conducting search and scan activity on the field.

The PKK has large fortifications around the region, where "the terrain is very tough," but the region will be "cleared up from terrorists" despite attacks, the official added.

The PKK, which has bases around northern Iraq, is designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and European Union. The group launched an insurgency in southeast Turkey in 1984 in which more than 40,000 people have been killed.

Panama-flagged tanker catches fire near Iranian coast - TV

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: A Panama-flagged tanker called White Pearl has caught fire near Assaluyeh on Iran's Gulf coast, Iranian state media reported on Thursday, adding that all crew members were safe.

"Twenty-two of the ship's crew have been rescued by Iranian rescue teams after the ship's captain requested assistance from the port authorities," state TV quoted a local ports official as saying. The official said that the tanker, carrying 40,000 tons of liquefied petroleum gas, had experienced "a problem in the engine room due to a fire."

UN Security Council to meet on rights abuses in North Korea

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council will meet publicly to discuss human rights abuses in North Korea next week, a move requested by the United States, Albania and Japan that is likely to anger Pyongyang and face opposition from China and Russia. It will be the first formal public meeting of the 15-member council on the issue since 2017.

North Korea has repeatedly rejected accusations of abuses and blames sanctions for a dire humanitarian situation. Since 2006 it has been under U.N. sanctions over its ballistic missiles and nuclear programs, but there are aid exemptions. "It is long overdue," said U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, reading a joint statement by the United States, Albania, Japan and South Korea. "We know the

government's human rights abuses and violations facilitate the advancement of its unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs," she said.

The council would meet on Aug. 17 and be briefed by U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk and the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK, Elizabeth Salmón, said Thomas-Greenfield. China and Russia object to the issue being raised in the council, which is charged with maintaining international peace and security. They say rights issues should be confined to other bodies such as the U.N. Human Rights Council or General Assembly. China and Russia could call a procedural vote next week, but a senior U.S. official said they were confident they have the minimum nine votes needed to hold the meeting.

President stresses AI importance for healthcare sector

LAHORE (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday emphasised the importance of artificial intelligence (AI) in the health sector to provide better facilities to people.

Addressing the Instacare Future Health Forum 2023 at a local hotel, he said the AI was a great hope in the health and medicine sectors, and in future, a medical graduate could utilise it for treatment of patients.

The president said now a doctor did not need to save information in his own memory as more data could be saved and accessed through his mobile phone and computer. He cited an example of the COVID-19 pandemic period in which Pakistan successfully used available data and saved several lives.

He said that the number of deaths taking place due to COVID-19 was less in the country than in other countries of the region. He said Pakistan had a good collection of data; however, learning right question through the AI for right answer was important. He added that knowledge was free for everyone now and control over it by anyone had become almost impossible. He said that Islam stresses the state to work for welfare and betterment of the community. The president said science had brought about an ease in lives of the community, so the AI should also be used for facilitating human beings.

Earlier, the president gave away awards to individuals and institutions, who contributed technology and AI to the healthcare sector.



QUETTA: Chief Editor Nawey Zawand Syed Anwar Shah meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Dr. Rubaba says Nutritional deficiency program being implemented in 21 districts of Balochistan

QUETTA: The Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Science and Information Technology, Dr. Rubaba Buledi has stated that the nutritional deficiency programme is being run in 21 districts of Balochistan. The nutritional programme is being implemented with support of UNICEF.

She noted with concern that according to a survey, one third children aged between 6 to 23 months suffered from the severe nutritional deficiency in 15 flood affected districts of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Dr. Rubaba Buledi was speaking to the Provincial Manager of Nutritional Programme, Dr. Sultan Tareem, Deputy Director Owais Khan Tareem, Nutrition Assistance, Ms. Sanam Raisani and the social activist, Sami Zarkoon, here on Thursday.

She noted with concern that as a whole, around 54 percent children of the Balochistan province were suffering from the nutritional deficiency before floods, but this ratio increased to 70 percent after the floods.

She also mentioned that prior to the floods, nutritional programme was being run with support of UNICEF only in 13 districts of Balochistan, but, the flood affected areas were also included in the programme after the floods, she added.

Dr. Rubaba on the occasion noted that the ratio of unemployment was higher than other parts of the country and then the floods also increased it further. This is why, the poor mothers don't get the proper diet, as a result their children fall victim to the nutritional deficiency, she maintained.



QUETTA: DIG Quetta Aitzaz Ahmed Guraya offering Dua at Yadgar-e-Shuhada in Police Lines Headquarters

Action to be taken against Imran by verifying the cipher: Rana Sanaulah

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah said that American cipher that has come to light in the world media should be verified and if Imran Khan is found guilty in the cipher issue, action should be taken against him.

In his statement, PML-N leader and former Interior Minister said on issue of American cipher that an investigation should be conducted to verify American cipher revealed in international media.

He said that it should be not forgotten that copy of cipher was with Chairman PTI which he did not return and statement of Imran Khan is on record that he had lost the copy of cipher.

Rana Sanaulah further said that if Chairman PTI is found guilty in this regard then he should be prosecuted under Official Secrets Act.

Pakistani and Chinese institutes sign MoU for joint research facility

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IPPCAS), and the Department of Entomology at the University of Agriculture have signed an agreement in Beijing to establish the Pakistan-China Joint Research Facility for 'Trim Brother Administration.' The ceremony took place at IPPCAAS. The letter of intent was duly signed by IPPCAAS Executive Direc-

tor Lu Yanhui and UAF Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, as stated in an official statement issued here, according to Gwadar Pro. As per the agreement, both sides will establish the joint research facility to address the prevention and control of crop pests in Pakistan and China.

This collaboration involves conducting tests, demonstrations, and joint research on integrated disease control strategies.



LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with healthcare professionals attending the Instacare Future Health Forum 2023 on Advancing Healthcare with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

CM satisfied with arrest of PO in murder case of Abdul Wahid Raisani

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has expressed satisfaction over the arrest of proclaimed offender accused in the murder case of journalist Abdul Wahid Raisani.

In an official statement issued here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that the arrest of wanted female accused in the murder case of slain Abdul Wahid Raisani is an important development. The bereaved family would also get justice with her arrest, he believed.

The Chief Minister also appreciated performance of the police on arrest of the accused and said that the case of Shaheed journalist is pending for long, and the resentment was found among his heirs.

Asad says: PDM gov't comes to end after deviating from constitution

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader Asad Umar has said PDM government has eventually come to end and now the people have to avenge on them in election.

He tweeted the government annihilated the economy in 16 months and people had to face the worst inflation of the history of the country.

PDM government debased parliament and weakened democracy.

He held PDM government reached its end after deviating from the constitution and getting the corruption written off.

Pakistan's total foreign reserves reach at \$ 13.33bn

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 13,339.1 million while reserves held by the central bank reached \$8,043.4 million. The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves decreased by \$110 million to \$8,043.4 million on account of debt repayments during the week ended on August 04, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at US\$ 5,295.7 million, it added.

In the previous week ending on July 27, 2023, total liquid foreign reserves held by the country was US\$ 13,463.7 million.

Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were US\$8,153.8 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were US\$ 5,309.9 million.

Bushra Bibi meets Imran in Attock jail

ATTOCK (INP): Former first lady Bushra Bibi Thursday met her husband and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in Attock jail for the first time after he got arrested on August 5 in connection with the Toshakhana case. Bushra Bibi, along with the former prime minister's lawyers, reached the Attock jail where she was allowed to meet Khan. The one-to-one meeting between the two went on for about an hour without the ex-first lady's legal team. However, lawyers Na'em Panjotla, Sher Afzal Marwat and Ali Jaz Buttar did not get permission.

Outgoing NA ends remarkable term, passing 235 bills and overseeing key transitions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 15th National Assembly of Pakistan, which came to a close on August 9, 2023, left behind a legacy of legislative productivity, executive oversight and transformative leadership changes. With an array of accomplishments, the outgoing assembly's tenure underscores its commitment to democratic governance and national progress. During its tenure, the 15th National Assembly achieved an impressive feat by passing a total of 235 bills. The assembly, comprising 342 members, skillfully discharged its duty of executive oversight, ensuring the effective functioning of the government. Lawmakers displayed unwavering dedication by submitting thousands of

questions across various ministries, probing into critical matters affecting the nation. Furthermore, the assembly took proactive steps towards addressing key concerns by introducing and adopting resolutions. A total of 107 resolutions were adopted, reflecting the assembly's endeavor to provide solutions to a broad spectrum of issues mainly related to governance, education, foreign affairs, health and energy.

According to the National Assembly's official website, the house witnessed the introduction of 181 government bills and 360 private member bills. This comprehensive legislative approach highlighted the assembly's commitment to inclusivity and addressing multifaceted chal-

enges. Notably, 12 bills were referred to the joint sitting of Parliament, demonstrating the assembly's collaborative approach to lawmaking. The tenure of the outgoing 15th National Assembly was characterized by significant leadership shifts and milestones. The assembly played a pivotal role in the ousting of former Prime Minister Imran Khan through a motion of no-confidence passed on April 9, 2022. Subsequently, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif secured a vote of confidence, heralding a new era of leadership.

A total of 126 bills were passed during the period from August 13, 2018 to April 9, 2022, underpinning the legislative achievements of the assembly's early years. The remaining 109 bills were endorsed during the tenure of the PML-N-led government, spanning from April 10, 2022, to August 9, 2023, affirming the assembly's enduring commitment to governance. The 15th National Assembly marks the fourth instance in Pakistan's history where a National Assembly has successfully completed its term. In a notable departure from the scheduled term completion date of August 12, 2023, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Provincial Manager Nutrition Directorate Dr. Sultan Tareem meeting with Parliamentary Secretary and Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Science and Technology Rubaba Khan Buledi

PM lauds bureaucracy for cooperation, guidance during 16-month stint

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed his gratitude to the bureaucracy for their support and guidance throughout the 16-month tenure, enabling the coalition government to sail through tough circumstances.

The prime minister, in his farewell interaction with the federal secretaries, said despite being hugely diverse, the 13-party coalition government ran the affairs smoothly with utmost cooperation and prudence, also setting an example of the practicability of the coalition government.

He said during the 16 months, the bureaucracy also faced some difficult scenarios but the will to do something productive for

the people of Pakistan paved the way.

The prime minister lamented the past practice of unnecessarily criticizing and victimizing the competent officers which adversely impacted public service. Just like the politicians, the officers were also victimised and their families harassed.

He said the civil service faced a severe blow during the devolution due to very reason, some of the youngsters also opted to join other services.

Mentioning systemic delays in the execution of 10,000MW solar energy project, Prime Minister Shehbaz called for establishing robust systems to ensure the smooth execution of projects.

He said the incumbent government ensured the completion of various public welfare projects which had been halted by the previous government. Recognizing the achievements of his government, the prime minister said the signing of the IMF agreement was a great success, otherwise, the situation could have been disastrous for the country. He said the credit for all the successes achieved by the government also went to the federal secretaries as they had been serving diligently during the challenging circumstances, particularly floods.

The prime minister said that his government played a constructive role to mend the ties with friendly countries.



NASEERABAD: Residents of Dera Murad Jamali are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of land grabbers, at Dera Murad Jamali.

I-Day to be celebrated with due national spirit and enthusiasm in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Independence Day would be celebrated with due national spirit and enthusiasm in Quetta like every year.

A colourful Jashne Azadi ceremony is scheduled to be held on August 14 at Railway Station where food stalls, musical programme, lighting, cultural dance, fireworks and other programmes would be arranged.

This and similar other decisions were made during a meeting held with Commissioner Quetta Division, Sohailur Rehman Baloch in

the chair here on Thursday.

The Commandant Chiltan Brigade, Brigadier Mirza Yasir Baig, Provincial Secretary Information, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, Director General Public Relations, Kamran Asad, SSP Security Azmat Shah and other concerned high ups attended the meeting. It was decided to make effective security arrangements for celebrations of Independence in Quetta and other districts of the division. The walk through gates would be installed on the entry and exit points of the Railway Station.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Sohailur Rehman Baloch presiding over a meeting regarding arrangements of ceremony to be held at Railway Station in connection with Independence Day

CM approves ownership rights for dwellers of Dera Murad Jamali town

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has approved to give ownership rights to the dwellers of Dera Murad Jamali town.

According to an official hand out issued here on Thursday, the ownership right has been given to the residents of Dera Murad Jamali town due to the efforts of the Minister Revenue, Sikandar Ali Umrani.

Needless to mention here is that prior to the important initiative, the people of Dera Murad Jamali were deprived of the ownership rights and there were hurdles in planning and development of the area.

also active at everywhere in the Dera Murad Jamali town, it was mentioned.

In view of this, the Minister Revenue, Mir Sikandar Ali Umrani brought an end to the illegal occupation by ensuring ownership rights to the dwellers of Dera Murad Jamali in particularly and for interest of the province in general.

Thus, the Chief Minister approved the matter of giving ownership rights to the people through the provincial cabinet keeping in view the interest of people. In this regard, guidelines were also issued for implementation on the decision of government by the Board of Revenue, it was mentioned further.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjarani called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

KSA shows interest in investment potential of Pak mining, energy, IT sectors

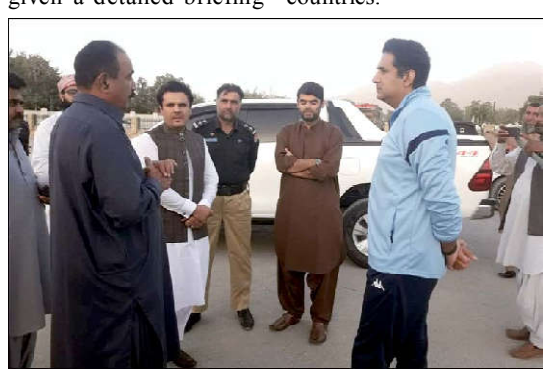
ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Arabia has shown keen interest in the investment potential of Pakistan's mining, energy, agriculture, and information technology sectors.

This interest was expressed by a high-level six-member Saudi delegation led by Kingdom's Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed Al-Khuraji, during its two-day special visit to Pakistan.

The visit, concluded today, was the first one from any friendly country to promote foreign investment through the Special Investment Facilitation Council. The visit reflects a firm resolve of Saudi Arabia to invest in Pakistan.

about the true potential of Pakistan, highlighting SIFC as a single window to facilitate foreign investment in various sectors. During the visit, views were exchanged with the Saudi delegation on specific development projects. The delegation members apprised the Pakistani side of benefits and their proposals about Saudi investment in various sectors of Pakistan. On the occasion, both the sides reiterated their resolve to work together to enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors and projects.

The delegation was given a detailed briefing



QUETTA: Secretary Information Muhammad Shafiqat inspecting preparation of Independence Day ceremony at Railway Station

Independence Day to be celebrated with great zeal in Duki: DC Mehran

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Duki Mir Mehran Baloch on Thursday said that like every year, Independence Day would be celebrated with great enthusiasm and national unity.

Government buildings including markets will also be illuminated, he said.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting to review preparations for the Independence Day. The meeting was attended by all the district officers, representatives of Anjuman Tajiran, and other district and administrative officers.

Deputy Commissioner Duki Mir Mehran Baloch addressed the participants of the meeting

saying that the flag hoisting ceremony would be held at the Circuit House.

Speech contests, songs, cultural events will be organized between students of different schools and colleges, he said.

He said that the municipal committee should take steps to further improve the sanitation arrangements in the city, along with the government buildings, the business community would also float in the market and lights would be lit on the night of August 14.

He said that sports competitions would also be organized saying that the preparations should be started for Independence Day.

NCSW launches commemorative stamp on gender-based violence

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) in support of the Ministry of Human Rights & UN Women launched a commemorative postage stamp to spread awareness about gender-based violence in the country and to honour the victims.

The first session of the event was a round table consultation on the increasing incidents of violence against women issues with Chairperson NCSW, Nilofar Bakhtiar and top leading gender experts in Pakistan. A resolution/charter of demands was then

created and signed which pinpointed the mechanisms to reduce the prevalence of gender-based violence in the country which was shared with the audience at the end of the event. The second session of the event was an art exhibition consisting of pieces of art from the NCSW poster competition held in 2021 and 2022, as well as artwork brought in by Nagin Hayat from the Nomad Gallery and the Czech Embassy. This commemorative stamp was selected after a poster competition on ending violence against women which was held on December 2022.