

Independent

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Election Commission to decide polls date: PM

We have no intention to prolong tenure of the caretaker government; Action against smuggling would continue and the writ of the state would be established

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday said Election Commission would decide about the date for the upcoming elections.

In an interview with a private television, he said Parliament had passed a law according to which Election Commission had the power to announce the date for new elections.

Speculation regarding the elections should end as these would be held according to the prevalent law, he said adding, "We have no intention to prolong tenure of the caretaker government."

He said as a student of history of Pakistan, he would express gratitude to Quaid-e-Azam for protecting rights of the Muslim minority and saving it from the domination of majority.

After seeing the attitude of bigger states against

the minorities, he said he could see that it would have been difficult to protect the religious and cultural identity of Muslims if Quaid had not secured an independent state for Muslims.

He said he admired Quaid-e-Azam for his constitutionalism, all-inclusiveness and for protection of rights of minorities.

The prime minister assured that action against smuggling would continue and the writ of the state would be established.

"We are taking these actions so that the new government with its mandate can easily continue our work for public interest."

He said the apex committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) included current military leadership, thus making the council a strong constitutional and legal body which was taking firm

actions and implementing decisions.

The caretaker federal and provincial governments had good coordination which was helpful in implementing decisions, he noted.

He said the SIFC was focusing on economic revival and on sectors of agriculture and mineral extraction.

Work would be done on major plans of investment so that they could be at an advanced stage when the next government would take over, he told.

He said Pakistan had multifaceted relations with Afghanistan and had regular discussions with it on issues of trade, terrorism, security and regional connectivity.

Both sides were talking with the realization that neighbors could not be changed, he added.

President, law minister hold consultation on general elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim Federal Minister for Law and Justice Ahmed Irfan Aslam on Monday called on President Dr Arif Alvi here.

In the meeting, they held a consultation on the general elections in the country, a President House statement said. The meeting between the government and the president is part of the ongoing consultation regarding the general polls.

One soldier martyred in IED attack on forces in Warsaw, ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): On 11 September 23, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded on a vehicle of Security Forces in general area Warsaw, Peshawar District.

Consequently, Lance Naik Abdur Rehman, 29 years, resident of District Bannu embraced Shahadat, while three soldiers got injured. This cowardly terrorist act also resulted in injury of three innocent civilians. Sanitization of the area is being carried out in the area to eliminate the terrorists and their facilitators.

Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers as well as valiant civilian brethren, further strengthen our resolve.

Dr Kausar Malik sworn in as interim federal minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik, a noted agricultural scientist and educationist on Monday took oath for the office of the caretaker federal minister. President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to Dr Kausar at a ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Earlier on September 9, the president appointed Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik as the federal minister in the caretaker federal cabinet. He had made the appointment on the advice of the caretaker prime minister under Article 224 (1a) of the Constitution.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Communication and Chairman NHA Captain (Retd) Muhammad Khurram Agha paid a detailed visit to Balochistan to review the ongoing development projects and progress of flood-affected road infrastructure restoration work.



KARACHI: Caretaker CM Sindh Maqbool Baqar talking to media persons after laying floral wreath at the mausoleum of the founder of Nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to mark his death anniversary as The 75th death anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed throughout the country with reverence and solemnity.

Govt promotes tech improvements, upgradation to improve agriculture sector

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar has said that his priority is centered on promoting continuous technological improvements and upgradation to increase the competitiveness of the agriculture sector, including the sugar industry.

He said that the Government of Pakistan recently established a high-powered 'Special Investment Facilitation Council' to attract investments from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the fields of Defence, Agriculture, Minerals, IT, and Energy.

The caretaker CM said that as a member of SIFC's Apex Committee, he was determined to focus on channeling investments to

boost the productivity and competitiveness of Sindh's agriculture sector, including the sugar industry. He is also a firm believer in fostering cross-sectoral collaborations for improving the lives of our population which has been struggling with soaring inflation in a stagnant economy.

This he said while speaking at the Inauguration Session of the 55th Annual Convention of Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists organized at a local hotel. The CM was welcomed by Mr. Zahid Mahmood Qureshi President of Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists (PSST) Mr. Zahid Qureshi, sugar industry and professional experts.

He said that the PSST was founded for the

overarching purpose of sharing and disseminating knowledge among sugar technologists. He appreciated the Society for conducting workshops,

seminars, and annual conventions for imparting knowledge and new ideas pertaining to the sugar industry among the members of society.

The caretaker CM said that our sugar industry has expanded substantially over the years with 33 sugar mills in the province. During the 2022-23 season, sugarcane was grown in a crop area of about 290,000 hectares, Justice Baqar said and added that a total of 16.8 million metric tons of sugarcane was crushed and about 1.75 million metric tons of sugar was produced.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti and Caretaker Federal Minister for Water Resources, Ahmad Irfan Aslam chairing a meeting regarding the restoration of Kachi Canal, in Islamabad.

"Bano Qabil" initiative will greatly benefit talented students in getting acquainted with latest technology: Haris

Independent Report
KARACHI: The caretaker Minister for Home and Prison Brig. @Haris Nawaz has observed that the "Bano Qabil" initiative will greatly benefit talented students in getting acquainted with the latest technology and kick-starting their careers while also preparing them for self-employment, thus making them financially independent. This he said while attending Convocation of first Batch of 1500 graduates of "Bano Qabil-1", and launching of "Bano Qabil-2", an Al-Khidmat Karachi's youth empowerment program at Bagh-e-Jinnah, Shara-e-Quaideen Karachi.

The objective of Bano Qabil program is to empower youth of the city by providing them advanced IT skills free of cost, and helping them to establish a promising career. The number of campuses for the said program

has been increased from 12 to 25 and 30000 students will graduate under the Bano Qabil-2 program. Haris Nawaz appreciated the efforts of the organizers for initiating such a useful program for the youths of the society.

"The non-governmental and welfare organizations have performed exemplary in the fields of education as a commitment towards the development of the country and its people and still more targeted efforts are needed in this regard", he added. The Home Minister said that all possible support will be extended to the youth of the province as the young generation is the future of this country. He added that strong action against crimes and criminals in Karachi is underway, and the operation against the dacoits and their facilitators will start soon in the Katcha areas of the province.

Death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam observed

ISLAMABAD (Online): The 75th death anniversary of father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed with due solemnity Monday.

In this connection, Quran Khawani and Fateha Khawani will be held at the Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi.

President Dr Arif Alvi has reiterated commitment to make Pakistan a modern Islamic welfare state in accordance with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

In his message on the occasion of death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam, he said we will have to follow the golden principles of the founding father for the development of Pakistan. He said there is a need to work for the welfare of women, youth and weaker segments of the society. The President said attention must be focused on providing education and eradication poverty to make Pakistan a great country.

SC tested several times over constitutional matters in Feb 2023, says CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaking for the last time at a ceremony marking the commencement of the new judicial year on Monday, Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial said that the court was tested several times in February 2023 with matters pertaining to the Constitution of Pakistan. He added that he did not want to repeat all that has happened but it is reflected in part in the decision for the audio leaks case.

Commenting on his differences with incoming CJP Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Bandial maintained that the latter was an admirable man. The media is the eyes and ears of society, said the CJP, but, he added, incorrect reports were published about him. He referred to the use of his phrases "good to see you" and "short and sweet" and said they were taken out of context. He doesn't hold this against the media, he added.

The outgoing CJP said that this might be his last address as the chief justice, and mentioned that the ongoing political situation has also affected judicial performance.

Commenting on the performance of the apex court, CJP Bandial said that the SC disposed of 23,000 cases in the past year, breaking a previous record of disposing of 18,000 cases in one year.

He added that he had wished to reduce the number of pending cases by 50,000 but managed to address only 2,000 cases from the backlog.

Justice Bandial took office as CJP in February 2022 and is due to retire on September 16, 2023. The Supreme Court has been marred with controversies this year against the backdrop of a political crisis which has garnered the attention of international media and much uncertainty surrounding the next general elections.

ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik as Caretaker Federal Minister during oath taking ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

Responsible journalism need of the hour: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday appreciated the services of court reporters in providing awareness of legal matters and important court decisions to the masses.

During a meeting with a delegation of the Press Association of the Supreme Court of Pakistan which met with him here, the minister said the main objective of the media was to convey correct information to the general public. He stressed that responsible journalism was need of the hour which could help the society move forward in the right direction.

The role of court reporters in journalism, he said, was very important.

Court reporting was a technical field and like lawyers, journalists covering court proceedings should be well versed in law, he added.

Covering the Supreme Court's proceedings was equally important and sensitive, and the court reporters were doing the job very efficiently, the minister remarked.

Solangi said the caretaker government fully believed in freedom of press and it would solve the problems of journalists working in the field.

The minister congratulated the newly elected office-bearers of the Press Association of the Supreme Court, including President Tayyab Baloch, General Secretary Azam Gul, Information Secretary Shahryar Shoaib Bukhari and others.

ISLAMABAD: British Deputy High Commissioner Sarah Mooney called on Kamran Tessori on Monday.

Dr Jamal warns strict action against medicine hoarders

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Monday warned of strict action against the hoarders of medicine revealing that the government had launched a mobile application for providing accurate information to the citizens about the availability of medicine in the market.

Addressing a meeting of the Provincial Drugs Quality Control Board, the minister further said that the mobile application would also point out those responsible for the artificial shortage of medicine by illegally stocking the drugs

and selling them at higher prices. He said that the citizens could install the mobile application 'Drug Shortage Report' from the Google Play Store and could inform the government about the shortage, non-availability, or overpricing of any drugs in the market through the App.

Dr. Jamal Nasir directed that the prescribed parameters and standards set for chemist shops should strictly be followed and SOPs regarding temperature, light and dust should be implemented in letter and spirit at chemists' shops and pharmacies to maintain the quality of medicines.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Vulnerable Chitral

The Chitral region of KP has been in the headlines of late due to the Sept 6 deadly cross-border incursion...

Though the authorities have not given any numbers, the raiders were reported to be in the 'hundreds'. The interim foreign minister insists this was an 'isolated incident'...

This makes it an attractive location for transnational jihadists looking to expand their operations, even though Chitral itself has largely been shielded from terrorist activity.

Moreover, the region is culturally, linguistically and ethnically distinct from the rest of KP. While Swat and erstwhile Fata suffered the most during earlier waves of terrorism, Chitral managed to weather the storm.

Therefore, the state needs to beef up security in the area, as the banned TTP and sectarian militants thrive on targeting minority communities.

Simply expecting the Afghan Taliban to 'do more' may not be enough, especially when there is speculation that some Taliban factions may actually be encouraging attacks within Pakistan.

The best option is for the military to provide iron-clad security to all vulnerable border regions, and ensure that no groups are again able to violate Pakistan's territory.

A jirga in Chitral has asked the army chief to visit the area, and called upon the authorities to fence the border with Afghanistan. Reports indicate that the Afghan Taliban had started relocating TTP fighters from the border area...

Undoing exclusion



Arooj Waheed Dar

Lack of equal opportunities and innovation has suffocated the growth capacity of Pakistan, limiting investment to buying and selling of real estate and dollars by the elite.

The recent cable car incident at Battagram highlights the hypocrisy of living in a country where on the one hand, inadequate infrastructure in poorer districts puts lives of school-going children at great risk...

IOP across gender keeps women at the sidelines, excluding them from work and education prospects. Statistics from the World Bank show that of the 22 million out-of-school children in Pakistan, 12m are girls.

The Labour Force Survey [LFS] 2021 shows that female labour force participation stands at a depressing 21.4pc; of this, around 94pc women are employed in the informal sector.

On average, the number of weekly hours worked by women goes down by approximately 4.5 hours once they become mothers.

of opportunities becomes a major cause of brain drain.

The goal should be to 'enable' marginalised groups, rather than to aid them unsustainably. This includes policies such as incentivising work-from-home models by providing tax breaks to bus-i--nesses that facilitate it.

Additionally, financial inclusion needs to be ensured by creating incentives for women to open bank accounts and by making credit facilities readily available for marginalised groups.

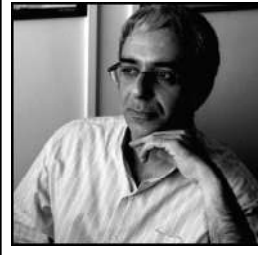
But, to my infinite regret and a few dozen 'see I told you so's', it turns out that not only are trans-fats as dangerous as they're made out to be, they are also very much a desi problem, and not an upper-class elite desi problem but one that affects the masses more than it does others.

Trans-fats are found in just about everything we like to eat, from deep-fried street food like samosas to breakfast cereals, bakery goods, cookies, chocolates and processed foods.

The cost isn't just to our health — every incidence of disease means yet more financial burden on those afflicted — this is especially worrisome considering how overburdened our healthcare system is and how stretched household finances are.

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Unfriendly fats



Zarrar Khuho

I'm one of those people who scoff at health trends, especially when a new dietary villain is found every other day.

Then there's heart disease, which is already a top killer in Pakistan, along with obesity and a variety of cancers — all of which are also on the rise across the country, with many going undiagnosed until it's too late.

But, to my infinite regret and a few dozen 'see I told you so's', it turns out that not only are trans-fats as dangerous as they're made out to be, they are also very much a desi problem, and not an upper-class elite desi problem but one that affects the masses more than it does others.

Trans-fats are found in just about everything we like to eat, from deep-fried street food like samosas to breakfast cereals, bakery goods, cookies, chocolates and processed foods.

That leaves legislation and enforcement, and some progress has been made on this front: in 2020 the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority imposed a limit of 5pc on trans-fatty acids in Vanaspati ghee, and then three years later set a limit of 2pc in Vanaspati ghee, margarine, bakery wares, biscuits and rusks etc.

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Commerce News

Dr Shamshad chairs a meeting on STZs, SEZs

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, presided over a meeting to review and rationalize the progress and incentives provided by STZs and SEZs in Islamabad Monday.

Minister for IT & Telecom Dr. Umer Saif, Minister for Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Advisor to PM on Establishment Mr. Ahad Cheema, Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan, Secretary Finance, Secretary Law & Justice, Chairman FBR, Chairman STZA, Chairman CDA, and senior officers from Finance, FBR, and STZA attended the meeting.

The committee was apprised about the comparative models of STZs and the progress and challenges of existing STZs and SEZs respectively. Moreover, a comprehensive discussion took place on the incentives currently available within STZs and SEZs, with a primary focus on enhancing their effectiveness and relevance to the rapidly evolving technological landscape.

It was also shared that out of 8 Areas declared as STZs, 5 are fully functional.

Inflation widening gap between rich & poor: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Mian Zahid Hussain said that the business community cannot invest or plan for the future due to inflation, so this problem should be solved immediately.

Inflation was a significant cause of economic instability, which was an obstacle to domestic and foreign investment, he maintained.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy, Ali Muhammad chairing a meeting with the officers of Pakistan State Oil (PSO) held in Karachi.

Govt determined to entice US-based Pakistani diaspora to return to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Ministry of Commerce is delighted to announce a fruitful meeting between the Federal Minister of Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, and a high-level US delegation to explore avenues for increased investment in Pakistan's burgeoning Electric Vehicle (EV), semiconductor, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) sectors by the Pakistani diaspora.

During the meeting, Federal Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz expressed his unwavering commitment to facilitate investors for Pakistan's economic development.

He emphasized that the Pakistani diaspora, residing in the United States, is an invaluable asset to the country and underscored the importance of bringing them back into the fold of Pakistan's economic progress.

During Aug 2023, workers' remittances recorded an inflow of US\$2.1 billion, witnessing an increase of 3.1 per cent compared to the last month," said the State Bank on Monday.

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Govt making efforts to compete country's products internationally: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce, Industries, and Production Dr. Gohar Ejaz assured that the government is taking various steps to take the economy forward including agriculture which is considered the backbone of our economy.

The agricultural, industrial and textile sectors will play an important role in increasing exports, and reducing imports and would achieve sustainable economic growth in the country in coming years.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatization, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar exchanging views with Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan during meeting held at Finance Division in Islamabad.

ICCI President says: Use of technology, innovation must for development of agri

ISLAMABAD (INP): Cooperation with international agencies and donors should be done for the development of agriculture.

He expressed these views while talking to the head of World Food and Agriculture Organization Pakistan, Florence Rolle, who met him yesterday along with a delegation.

Pak remittances recorded an inflow \$2.1b for August

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's foreign worker remittances were recorded at \$2.09 billion for the month of August, the country's central bank said in a statement on Monday.

During Aug 2023, workers' remittances recorded an inflow of US\$2.1 billion, witnessing an increase of 3.1 per cent compared to the last month," said the State Bank on Monday.

PEW demands to accelerate operation against smugglers

LAHORE (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan on Monday said that the operation against hoarders and smugglers of dollars, oil, sugar, and urea is commendable, but it needs to be accelerated.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships namely, Big Breeze, MSC Shay, Express Athens, Navois Lapis, Banglar Agrogoti and PVT Elena carrying Container, Palm oil and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Governor directs GIT to furnish detail report regarding varsities

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has directed the Chairman, Governor Inspection Team (GIT) for furnishing a detailed report regarding the academic programme, financial resources, staff, and number of students in the public sector universities and to present it to him.

He issued these directives during a meeting with the Chairman GIT, Dr Saad Sikandar Khan here in the Governor's House on Monday.

During the meeting, the Chairman GIT informed the Governor regarding the overall performance of the organization, financial & administrative

irregularities in different universities, and inquiries conducted on the complaints filed by the students and general public.

During the meeting, they also discussed matters relating to surplus staff and less number of students in the universities.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that offices are sacred trust of the county and nation, saying performing duties with honesty should be the mission of all of us.

He said that the prevailing financial problems of the universities are a matter of concern and that the situation of the public universities is hurting him.



HYDERABAD: Leaders and workers of HDA Labor Union (CBA) hold a sit in protest after suspend water supply from the filter plants at Jamshoro road filter plant against non-payment of their salaries and pensions as water supply is suspended in Qasimabad and Latifabad area of the City.

Advisor stresses for best project design, durability within limited resources

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Irrigation, Planning, Development, Communication and Works, Dr Syed Sarfaraz Ali while referring to the engineers and technical staff on Monday said the best design and durability of a project within less possible funds should be the prime objective during executing of a

project of people welfare.

He said the newly inducted engineers would be provided the necessary training to make their work praiseworthy.

Talking to newly inducted SDOs at a five-day training workshop at the Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARA), he said the engineers who have been imparted training should work as the servants of the people.



MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the 25th session of Punjab cabinet South Punjab Secretariat Multan.

Caretaker Punjab cabinet decides free journeying for students, senior citizens

Independent Report
MULTAN: Caretaker Punjab cabinet in its first-ever meeting in the history of the city on Monday extended a big relief to freeing metro and orange line train services for students, senior citizens and differently-abled people.

The notification of the decision was also issued soon after the meeting.

Chaired by Punjab caretaker Chief Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, the meeting among others was attended by ministers, advisors,

chief secretary, IGP, ACS South Punjab and secretaries.

The cabinet also approved Rs 32,000 as minimum wages for labourers and sanctioned recommendations of a committee on admission policy to public medical and dental colleges 2023-24.

It gave the go-ahead to constitute a cabinet committee to devise a policy to tackle smog.

The CM ordered to initiate of effective steps to implement the policy on smog.

The cabinet decided to set up an endowment fund with Rs one billion for journalists and their families.

For the School Adoption Programme, it decided to extend the school landscape in the province besides extension in contractual employees of Violence Against Women Centres (VAWC) in Multan.

The appointment of the Chairman and members for the LDA commission was also approved in addition to handing over Haji Abdul Qayyum

teaching hospital Sahiwal control from SHC&ME to the P&SHC department.

It also approved names for presidential and Quaid-i-Azam Police medals.

The cabinet in its 25th meeting decided to establish Mental Health Authority under the Punjab Mental Health Amended Act 2014. Earlier, the CM was briefed about the development and road network projects of South Punjab while he directed the department concerned to accomplish these at the earliest.

Caretaker CM KP visits Corps HQ Peshawar

PESHAWAR (Online): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan along with members of the provincial cabinet visited Corps Headquarters Peshawar on Monday.

The dignitaries were briefed about overall security situation, ongoing development projects in Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and capacity building of police. Corps Commander Peshawar Lt. Gen. Hassan Azhar Hayat and other senior civil and military officials attended the meeting.

The participants reiterated the importance of socioeconomic development projects

including the revival of tourism and mineral exploration in NMDs, which are vital for sustainable peace and growth in the area.

The meeting also reviewed the mechanisms of border management including measures to curtail and curb the smuggling of goods and put forward a comprehensive approach to address the issues.

Participants underscored the importance of the capacity building of KP Police including Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and expressed satisfaction on the recent achievements of police in thwarting terrorist attacks across the province.



KARACHI: A large number of workers, heirs of the martyrs, political and social workers and civil society activists gather during condolence ceremony in connection of the 11th anniversary of Baldia factory fire tragedy arranged by National Trade Union Federation (NTUF) held in Karachi.

NATCO bus plunges into ravine in Kohistan kills one, injures 43

KOHISTAN (APP): At least one passenger died and 43 others were injured when a tragic bus accident occurred at Shorghah Lower Kohistan as a Northern Areas Transport Company (NATCO) bus fell into a deep gorge due to certain reasons.

Rescue 1122 Lower Kohistan and local law enforcement agencies swiftly provided medical assistance to all injured individuals at the accident site. Subsequently, they were transferred to the Basham Hospital for further treatment and later most of the injured passengers were shifted to

Ayub Medical Complex (AMC) Abbottabad. The ill-fated bus was en route from Gilgit to Islamabad when the accident occurred. Authorities are working diligently to manage the situation and provide necessary support to the victims and their families.

Due to the substantial number of injured, Rescue 1122 requested additional ambulance services in Lower Kohistan to ensure prompt medical attention for all those affected. Initial reports indicate that the accident has resulted in injuries to approximately 40 to 43 individuals in Lower Kohistan.

CM for quality treatment to poor kid with heart outside chest

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Muzaffargarh DHQ Hospital witnessed the birth of a child having a heart outside of the chest and Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi ordered quality treatment for the infant.

The infant, whose heart astonishingly protruded from its tiny chest naturally, left the medical staff utterly bewildered.

Muhammad Qasim, the father of the kid, found himself in a deeply distressing situation, lacking the resources required to ensure the critical medical care needed for his newborn.

Agha directs ACs to solve problems of people on priority basis

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro
MIRPUR MATHILO: The action against those who transfer the quota of urea from Ghotki district to other districts is over. According to the details, a meeting of revenue officers was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Agha Sher Zaman, in which Additional Deputy Commissioner Nawab Samir Laghari along with Assistant Commissioners of Ghotki, Mirpur Mathelo, Khangarah, Daharki and Ubauri and Mukhtiar Kars (Revenue) participated. That the quota of the district should be sold at fixed prices in the district itself, while legal action should be taken against dealers who hoard or transfer to other districts. He said that the assistant commissioner has an important role, therefore all the assistant commissioners should solve the problems of the people on priority basis, visit hospitals and schools and take effective measures against hoarders including artificial inflation.

He said that the situation will be better if the officers are active, they should listen carefully to the common people who come to the offices and find out their problems who have no recommendation.

Minor girl drowns in canal

FAISALABAD (APP): A minor girl drowned in Gugera Branch Canal in the area of Jaranwala Sadar police station.

Rescue-1122 spokesman said here on Monday that three-year-old Sonia Yousof fell into the Gugera Branch Canal near Punj Pulla on Nankana Road and drowned.

Receiving information, divers of Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and fished out the corpse from the canal which was later handed over to her relatives for burial after completing necessary formalities, he added.

International News

India PM Modi hails Saudi ties after 'historic' route unveiled

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India hailed its "strategic" partnership with oil-rich Saudi Arabia on Monday, days after unveiling a major trade and transport route linking Europe, the Middle East and India as part of a broad alliance.

"Together, we made the historic start to establish an economic corridor," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in New Delhi.

On Saturday, the pair took part alongside other G20 leaders in the unveiling of ambitious plans to create a modern-day Spice Route, boosting trade ties with potentially wide-ranging geopolitical implications.

"This corridor will not only connect the two countries, but economic cooperation, digital connectivity between Asia, West Asia and Europe," Modi added, in talks following the end of the two-day Group of 20 leaders' summit he hosted.

During their talks, the Indian leader and the Saudi crown prince also discussed cooperation in space, semiconductors and collaboration in defence manufacturing as well.

Indian foreign ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said the leaders discussed issues, including energy security, trade, investment and defence, without giving further details.

India and Saudi Arabia also discussed the

possibility of trading in local currencies and expediting the negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council of which Saudi Arabia is a member.

Ausaf Sayeed, a secretary in the Indian foreign ministry, said the two countries signed eight agreements, including a pact to upgrade their hydrocarbon energy partnership to a comprehensive energy partnership for renewable, petroleum and strategic reserves.

They also agreed to create a joint task force for \$100 billion in Saudi investment, half of which is earmarked for a delayed refinery project along India's western coast, Sayeed said.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Saudi Arabian counterpart Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman attending their delegation level talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India.

Air strikes kill 46 in Sudanese capital

Monitoring Desk
WAD MADANI: Air strikes killed at least 46 people and injured dozens at a Khartoum market, local activists said, one of the deadliest single attacks in Sudan's nearly five months of war. The bombing in the south of Sudan's capital came about a week after another air strike, also in southern Khartoum, killed 20 civilians on Sept 2, according to activists.

The number of victims in Sunday's "Qouro market massacre" had risen to 46 by evening, said the local resistance committee, one of many groups that used to organise pro-democracy protests and now provide assistance during the war.

In his statement, the committee revised an earlier toll of 30 killed. It added there were "dozens wounded" and said casualties continued to pour into the nearby Bashair hospital. "At about 7:15am (0515 GMT), military aircraft bombed the Qouro market area," the committee said. The hospital had issued an "urgent appeal" for all medical professionals in the area to come and help treat the "increasing number of injured people arriving".

A conservative estimate from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project says nearly 7,500 people have been killed in the war that began on April 15 between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.



U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk (Turk) listens to Chen Xu, Ambassador of the Permanent Representative Mission of China to the UN in Geneva, prior to the 54th session of the Human Rights Council, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Iran, US on verge of prisoner swap under Qatar-mediated deal

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: When \$6 billion of unfrozen Iranian funds are wired to banks in Qatar as early as this week, it will trigger a carefully choreographed sequence that will see as many as five detained US dual nationals leave Iran and a similar number of Iranian prisoners held in the US fly home, according to eight Iranian and other sources familiar with the negotiations.

As a first step, Iran on Aug 10 released four US citizens from Tehran's Evin prison into house arrest,

where they joined a fifth, who was already under house arrest. Later that day US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called the move the first step of a process that would lead to their return home.

They include businessmen Siamak Namazi, 51, and Emad Sharqi, 59, as well as environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, 67, who also holds British nationality, the US administration has said.

The Tahbaz and Sharqi families did not respond to requests for comment.

Storm, floods kill at least 35 people in eastern Libya - medical sources

Monitoring Desk
BENGHAZI: A powerful storm and heavy floods have killed at least 35 people in eastern Libya over the last two days with the death toll expected to rise as dozens more are missing, medical sources said on Monday.

Footage on social media showed people stranded on the roofs of their vehicles as Storm Daniel hit the cities of Benghazi, Sousse, Al Bayda, Al-Marj and Derna. "We were asleep, and when we woke up, we found water besieging the house. We are inside and trying to get out," Derna resident Ahmed Mohamed told Reuters by phone on Monday.

The missing include seven members of the Libyan National Army (LNA), a force led by Khalifa Haftar which controls the eastern part of the divided country, LNA spokesman Ahmad

Mismari said. Heavy floods washed away vehicles, footage broadcast by an eastern Libya's Almoskbal TV showed. The channel also posted pictures of a collapsed road between Sousse and Shahat, the home to the Greek-founded and UNESCO-listed archaeological site Cyrene.

Witnesses said the water level had reached three metres (10 feet) in the coastal city of Derna.

Libya's eastern-based parliament declared three days of mourning.

Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah, prime minister of the interim government in Tripoli, also declared three days of mourning in all the affected cities, calling them "disaster areas".

Four major oil ports in Libya, Ras Lanuf, Zueitina, Brega and Es Sidra, were closed from Saturday evening for three days, two oil engineers told Reuters.

Ship rescues 68 migrants off Libya

Monitoring Desk
MARSEILLE: The Ocean Viking, a rescue ship chartered by SOS Mediterranee, rescued 68 stranded migrants in international waters off Libya on Sunday, the France-based humanitarian NGO announced.

"The Ocean Viking rescued 68 shipwrecked people from a double-decker wooden boat that left Zouara in Libya last night," the NGO said.

"Several of them are suffering from seasickness and are currently being treated by the medical team of SOS Mediterranee and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on board the Ocean Viking," it added.

Images published by the NGO on X, formerly Twitter, show several dozen migrants crammed into a makeshift boat wearing orange life jackets.

Kremlin says Putin has no real competitors if he runs again

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: If Russian President Vladimir Putin decides to run in the 2024 presidential election, no one will be able to compete with him, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday, Russia's RBC business news service reported.

"The president has not yet announced that he will nominate his candidacy," Peskov was quoted as saying by RBC.

"But if we assume that the president stands as a candidate, then it is obvious that there can be no real competition for the president at this current stage."

Peskov added that Putin "enjoys the absolute support of the population".

The former KGB agent has dominated Russia, as president or prime minister, for more than two decades, priding himself on bringing stability to the vast nation after the chaos that engulfed it following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

No arrest risk for Putin at Brazil G20: Lula

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Russian leader Vladimir Putin will not be arrested if he attends the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro next year, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said. The Russian president skipped this year's gathering in New Delhi, avoiding possible political opprobrium and any risk of criminal detention under an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant. India is not a member of the ICC, which issued the warrant in March over accusations of unlawfully deporting Ukrainian children, a war crime.

