

Independent

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QUETTA: Business activities seen closed while markets gives deserted look during the shutter down strike called by Ittehad Ahle Sunnat Balochistan against Mastung bomb blast

‘Enough is enough’: Balochistan govt declares all-out war against terrorists

Jan Achakzai vows to take revenge of every martyr of Mastung carnage; We would go behind all those involved in the Mastung carnage including the masterminds, and would bring them to justice; Announces financial compensation of Rs. 1.5 for families of each martyr, Rs. 0.5 million for critical injured and Rs. 0.2 million for minor injured on behalf of interim provincial government

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically reiterated the government’s pledge to take revenge of every martyr of the Mastung carnage.

He said that those involved in the planning, facilitation and masterminds of the Mastung suicide blast would not be spared anyway and as such they would be taken to task.

“We would go behind all those involved in the Mastung carnage including



secretariat on Sunday afternoon.

Jan Achakzai said that the security plan is being revisited by removing the shortcomings.

He said that it is resolve

of the state to go to any extreme for elimination of the terrorism.

He asserted that we would carry out intelligence base operation in every nook and corner to apprehend and eliminate terrorists.

Referring the recent visit of Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir to the province, the caretaker Minister said that we welcome the resolve of COAS for elimination of terrorism in the country including province.

Chinese success example for developing countries: Caretaker CM pledges to complete ongoing and proposed projects of CPEC in Balochistan

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki asserts no power of the world can’t stop speedy development and prosperity under CPEC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has reiterated his government’s resolve to complete the ongoing and proposed projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the province.

This was stated by the Chief Minister in his message issued on eve of the

national day of China on Sunday.

Mr. Domki said that the Chinese economic success is an example for the developing countries.

He said that the Pak-China friendship is time-tested, and it would strengthen further with passage of time.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that the people of Pakistan give special importance to rela-

tions with China.

He said that the relations of Pakistan with China have promoted the strategic bonds between the two countries besides expanding the CPEC.

Referring his visit to Gwadar, the Chief Minister said that he directed the concerned authorities to expedite work on the ongoing projects under the CPEC.

Shutter down strike observed against Mastung tragedy in Quetta, other parts

Independent Report

QUETTA: The complete shutter down strike was observed against the Mastung’s tragedy in Quetta and different other parts of Balochistan on Sunday.

Almost all the shops, business concerns and trading centers remained closed during the shutter down strike in the metropolis besides other parts of the province.

The petrol pumps also remained closed in some parts of the city.

The Ittehad Ahle

Sunnat Balochistan had given call for shutter down strike against the suicide blast in Mastung on eve of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW).

The traders organizations and different political parties had endorsed the shutter down strike.

During the strike, the flow of traffic remained below normal in the metropolis. The Ittehad Ahle Sunnat leaders demanded of the government to bring the terrorist elements involved in the Mastung carnage to justice immediately apprehending them.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing the annual meeting of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC)

28th Annual Meeting of Pakistan Engineering Council: Solar energy producing country to have bright future: Governor

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar urges engineers to construct any international level engineering structure in order to attract tourists of world; seeks cooperation in overcoming electricity crisis and learning modern skills of IT and AI to 10,000 youth under IT Initiative program

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has urged the engineers of the country to build any international level engineering structure so as to attract the tourists of the world.

He said that the country which would increase the production of solar energy in the science and engineering sectors would only have the bright future.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while addressing the annual meeting of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) held at a local club on Sunday.

The annual meeting of PEC was attended by the Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai,

Minister Education, Dr. Abdul Qadir Bakhsh Baloch, Senator Rukhsana Zubairi, Chairman PEC, Muhammad Najeem Haroon, office bearers and members of the council besides other prominent from all over the country.

The personalities from different shades of life also participated in the PEC meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Governor also urged the engineers to guide us to overcome the prevailing crisis of energy in the country as how we can convert the

electricity on the solar energy system.

He said that the historic Eiffel tower structure in Paris to Burj Khalif in Dubai force us to recognize the great work and brilliant mental capabilities of the engineers as such it is necessary that our engineers may also build any international level engineering structure or building so as to attract the foreign tourists.

Referring the PEC meeting, Governor said that he is present among the experienced and keen engineers of the country who remain busy in development and construction of the country round the clock.



QUETTA: Business activities seen closed while markets gives deserted look during the shutter down strike called by Ittehad Ahle Sunnat Balochistan against Mastung bomb blast

Policeman martyred, two terrorists killed in attack on Mianwali patrolling post

MIANWALI (INP): A police constable was martyred after a group of terrorists attacked a Punjab Highway Patrolling Post in Mianwali.

A crossfire also left two terrorists dead and another severely injured. According to a Punjab Police spokesman, a group of more than 10 terrorists attacked Eisa Khel Kundal patrolling post in early hours.

An exchange of fire took place between the suspects and Punjab police officials who foiled an attempt of the suspects to enter the patrolling post’s building.

The firing left two suspects dead and PHP head constable Haroon Khan martyred. Khan suffered bullet wound in his eye.

The spokesman further

said the gun battle ensued for about four hours and PHP officials repulsed the attack.

Punjab police chief Dr Usman Anwar said the deceased suspects were involved in terrorists activities across the country. He said a hunt had been launched to trace the runaway suspects.

He said Punjab police along other security forces were fighting the terrorists, adding CTD has so far conducted 130 intelligence-based operations.

The Punjab police were put on high alert to protect life and property of the masses, the Punjab IG said.

The IG left for Kundal in morning. He will attend the funeral of the martyred cop.

Provincial Apex committee scheduled to be held on October 10

QUETTA: The Provincial Apex committee is scheduled to be held on October 10.

The Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir and other concerned high ups of military and civilian institutions would also participate in the vital meeting.

This was informed by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while addressing the news conference held at the civil secretariat on Sunday.

According to the Information Minister, the overall situation of law and order would be reviewed and certain important decisions would be made in the meeting.

Attackers set off bomb at Turkish government building, both die

ANKARA: Two attackers detonated a bomb in front of Turkish government buildings in Ankara on Sunday in an assault that left both of them dead and two police officers wounded, in what authorities called the capital’s first terrorist attack in years.

CCTV footage obtained by Reuters showed a vehicle pulling up to the Interior Ministry’s main gate and one of its occupants quickly walking toward the building before being en-

gulfed in an explosion, while the other remains on the street.

The blast killed one of the terrorists and authorities “neutralised”, or killed, the other, the interior minister said of the incident that rattled a central district that is home to ministerial buildings and nearby parliament.

In a speech at the opening of a new parliamentary session hours later, President Tayyip Erdogan called the morning attack “the latest attempt” to inflict terror on Turks.

Caretaker FM to fly to China on important visit today

ISLAMABAD (Online) Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani is leaving for an important visit to China on Monday, where he is likely to meet his Afghan counterpart Mullah Amir Muttaqi.

According to sources, the next week is very important for Pakistan’s foreign relations, as Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani is leaving tomorrow for an important visit to China, where he will participate in the third Himalaya Forum.

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attack in Ankara

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday said that Pakistan strongly condemned the dastardly terrorist attack in Ankara and expressed solidarity with Turkiye.

On his X handle, the prime minister said “We stand in complete solidarity with our Turkish brothers and sisters in the fight against the scourge of terrorism. I have no doubt that under the dynamic leadership of my brother (President Recep Tayyip Erdogan), the resolute Turkish nation will emerge

ever stronger from this challenge.”

Separately, in a press release shared by PM Office Media Wing, the prime minister extended sympathies of the Pakistani nation to the people of brotherly country Turkiye.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

According to Turkey’s government officials, on Sunday, two terrorists carried out an attack in front of interior ministry buildings in Ankara, one died in the explosion and the other was neutralized.

Vitamin “A” drops also to be administered Seven-day polio immunization campaign kicks off all over Balochistan today

QUETTA: The seven-day anti-polio campaign is scheduled to be kicked off in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan from today (Monday).

The Coordinator Emergency Operation Center (EOC), Syed Zahid Shah informed that necessary arrangements have been made for the immunization campaign.

According to him, over 2.44 million children below five years of age would be administered the anti-polio vaccine. However, the children would also be admin-

istered the Vitamin “A” drops, the EOC coordinator informed.

He said that around 10,000 polio teams including mobile, fixe sites and transit point teams would be taking part in the immunization campaign all over the province.

The EOC Coordinator mentioned that no fresh case of polio has been reported since January 27, 2021 in the province.

The last case of polio had been reported from Killa Abdullah district, Syed Zahid Shah informed.

Two weeks long Exercise Eternal Brotherhood-II concludes at Barotha

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Multinational Joint Special Forces Exercise Eternal Brotherhood-II conducted among Special Forces of Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Turkiye and Uzbekistan in Counter Terrorism domain has concluded, the Military’s media wing on Sunday said.



The two-week-long Exercise Eternal Brotherhood-II commenced on September 17 in Barotha, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The Corps Commander 11 Corps attended the Closing Ceremony as Chief Guest along with the Director General Military Training and General Officer Commanding Special Service Group.

PM felicitates new Maldives President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday felicitated Dr Mohamed Muizzu on his victory in the Maldives Presidential elections.

“Heartiest congratulations to Dr. Mohamed Muizzu on his victory in the presidential elections of Maldives. Look forward to working with him for further strengthening Pak-Maldives relations and regional cooperation,” the prime minister said on X, formerly known as twitter.



LAHORE: Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer of PML (N) Maryam Nawaz presiding over meeting of youth volunteers.

Maryam Nawaz says: Nawaz Sharif will restore the economy, end terrorism

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz’s Chief Organizer and Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz has said that Nawaz Sharif will restore Pakistan’s economy and end terrorism.

A meeting of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Youth Volunteers was held under the chairmanship of Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

On the arrival of Maryam Nawaz in the meeting, the youth volunteers welcomed her with enthusiastic slogans. In the meeting, consultations were held regarding the reception of former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on October 21.

Maryam Nawaz paid tribute to the enthusiasm of the youth volunteers.

Talking on this occasion, Maryam Nawaz said that Nawaz Sharif also loves you and the people very much. On October 21,

the people will prove that the leader is only Nawaz Sharif.

Nawaz Sharif is coming to take Pakistan out of crises, Nawaz Sharif is a savior for the wounds of Pakistan, Allah Almighty has always made Nawaz Sharif red and exalted.

The chief organizer of Muslim League-N said that the reformation of the system, the welfare of the people is the goal of Nawaz Sharif, I always said that if the development given by Nawaz Sharif is removed, only ruins will be left in Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif will save the people from inflation.

The leader of Muslim League-N will start a new era of employment, peace and development for the youth and workers, we have not wasted a single moment of service to the nation and will not do so in the future.

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Massacre again

A day of celebration turned into a bloodbath in Mastung and Hangu, as terrorists attacked an Eid Miladun Nabi event in the Balochistan town and Friday prayers in the KP city. At the time these lines were being written, no group had claimed responsibility, while the interim interior minister had claimed that Indian intelligence was involved. Over 55 victims perished as a suicide bomber struck the Milad event in Mastung, while five victims were reported dead in the Hangu incident, also believed to be a suicide attack.

Up till a decade ago, Balochistan, specifically Quetta and Mastung, was in the grip of intense sectarian militancy carried out by Lashkar-i-Jhangvi. Mass casualty attacks occurred in the provincial capital, while buses carrying Shia pilgrims were raided by LJ terrorists in Mastung on multiple occasions. Earlier, in 2006, LJ militants had bombed a Milad gathering in Karachi's Nishtar Park, wiping out much of the Sunni Tehreek leadership. However, where Balochistan is concerned, LJ's activities have come down considerably, and there's a strong possibility of other militant groups, such as the IS-K, being involved.

In fact, many experts believe that many of LJ's cadres have been absorbed by IS-K, which is active across the region. It was only last month that the authorities had claimed they had gunned down an IS-K "commander" in Mastung. This individual had reportedly been involved in several terrorist acts in Balochistan. As for Hangu, while the area has also witnessed sectarian bloodshed in the past, this time the mosque that was attacked was inside a police station. Other parts of KP have also been experiencing militant violence carried out by the TTP — which has distanced itself from the latest attacks — and its offshoots, as well as IS-K. Balochistan's security situation over the past few decades has ignited apprehension, with the presence of both separatist and religiously inspired militancy.

A return to the bloodletting of old, despite the massive security footprint in the province, should be a matter of great concern. The state needs to deploy all the resources at its disposal to neutralise terrorists in Balochistan and, indeed, the rest of the country.

If this monster is not vanquished at this stage, it will create a security nightmare of significant proportions. KP and the former tribal districts also need to be protected from the blood-soaked assaults of the TTP and like-minded terrorist groups. Instead of indulging in extracurricular activities, the security establishment must focus on an effective counterterrorism strategy to uproot militant networks in the country.

Peace is essential for free and fair elections, and militant actors will try to derail a smooth transition from a caretaker set-up to an elected government. Therefore, the caretaker administration must devote all its energies to ensuring peaceful polls, and checking the militant menace.

Stepping up



Muna Khan

In 2014, I had the good fortune of attending a talk by my favourite writer, David Sedaris, where he read from a yet to be published piece about his Fitbit, a digital pedometer which is worn on your wrist and monitors your activity. The goal is to take 10,000 steps every day, which is roughly eight kilometres.

When I began graduate school in 2017 in the US, the Fitbit was quite common and more affordable, so I bought one. Soon, I became obsessed with hitting 10,000 steps, then reaching that goal quicker in the day, and then increasing that goal. I did not let Chicago's schizophrenic weather come between me and my steps. Once the weather improved, I would wake at sunrise and walk to get more steps. I was competing against myself. I saw more of the city in my walks than I did as a student reporter.

I caught the walking bug from my father, a life-long avid walker come rain or shine, and I was determined to continue my practice once back in Karachi.

Sadly, that didn't last long, because I could only walk in parks or the beach near my house and became bored of the same scenery. I was also conscious of my body among a sea of men in these places. I occasionally walk my dogs in the neighbourhood, but DHA is a hot, dirty mess and the walk is not pleasant. The beauty of walking — whether aimless or with purpose — is that you cannot predict your experience.

Inevitably, every

woman says the most enjoyable part of being abroad is walking. Women want to walk without fear — of stares, harassment and other worries they carry when they step out of their safety zones in Pakistan. Before people get into a tizzy, please try to understand women's vulnerabilities in public spaces here versus anywhere else. The outdoors, which has always represented freedom, is a melting pot of inappropriate behaviour here. Crime statistics prove it. Between Jan 1 and April 30, a total of 10,365 cases of violence against women were reported to the Punjab police, and 777 to the Sindh police, according to a report by the Sustainable Social Development Organisation. The top two crimes were kidnapping and rape.

I know I am more safe than a woman who travels by public transport but, like her, I am always at risk of something happening to me because of my sex. This is why women bicycle or walk with guards behind them. This is why they drive gated parks to walk or watch their children play, or take a group of men wherever they go — even if it's a few minutes away. The idea of walking to nearby places is anathema to most of us. Our cities hate pedestrians.

But for health reasons, I have to resume my walking practice. I will partner with my father. Maybe we'll take short drives to discover different parts of our neighbourhood.

I am thinking of time spent in Mexico City, which has so many public parks, including the largest one in Latin America which is also one of the oldest in the world: Chapultepec Park. It is spread over 1,695 acres — twice the size of Central Park in New York. I joked with my family how it would have been converted into a hous-

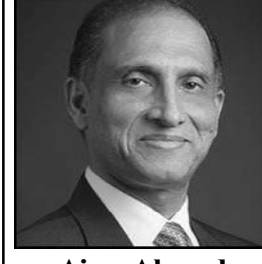
ing scheme in Pakistan. Mexico is not immune from greedy property developers eager to gentrify neighbourhoods, but its government is committed to investing in public spaces because it believes such spaces foster a sense of community, culture, and identity. While Mexico has one of the highest crime rates in the world and its own versions of DHA, that divide is not so visible in public spaces in the capital. I went to several places where the government had invested in stationary exercise machines for people to use for free; they also organise all kinds of activities for free. People also use these spaces to practise yoga, dancing, and for various classes. And they love their dogs.

Organisations working on urban issues who promote the 'right to a city' concept — giving the power of the city to its citizens — can apply for grants to invest in public spaces which may be neglected by the government in favour of wealthier areas. The private sector also invests in public spaces when they create their urban projects because it increases land value.

Since visiting Mexico City, I have been wondering whether it is possible to live under a 'corrupt' government that invests in social services and spaces for citizens to thrive? Maybe healthy, happy citizens will organise to root that corruption out, or negotiate for better services for themselves.

We will soon have a new government. I hope it can make accessibility its guiding principle when creating urban policies and think of ways to invest in our happiness. We cannot afford to segregate ourselves in silos. -- Courtesy Dawn

Economic emergency



Aizzah Ahmad Chaudhry

For most Pakistanis, the prevailing economic conditions have unleashed unprecedented hardship. Steep power tariffs and high fuel costs have made everything expensive. Even the basic necessities are now beyond the reach of the public. Spending consistently more than earning has indebted the country to the core. We have mortgaged the future of even our grandchildren.

The irony is that while the rest of the country is expected to bear the economic crunch, for the top tiers of government, it appears to be business as usual. Foreign trips abroad have been in full force, regardless of the expense involved. Let us bear in mind that foreign policies are made at home, and not through meetings and tours abroad.

It is time our government, an interim one though it is, led the austerity drive from the front, particularly when they expect the rest of the country to bear the economic pressures. We can take a cue from the present chief justice, who has voluntarily given up protocol, privileges and all pomp and show attached to his high office. The administration, too, needs to demonstrate to the people through definitive actions that it stands with them in this time of acute economic emergency.

As a general rule, official tours abroad should be suspended. Online mediums are effective in today's era, and our ambassadors abroad can represent us. There should be no free electric-

ity for anyone — without exception. No free petrol or designated cars either; only car pools from which vehicles can be requisitioned.

All loss-making state-owned enterprises should be closed down or privatised in a manner which is transparent and judicious for existing employees. When East Germany merged with West Germany, a massive programme of privatisation of East German SOEs was undertaken. They chose to sell only those that were functional; rehabilitated some that were not beyond repair and then sold them; and closed down the enterprises which were dysfunctional and could not be set right.

In this time of emergency, we cannot sustain loss-making enterprises, because it is not our own money but borrowed money from which we subsidise their existence. The government's primary job is to regulate, not build financially unsustainable enterprises. An even better option is exploring public-private partnerships.

The centre as well as the provincial governments cannot create more jobs than they have already done. More jobs can be created only through industrialisation. Our industry is under pressure not only from the high costs of inputs, but also regulatory bodies whose officials hound industrialists, often in search of bribes.

True, industrialists make profits, but they also create jobs, reducing poverty in the process. Barring those who exploit the system to receive subsidies, when an industrialist expands his business, he does so because he has the know-how and capital. He is not exploiting the nation, but generating employment and economic activity. That is the attitude our bureaucracy and regulators need to de-

velop towards our struggling industry. China has developed because they encouraged industrial and technological growth. The US is also boosting its manufacturing efforts. At our end, the long-awaited Special Economic Zones should be constructed as a top priority. Red tape and corruption are discouraging foreign and even domestic investors from setting up industries in Pakistan. The constitution of the Special Investment Facilitation Council seems to be a step in the right direction. This civil-military initiative seeks to cut red tape and encourage investors to profit from Pakistan's investment potential in IT, agriculture, energy, and mining.

Circular debt is another big hole in the treasury. The agreements negotiated with the IPPs are clearly loaded against the interests of the people. All agreements must be renegotiated, including the recent ones, invoking force majeure. This economic emergency constitutes more than force majeure; it has the risk of making Pakistan insolvent.

Let us be clear. There will be no easy money coming into our country anymore. Not even in the name of climate justice. We must learn to stand on our own feet. Our leadership needs to have faith in our own experts and our own resources. We need to do what is most essential: embrace austerity at all layers of the executive, legislature, and judiciary; privatise dysfunctional SOEs transparently; renegotiate terms with all IPPs; and make policies that encourage domestic investors to put their money in industry rather than in real estate. It is always difficult to untie a complex knot. However, if these key areas of bad governance are addressed, much of the rest will fall in place. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

China fosters new-generation nuclear power reactors

BEIJING (APP): China's home-grown nuclear power facilities with safer technology have rolled off the production line, with over 20 third-generation nuclear power reactors currently in the pipeline, set to generate more clean energy to power the country's growth.

At present, China boasts over 50 operational nuclear reactor units, and among them is the "Hualong One" generator set, installed in the eastern city of Fuqing. This domestically designed

third-generation nuclear reactor has not only increased on-grid electricity generation but has also revitalized both upstream and downstream industry chains.

The newly developed nukes are designed with a safer core-cooling technology, compared with the second-generation nukes. In addition to utilizing externally powered circulating cooling water, China's Hualong One reactors are equipped with a dual security system and

a two-layer containment structure. The No 5 unit in Fuqing, the first Hualong One unit to enter commercial operation in January 2021, has three super-large water towers mounted on its top. In the event of an emergency where the circulating water system fails, thousands of tonnes of water stored in these tanks will flow automatically without requiring a power supply. Furthermore, the nuclear island has been encapsulated in two robust concrete shells, measuring

1.3 meters and 1.8 meters in thickness, securely locking the radioactive materials within.

The Hualong One is capable of withstanding the onslaughts of typhoons of all degrees, earthquakes with the highest intensity, and the impact of jetliners.

With over 60,000 components, more than 88 percent of which are domestically developed, China is the fourth country globally, after the United States, France and Russia, to possess the core technology.



RAWALPINDI: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari in a group photo with President RCCI Saqib Rafiq and others during his visit to Rawalpindi Chamber.



GILGIT: Skilled women are embroidering bed sheets and pillows for sale at the Women's Market.

Minister says: Govt aims to boost hi-tech skills for youth, adoption of tech. in local industries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif Sunday said that the government is focusing on Hi-Tech skills to empower youth and introducing several incentives to boost the adoption of high-technologies (high-tech) in the local industries.

"Government was taking a significant step towards achieving the

mission of creating a digitally literate society in Pakistan," he said while talking to a Private news channel. "We will provide all required infrastructure and now with more focus on high-tech skills will increase demand in area of IT", he added. Our aim is to empower the youth of the country in various fields related to technologies as skills play a pivotal role in optimum utilization of human resources.

RCCI, ICCI agree for resolving issues of twin's cities businesses

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) have agreed to join hands for resolving the issues of the business community of twin cities.

The RCCI and ICCI have made joint efforts to solve the problems of the business community and for their welfare, it has been agreed to form a committee

consisting of 6 members including presidents to promote relations and consult on important issues between the two business organizations and also to play a friendly cricket match, said a press release issued by ICCI here on Sunday.

The ICCI delegation led by President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari visited Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industries

and congratulated President RCCI Saqib Rafiq on assuming the post of Chairman Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) and presented bouquets.

In a delegation-level meeting held at RCCI, President of ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari congratulated Saqib Rafiq, President of RCCI in his election as the chairman of RWMC and said that the trust of the government on the business community.

Gemstones: a valuable asset for revenue generation

PESHAWAR (APP): Busy like a honeybee in cutting and polishing of raw gemstones in his shop at Namak Mandi, Zahid Ahmad (38), a progressive gemstone exporter of Peshawar is often seen asking his brother Ali Akbar and fellow laborers' to hurry up to meet the placed orders of domestic jewelers and foreign investors.

Enjoying the famous Pashto song "Iarsha Pekhawah ta qamees tor mala rawora," (go to Peshawar and bring black shirt for me) playing on his cell phone while cutting and polishing precious gemstones with archaic

machines at Namak Mandi, a hub of gemstones trade in Peshawar City, the motivated exporter Zahid Ahmad said the demands of KP's gemstones have been increased in domestic and international market due to its brilliance clarity and glittering designs.

Inherited the painstaking business from his father 15 years ago, the Peshawar's born gemstone trader said "Pakistan's rare-earth mineral such as Ruby, Emerald, Sapphire, Topaz, Aquamarine, Quartz, Garnet, Lapis Lazuli, Opal, Agate, Moonstone, Feldspar, Kunzite and Zircon mostly found in abundance in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Kashmir and southeast of Balochistan attract domestic and foreign investors.

Zahid said the demands of Swat's emerald, Mardan's topaz, Kohistan's peridot, tourmaline of Chitral and Azad Kashmir's ruby were increased in UAE, Gulf, SAARC, CARs, Europe and US. A visitor would be astonished to see plenty of shops of gemstones while passing through Namak Mandi bazaar where a gemstones market was set up in 1970, providing direct and indirect jobs to around three lakh people.

Ali Akbar, who was assisting his elder brother

in gemstones business, told APP that precious gemstones were being wasted due to unmechanized mining, lack of technology and laboratories in the province, resulting in huge economic and financial losses to the government kitty. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said most of the stone cutters and polishers do stone faceting on conventional archaic machines and their precious time was wasted to bring inherent luster besides desired symmetry to gemstones.

The local residents and unprofessional hands mostly mine these jewels in a hazardous traditional

way in the mountainous regions mostly bordering with Afghanistan that caused irreparable damage to hidden treasure.

He said that a person with technical know-how can easily earn Rs15,000 per carat from Emerald and Sapphire and upto Rs 100,000/- profit from Ruby after making about Rs 0.6 million investment.

Mamoor Khan, pattern-in-chief, All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA) told the news agency that Pakistan's economy could be improved by giving status of industry to the gemstones sector.

FBR extends for filing of income tax returns by October 31st

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to extend the date of filing of income tax returns by October 31st, 2023, for tax year 2023. This decision for the person who is required to file their returns by September 30, 2023, is extended to October 31, 2023, in view of the request from various trade bodies and the Tax Bar Association.

3-day Int'l Carpet Exhibition to begin in Lahore from Oct 4

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf has said that preparations have been finalized for the three-day 39th International Exhibition of Handmade Carpets being started here from October 4.

Usman Ashraf said that it was very encouraging, the buyers from 25 countries including

China, USA, UK, Hungary and Turkey have registered to participate in the exhibition. He expressed these views while addressing the PCMEA review meeting to finalize the exhibition here at the Association's office on Sunday. Senior central leader Abdul Latif Malik, Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairperson Ejazur Rehman, Major (Retd.) Akhtar Nazir.

CM Naqvi inaugurate Ibn-e-Sina reading room, cafeteria of KEMU

Caretaker CM praises police for foiling terrorist attack on check-post

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated Ibn-e-Sina reading room and cafeteria of King Edward Medical College University (KEMU) after up-gradation, on Sunday.

Accompanied by the Punjab cabinet members, he visited the upgraded reading room and the cafeteria. They reviewed the facilities being provided in the reading room and cafeteria and checked the quality of edible items at cafeteria.

CM Naqvi went to the kitchen of the cafeteria and inspected food preparation process. The CM and ministers met doctors present in the reading room and cafeteria and asked them about the facilities being provided there. Talking to doctors after the inaugural ceremony, the CM congratulated students on getting a reading room and a new cafeteria. "Few months earlier, I witnessed during my visit that the condition of the cafeteria was in bad shape, the air-conditioners of the reading room were out of order; dust was all around and it was in a pathetic

condition." He said now the reading room had become of an international standard. He hoped that the Mayo Hospital would be upgraded by January 31 next year. The hospital administration would take over ownership of the up-gradation work and the work would be completed soon, he added. "I visit every floor and review the pace of ongoing work.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi addressing a Press conference.



LAHORE: Members of various Sunni organizations are holding protest demonstration against the bomb attack on religious procession of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal Eid Milad-un-Nabi in Mastung District, held at Lahore press club.

More than 74.78 million children across KP to be vaccinated against Polio

PESHAWAR (APP): All preparations have been completed for the national anti-polio campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa starting from Monday (October 2) and during the two-phased five-day campaign, more than 74.78 million children across the province will be vaccinated against polio.

According to the Emergency Operation Center, "In the first phase of the anti-polio campaign in Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, Malakand, and Hazara divisions, all children under five years of age will be administered polio drops."

ANP leader in Swabi died of heart attack

SWABI (APP): Former Chairman of District Council Swabi and District Leader of Awami National Party Hasan Khan died of heart attack last Saturday night.

Special counters set up to deal with Conjunctivitis patients: Dr Jamal Nasir

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Dr Jamal Nasir on Sunday said that special counters had been set up in all the government hospitals of Punjab for the treatment of Conjunctivitis patients.

During a visit to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) to inspect the Conjunctivitis and dengue wards of the hospital, he directed the hospital management to deal with the cataract patients at these counters and keep them separate from other patients. "Conjunctivitis patients should not be sent to OPD unnecessarily so that other patients can be safe", he added.

Eye infection wanes but still 1,134 new cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): A decrease in conjunctivitis cases was observed in Punjab, but still 1,134 new cases were reported on Sunday.

The year 2023 has seen a total of 395,929 reported cases of eye infections across 36 districts in Punjab. Lahore, the provincial capital, accounts for 23,633 cases this year, with an additional 236 new cases in the last 24 hours.

Governor KP stresses for tireless work to ensure prosperity in country

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali has vowed to work tirelessly for the progress and prosperity of the province in general and for country in particular.

He stated this in an exclusive Podcast interview with state-run Radio Pakistan on Sunday.

The KP Governor highlighted the steps being taken for the betterment of education sector in the province. He said a plan is being devised to impart practical knowledge to students along with the theory.

Police arrest two suspects

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Dhokot police have arrested two suspects and recovered weapons and liquor from their possession.

13 dead, 1,177 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 13 people were killed and 1,177 others injured in 1,177 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 625 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 657 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

International News

Iran slams normalisation with Israel as 'reactionary'

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday denounced any attempts by regional countries to normalise relations with its arch-enemy Israel as "reactionary and regressive".

The remarks came amid ongoing US-brokered negotiations between Israel and Saudi Arabia to establish formal ties, with the United States saying on Friday that the two countries are moving towards the outline of a deal.

government in the Islamic world," Raisi said during an international Islamic conference held in Tehran.



North Korea blames US for 'grave terrorist' act against Cuban embassy

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea accused the United States on Sunday of letting a "terrorist" act against Cuba take place on US soil, saying a recent attack against the Cuban embassy in Washington was the result of "despicable anti-Cuban" US intentions.

North Korea, Syria and Iran are on the State Department list. An assailant attacked the embassy on Sept. 24 with two Molotov cocktails. No one was hurt and there was no significant damage.

the table.

EU's Borrell, in Kyiv, says bloc is preparing long-term security pledges

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said during a visit to Kyiv on Sunday that Ukraine needed more military aid and he promised ongoing EU support.



UN mission arrives in Karabakh, first visit in 30 years

Monitoring Desk
KARABAKH: A United Nations mission arrived in Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday, Azerbaijan said, after almost the entire ethnic-Armenian population fled since Baku recaptured the breakaway enclave.

their government and reintegrate with Baku following a one-day Azerbaijani offensive last week.

An AFP journalist at a border crossing along the Lachin corridor that links Karabakh with Armenia, saw only one car arrive from the now deserted enclave.

Afghan embassy in India suspends operations

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Afghanistan's embassy in India suspended operations on Sunday, more than two years after the Taliban's return to power in Kabul following the collapse of the Western-backed government.

buildings and property to representatives chosen by the Taliban authorities.

Russia intercepts five HIMARS, JDAM bomb, 37 drones over Ukraine in last 24 hours

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's defence ministry on Sunday said Russian air defences had intercepted five U.S.-made HIMARS shells, an air-launched JDAM bomb and 37 Ukrainian drones over Ukrainian territory in last 24 hours.

At least 13 dead in Spanish nightclub fire

Monitoring Desk
MURCIA: At least 13 people were killed in a fire in a Spanish nightclub on Sunday morning, authorities said, with fears the toll could still rise as rescue workers sift through the debris.

Jose Ballesta, mayor of Murcia, said the fire had broken out at around 6:00 am local time (0400 GMT) and was "extremely serious".



An ethnic Armenian woman from Nagorno-Karabakh carries her suitcase to a tent camp after arriving to Armenia's Goris in Syunik region, Armenia.

Pro-China frontrunner closes in on Maldives presidency

Monitoring Desk
MALE: Pro-China frontrunner Mohamed Muizzu was set to win Saturday's presidential vote in the Maldives, according to local media tallies, after a campaign dominated by the archipelago's relationship with traditional benefactor India.

has won, he has won," a crowd chanted outside the campaign office of Muizzu's party in the capital Male.

Health minister launches national polio vaccination drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Sunday launched the anti-polio campaign by administering polio drops to children. Addressing the occasion, he said that the second national anti-polio campaign of the year 2023 is being started across the country from October 2.

The minister said that around 43 million children will be vaccinated in the national anti-polio campaign. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that there is no cure for polio and that only the polio vaccine can save children from permanent disability.

He urged parents, civil society, teachers, scholars and religious scholars to play their roles in the eradication of polio.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that eradication of polio is essential for our national honor and respect. He said at one stage it was not possible to eliminate polio from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Now we are close to eradicating polio." He said, "The fight to eradicate polio cannot be won without the help of parents."

He appealed to citizens to cooperate with polio volunteers when they were at their doorstep. The minister said that work is being done under a comprehensive strategy for the eradication of polio. He said that the ministry has appointed top officers in Southern KP to stop the spread of the virus.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan inaugurating 2nd anti polio campaign of 2023 by administering drop to a child

Domki urges all segments of society to take wholehearted part in anti-polio drive

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has urged all segments of the society to take wholehearted part in the polio immunization campaign so as to save the future generation from the crippling disease of polio.

In a statement issued here marking the start of anti-polio campaign in Balochistan on Monday (today), the Chief Minister directed the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of all respective divisions and deputy commissioners to pay full attention on the anti-polio campaign and supervise it

there so that no child is left from vaccination.

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki urged the parents to complete the course of immunization for their children along with the polio vaccination so that they may be saved from different diseases.

The caretaker Chief Minister also urged the parents, religious leaders, political circles and media to play effective role for making the polio immunization campaign a success.

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Jan Achakzai applauds role of PEC in development & prosperity of Pakistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has applauded the role of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) for development and prosperity of the country.

He was addressing the annual meeting of PEC held here at a local club on Sunday morning.

The Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar was the chief guest on the occasion. The office bearers and members of PEC from all over the country participated in the annual meeting.

The Minister Information said that the future of country is linked with the province of Balochistan and there's no dearth of talent in our youth.

What they need proper guidance and ample opportunities to excel in different sectors, adding he stressed.

The Minister Information on the occasion also referred to the incidents of terrorism in the country including the Mastung carnage and asserted that the terrorism would not be tolerated at any cost and those involved in it would be eliminated.

Jan Achakzai said that no one would be allowed to create law and order and spoil the peaceful environment of the country and so Balochistan.

He particularly said that the terrorists involved in the Mastung carnage and their facilitators would not be spared at all and would be taken to task.

5 lakh tons of silt scooped out at Gwadar Port

GWADAR (INP): Since the project's inception in March 2023, nearly 0.5 million (5 Lakh) tons of silt have been excavated from the bed of the navigational channel and anchorage area at Gwadar Port.

The project is set to be completed in 12 months. Dawood Baloch, the Gwadar Port Dredging Plan Project Director told Gwadar Pro that China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC) has successfully removed 5 lakh tons of silt since the

desilting process began in March. This desilting process aims to restore the original depth of the navigational channel at Gwadar Port, allowing heavyweight ships to navigate efficiently.

This restoration will ensure the seamless movement of various types of vessels, facilitating easy docking without interruptions. Another official from Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) stated that the plan is to reclaim the natural and original operational depth of 14.5 metres at Gwadar.



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan President, Rahim Agha along with others addresses to media persons during press conference.



LAHORE: Chairman Muhammad Tahir Ashrafi addressing the Serat Rahmatul-Lil-Alameen (SAAW) Conference organized by Pakistan Ulama Council at Al Hamra Hall.

Pak, Azerbaijan join hands for resilient, sustainable urban planning

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan join hands for a climate resilient and sustainable urban planning keeping in view the real challenges faced by the region.

Both the countries have joined hands during a meeting between Caretaker Planning Minister for Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed and Chairman State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture, Azerbaijan Anar Guliyev, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The minister is on an official visit to the Second Azerbaijan National Urban Forum and Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2023, themed "Resilient cities as a driving force of economic development and fighting inequalities," organized by the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Zangilan as part of the Azerbaijan Urban Week.

During the sidelines meeting with his counterpart, the minister appreciated the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts undertaken by the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture in conflict affected areas of Azerbaijan.

"It was mutually acknowledged that Urban Planning is a real challenge and forums like Azerbaijan National Urban are much needed to find out solutions, while learning from the international experiences and for chalking out a collective way forward, remarked, the Planning Minister, while meeting with his counterpart.

He said the people of Pakistan share the spirit of the festivities of the 74th National Day of the Peoples' Republic of China.

The Minister expressed hope this year and many years ahead of us will reinforce our all-weather relationship and promote peace and progress for us and the world at large.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani also extended his heartfelt felicitations to Foreign Minister Wang Yi and people of China on their National Day.

In his post at X, he said we pay tribute to the rich history, culture, and achievements of this great nation and reiterate the resolve to take China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship to greater heights.

PM, Info Minister extend warmest felicitations to China on National Day

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has extended warmest felicitations to China on its 74th National Day.

In a statement on social media platform X today, he congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chinese nation and said Pakistan takes great pride in the achievements of our Iron Brother.

The Prime Minister termed China as an anchor of peace and stability as well as engine of development and progress in today's world.

Meanwhile, in his video message on X, Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi also felicitated China on its National Day.

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During the month, eight youth were critically injured due to use of brute force by Indian paramilitary and police personnel in the territory. At least 157 civilians and political activists were arrested and most of them were booked under black laws, Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).



LAHORE: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq addressing Workers Convention and Youth Talent Award ceremony

Govt hikes LPG by Rs20/kg before decreasing petrol by Rs8/ltr: Siraj

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan, Sirajul Haq has said that the government increased Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by Rs20 per kilogram before announcing a meager decrease of Rs8 per litre in petrol prices.

Addressing a ceremony in Lahore on Sunday, he said that everyone was talking of worsening situation of the country but no one was ready to admit the responsibility of the situation.

Sirajul Haq said that there was disappointment, terror, devastation everywhere and countrymen were in incessant panic.

It was matter of grave concern that a single roti (flatbread) was being sold for Rs25 and single electricity unit was being charged Rs52, he added.

He said that assets of all who come into power grow and condition of common man worsens.

The JI chief said that currency of war-torn Afghanistan was three-time stronger than Pakistan.

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Germany announces €2m aid for Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): German Consul General in Karachi Dr Rudiger Lotz said that Germany will provide €2 million in aid to Pakistan till 2027 under the World Food Program.

He said this during a book launch event organized by German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GPCCI) here in Karachi. The book launch event titled, "Landmarks of Pakistan" contained pen and ink drawings of historical places of Pakistan by a German Painter, Ms. Ute Elpers. German Consul General in Karachi Dr Rudiger Lotz said, "Tonight it is an event where we do not talk [about] politics or business but about culture. The book has landmarks covering the country, all four provinces of Pakistan. We have in the book the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad and the Quaid-i-Azam Mausoleum in Karachi... and so on. What I found particu-

larly charming is the old who loved this country, its people and culture and started to take her ink and pen to draw these buildings and the love of the country which she had never seen."

Speaking at the event, caretaker Tourism Minister Arshad Wali Mohammad said, "Today we have gathered to celebrate a remarkable fusion of art, culture and international cooperation exemplified by this coffee table book, an initiative of the German Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI).

This project underscores the enduring ties between Germany and Pakistan highlighting cultural exchange and fostering mutual understanding."

Ute Elpers (1935-2019) was a highly gifted artist trained as a porcelain and ceramic painter who worked as a technical drafter in road and bridge construction.

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Religious scholars, leaders propose solutions for economic prosperity at Serat-un-Nabi Conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed said the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) stood as a timeless wisdom.

Addressing the annual Serat-un-Nabi Conference themed - Practical Wisdom for Economic Prosperity in the light of Sunnah - here at the Pakistan-China Friendship Centre, he emphasized that the true success was not measured by wealth, fame, or power instead, the strength of one's character, integrity of actions, and impact on the well-being of others.

In today's rapidly changing world, where success is often measured by material achievements, Minister Aneeq encouraged believers to reflect on their own conduct, saying, "To truly embody the values of faith, we must strive to align our ethics and actions with the radiant example of the Prophet's life."

He further praised the Prophet's noble character, stating that the Prophet was known for his impeccable manners and even prayed for his enemies, demonstrating the highest moral standards.

Sighting a decision of Federal Shariat Court to abrogate interest-based system from the financial institutions in a period of five years, he opined that if the state machinery made 20 percent efforts annually, the job would be completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Reciting a verse of the Holy Quran, he alarmed that how a country could flourish in the company of nations after making anti-Islam policies.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, highlighted the significance of Islamic values and the need for anti-corruption measures. He underlined the corruption's detrimental impact on the country's foundations and announced plans to establish trade regulations in line with Islamic traditions.

Minister Bugti reiterated that adhering to the principles laid out by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) would lead to prosperity and development. He also emphasized the crucial role of scholars in the present era and assured that Pakistan, as a nuclear power, would not allow any weakening of its stance. In a call for unity, he affirmed that all Paki-

stanis, regardless of their backgrounds, were united under the banner of Islam.

Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz emphasized the need to reconsider term "minority" and instead highlight the religious identity of individuals in the light of changing global demographics and increased migration of religious practitioners.

He highlighted a remarkable event of the era of Hazrat Umar Razi Allah Ta'ala Anho that a non-Muslim who was old and financially broken, was begging in a street. On inquiring, he replied that he had to pay tax to an Islamic state. On this, Hazrat Umar Razi Allah Ta'ala Anho introduced the 'pension system' for the wellbeing of people in their old age.

He also mentioned a personal experience of awarding scholarships to non-Muslim students when he used to serve at University of Peshawar which brought a constructive change in their lives.

Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi underscored the significance of peace as a catalyst for attracting foreign investment to the country.

He said the people of Pakistan share the spirit of the festivities of the 74th National Day of the Peoples' Republic of China.

The Minister expressed hope this year and many years ahead of us will reinforce our all-weather relationship and promote peace and progress for us and the world at large.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani also extended his heartfelt felicitations to Foreign Minister Wang Yi and people of China on their National Day.

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HUB: View of business activities seen closed while markets gives desert look during the shutter down strike called by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) against the bomb attack on party leader Hafiz Hamdullah and his colleagues during religious procession of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal Eid Milad-un-Nabi in Mastung.

Election Focus: Shehbaz spotlights Nawaz's relief commitment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, discussing priorities for the upcoming general elections, emphasized Mian Nawaz Sharif's commitment to alleviating people's suffering, making it a central election focus and their vision for the country.

In a statement posted on social media platform X, Shehbaz outlined the core priorities, which encompass aiding the underprivileged, rejuvenating the nation's economy, and eliminating terrorism. As the PML-N president, he reaffirmed his party's steadfast dedication to tackling the issues affecting ordinary citizens.

Nationwide crackdown of FIA against elements involved in hundi hawala and currency smuggling continues.

According to the FIA, 170 cases were registered and 239 accused were arrested while 26 inquiries were also completed. Faisalabad zone arrested 21 accused, Multan zone arrested 19 accused.

Islamabad zone arrested 11, Karachi zone 22, Hyderabad and Baluchistan zone 13, 13 suspects were arrested.

According to FIA, a total of domestic and foreign currency worth more than 66 crore 16 rupees were recovered during the raids. 45.68 million Pakistani rupees are also included in the exported currency. Islamabad zone arrested 11, Karachi zone 22, Hyderabad and Baluchistan zone 13, 13 suspects were arrested.

Several plazas and shops were also sealed during the nationwide raids.

The spokesperson of FIA said that the assistance of law enforcement agencies was also obtained for the arrest of the accused while the arrested accused were involved in currency exchange without license.

Special raiding teams have been formed under the supervision of Deputy Directors in the concerned circles of FIA and on the special instructions of Director General FIA Mohsin Hasan Butt, all resources are being used to arrest the accused. Intelligence-based operations continue to receive support from other agencies.

FIA's operation against those involved in Hundi hawala continues

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) operation against the suspects involved in hundi quoting continues across the country, during the last 6 weeks, 172 raids were conducted against the elements involved in the illegal exchange of hawala hundi and currency.

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FIA intercepted, offloaded another 'beggar gang' at Multan airport

MULTAN (INP): A group of beggars bound to Saudi Arabia under the guise of Umrah pilgrims were intercepted and offloaded on Sunday. FIA officials said that eight people were going to Saudi Arabia on Umrah visa to persevere begging.

As per the agreement, half of the money obtained from begging was supposed to be divided with the travel agent. "After the expiry of the Umrah visa, the passengers had to return to Pakistan," FIA told media persons in a statement issued. Earlier, FIA offloaded 16-member family including an infant who were going to Saudi Arabia for begging.

CTD foils attack, kills 2 terrorists at Esa Khel

SARGODHA (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) foiled a terrorist attack in Esa Khel and killed two terrorists, on Sunday. A police spokesman said that a group of armed terrorists attacked a Punjab Highway Patrol Police Chowki in Esa Khel. However, the CTD personnel and the Chowki police foiled the attack. Two terrorists were killed and one was injured, while one police head constable, Haroon Khan, was also martyred in the attack.

People declares reduction in petroleum prices as insufficient

ISLAMABAD (Online) The reduction in the prices of petroleum products by the government has been described as insufficient by the people.

Citizens said that there is a huge increase in petrol prices and when there is a shortage, the people are given relief of a few rupees, which is negligible.

A citizen said that 8 rupees relief after increasing Rs 26 is of no use, it will not reduce inflation.

Citizens have demanded from the government to provide adequate relief to the people in the prices of petroleum products.

It should be remembered that the price of petrol per liter has been reduced by 8 rupees by the government, the new price of petrol has been set at 323 rupees 38 paise per liter while the price of diesel has also been reduced by 11 rupees per liter, the new price is 318 rupees. 18 paise per liter.

According to sources, a levy of Rs 60 per liter on petrol and Rs 50 per liter on diesel has been maintained.

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