

Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Apex Committee on National Action Plan.

Gave deadline to illegal foreigners Leave Pakistan by Oct 31st

Apex Committee vows to address all security threats in befitting manner

Interior minister warns deportations will begin after deadline; UNHCR says refugee return should be "voluntary and without any pressure"

ISLAMABAD (Online): Apex Committee made decisions to deal with possible challenges regarding security situation and ensure implementation of constitution and law as per expectations of the people. The Committee was chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Chief of Army Staff, concerned federal ministers, provincial chief ministers and heads of all civil and military agencies were present in the meeting.

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The Apex Committee highlighted that the use of force is sole jurisdiction of the state and no person or group will be allowed to use coercive force.

The Committee made it clear that there is absolutely no place for any political armed group or organization in the country and those involved in such activities will be dealt with iron hands.

It was also highlighted that Islam is a religion of peace and the state will not allow anyone to achieve political goals by interpreting the religion in their own way.

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SC should admit its past mistakes of endorsing martial laws: CJP

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: During the hearing of the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act case on Tuesday, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa made a compelling remark, highlighting the havoc being wrought by individuals wielding unchecked power.

He astutely observed that when martial law is imposed, the solemn oath taken by judges often fades into oblivion. In contrast, when parliament enacts laws, the judiciary swiftly reacts, holding lawmakers accountable to their oath.

The CJP boldly asserted that the apex court should acknowledge its past mistakes concerning its endorsement of martial laws.

Critics, particularly lawyers, have historically voiced concerns about the

top court's perceived misuse of its jurisdiction under Article 184 (3) of the Constitution of Pakistan.

A full court bench of the Supreme Court is hearing petitions challenging the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023. The bench, headed by CJP Isa and comprising all 15 judges of the Supreme Court, is hearing the pleas.

The highly anticipated case is being broadcast live on state television, as cameras from PTV have been installed inside Courtroom No.1. The hearing commenced at 9:30am today.

The full court bench, led by CJP Isa, included Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice

Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

The hearing was adjourned till Monday, October 9.

At the start of today's hearing, the chief justice said the law affected the CJP and the two senior-most judges of the SC. He added that the law would also apply to future chief justices and senior judges of the apex court. Elaborating further, Justice Isa stated that he felt that he should not have been part of the bench, however, as the law affects all judges of the apex court, it was decided that a full court will hear the case.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing a Press Conference.

PTI chief's cipher case to be heard in Adiala Jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Law on Tuesday issued a notification to hold Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman's trial in Adiala jail in the cipher case.

The notification adds that the law and justice division says it has 'no objection' to the trial being held in jail.

The notification was issued after special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain wrote a letter to the Ministry of Law, asking it to issue a notification to hold the hearing of the cipher case in the Rawalpindi prison due to security concerns. Earlier, the FIA submitted challan of the cipher case in a special court constituted under the Official Secrets Act. PTI chairman and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi were indicted in the challan.

The FIA pleaded to the court for trial and conviction of the Chairman PTI and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

The first information report (FIR) was registered on August 15 under the Official Secrets Act.

National Day of Germany observed: Pak-German relations strengthening with passage of time: Jan Achakzai

German Consul General expresses heartfelt grief over Mastung carnage, visits Trauma Center to inquire about health of injured

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the relations of Pakistan with Germany are strengthening with passage of time.

However, there is a need to work for promotion of culture between the two countries.

This was stated by the caretaker Minister for Information while speaking at the ceremony organised to mark the German Unity Day observed as the national day of Germany here at the local hotel on Tuesday.

The Consul General of Germany based in Karachi, Dr Rudiger Lotz, Honorary Consul General of Germany in Quetta, and other dignitaries from different walks

of the life also participated in the event.

Addressing the gathering, the German Consul General Dr Lotz welcomed the participants.

He said that it is a matter of pleasure that the Germany's national day was observed in Quetta.

He on the occasion expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the Mastung carnage saying that he is grieved over the tragic incident.

He also mentioned that he visited Trauma center of the civil hospital where he met the injured of Mastung blast. The German diplomat expressed his resolve to strengthen the relations of his country with Pakistan.

He said that the cultural bonds are being improved further.

Bright chances of development in Balochistan: Governor emphasizes on adopting modern means to promote trade and commerce activities

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized upon adopting modern means for promotion of trade and commerce activities.

He said that Balochistan is a beautiful place in the whole region and it is the habitat of rare animals and birds.

The dry and fresh fruits produced in the province are unique as well.

Moreover, the beautiful places situated from Hanna-Urak to Harboi and Ziarat can attract the tourists from all over the country.

This and similar other

views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to different delegations who called on him here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

The Governor said that there are bright chances of development in the province.

He said that we can ensure development by utilizing different natural and Human Resources.

The Governor also said that importance of modern skills is being increased alongside education.

Therefore, it is necessary for our youth to benefit from the modern technical skills, he maintained.

Caretaker CM approves to establish Forensic Science lab in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki given approval of the establishment of forensic science laboratory in Quetta.

According to an official handout issued here, the Chief Minister given the approval using his constitutional powers. This laboratory would operate under the arrangements of Home Department, Government of Balochistan immediately. After establishment of the aforementioned laboratory, the necessary amendments would be made in the Balochistan Government Rules of Business 2012.

Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf appointed as new Naval Chief



ISLAMABAD (Online): Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf has been appointed as the new Naval Chief.

Naveed Ashraf got commission in the Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1989. He is a graduate of National Defense University Islamabad, US Naval War College and UK's Royal College of Defense Studies.

Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf has vast experience of working in key command and staff positions. He is currently serving as the Chief of Staff at the Naval Headquarters.

In recognition of his exceptional professional services and valiance, Naveed Ashraf has also been awarded with Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-i-Basalat.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar inspecting different sections during his visit to Pakistan Television Quetta Center

WB country director says: Pak needs 'careful' economic management to get macroeconomic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank (WB) on Tuesday suggested Pakistan to undertake the much-needed fiscal reforms including a reduction in tax exemptions and broadening of tax base, terming them "critical" for economic stability and sustainable economic growth.

"Careful economic management and deep structural reforms will be required to ensure macroeconomic stability and growth," WB Country Director for Pakistan Najib Benhassine said while launching "Pakistan Development Update (PDU): Restoring Fiscal Sustainability."

With inflation at record

highs, rising electricity prices, severe climate shocks, and insufficient public resources to finance human development investments and climate adaptation, he said "it is imperative that critical reforms are undertaken to build the fiscal space and public means to invest into inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient development."

According to the WB report, Pakistan's economy slowed sharply in FY23 with real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated to have contracted by 0.6 per cent. "The decline in economic activity reflects the accumulation of domestic

and external shocks including the floods of 2022, government restrictions on imports and capital flows, domestic political uncertainty, surging world commodity prices, and tighter global financing."

It said the previous fiscal year ended with significant pressure on domestic prices, fiscal and external accounts and exchange rate, and loss of investors' confidence, adding the difficult economic conditions along with record high energy and food prices, lower incomes, and the loss of crops and livestock due to the 2022 floods, have significantly increased poverty.

36 students affected; condition out of danger: Caretaker CM takes notice of incident of fire in a private academy

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has taken notice of the incident of fire erupted in a private educational academy located at Pishin stop, Quetta.

According to an official hand out issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to provide best medical treatment facilities to the affected students of academy.

He also directed to submit the report from the concerned authorities besides directing them to ensure better safety measures in all educational academies including this one at the Pishin stop.

In this regard, the SOPs should be implemented in true letter and spirit so that no such untoward incidents are occurred in future, the Chief Minister stressed.

Meanwhile, the Medical Superintendent of Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital, Dr. Ishaq Panzezi said that in all 36 affected girl students were

brought in the hospital for treatment.

The affected students are being provided necessary medical assistance, and their condition is out of danger, he submitted report to the Chief Minister.

APP adds: About 36 female students received burn injuries in a fire that erupted in a private academy on Tuesday.

Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Panzezi, Medical Superintendent Civil Sandeman Hospital while confirming the incident said a total of thirty-six girls were affected in the incident. However, they are out of danger, he maintained.

Mysterious fire engulfed the renowned Dr Manhoj Academy of the provincial capital. As a result of smoke and gas suffocation, many female students were knocked unconscious and many others suffered burn injuries.

Soon after the incident, fire extinguishers reached the site and the victims of the fire were shifted to civil hospital Quetta for medical aid. Further probe is underway.

Caretaker Finance Minister calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar on Tuesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to Ministry of Finance, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Ten terrorists killed amid intense exchange of fire in Pezu IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as ten terrorists were killed on Tuesday by the security forces during an intelligence based operation (IBO) conducted on reported presence of terrorists in the general area Pezu of District Tank.

During the operation, intense fire exchange took place between the Army troops and terrorists, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The ISPR added that these terrorists remained

actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as extortion and killing of innocent civilians.

A large cache of arms, ammunition and explosives was also recovered during the operation.

It added that the locals of the area appreciated the operation. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country," the new release said.



QUETTA: UNAIDS Director for Pakistan and Afghanistan Ms. Yuki Takemoto meeting with Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezi

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Interim Govt's firm resolve against terrorism & smuggling

The interim government under leadership of Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar has expressed its unwavering resolve against the smuggling and terrorism in the country. At a presser alongside Interim Information Minister Murtaza Solangi in Islamabad the other day, caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti asserted that there is a "zero-tolerance policy" against smuggling and terrorism, adding that crackdowns against smuggling have borne fruit in cooperation with provinces. Bugti detailed the anti-smuggling operations in the country and said that the economy was suffering massive losses before the crackdowns began. He reiterated that Indian intelligence agency RAW is involved in terrorist activities in Balochistan. The Interior Minister said that the government had managed to bring down the value of the dollar and was making more efforts to bring it down to its original value. He said that action had been taken against 168 currency smugglers.

He said that data on food had been gathered from all provinces and sugar smuggling had been clamped down upon using modern technology. At this important press conference, Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti revealed that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has given very clear instructions to his men that if any of them is found involved in smuggling he will not only be court-martialed but also be sent to jail. He also said that thousands of metric tons of wheat, sugar, urea, and petroleum products had been recovered as a result of successful anti-smuggling and anti-hoarding drive by the government.

While giving details, he said around 22,200 metric tons of wheat, 8,800 metric tons sugar, 4,300 metric tons urea, and petroleum products worth 10,195 metric tons so far recovered during the last one month. Regarding the anti-narcotics drive, the Interior Minister said 43 metric tons of drugs were seized with the registration of 200 cases. Talking about the drive against the smuggling of dollars and illegal money exchange, Sarfaraz Bugti said 168 First Information Reports were lodged against people involved in this illegal activity. Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti went on to say that security officials were involved in cross-border smuggling.

It won't be right if I say straightaway that security forces weren't involved in it, as all this smuggling was being carried out via trucks, not camels. Responding to a question, Sarfaraz Bugti told there are widespread allegations about the involvement of security forces in cross-border smuggling. The remarks of the caretaker minister came amidst the federal government's countrywide crackdown against smugglers involved in the illegal transportation of goods including wheat, sugar and fertilizers and dollars from Pakistan to Afghanistan and petroleum products from Iran to Pakistan. Referring to a meeting, Bugti said that Army Chief had told his people in clear words that those found involved in smuggling would not only be court-martialed but also sent behind the bars. He said that he was part of the meeting. "But their (Army's) process of accountability is not made public and thus doesn't come into our knowledge."

Democracy stalls



Dr Niaz Murtaza

Our democratic journey is like that of a small boat caught in stormy seas. But in a country where the vast majority has not seen the fruits of democracy in real life, it is often hard for many to realise that democracy matters. Even highly educated persons often argue that we need good governance, whether it comes from democracy or autocracy. Such talk reflects the sorry reality that even after 75 years, we have no consensus on democracy, unlike in most Saarc states where democracy is a given and the only debate is on improving it. It also reflects the sordid fact that such people have not done a serious analysis of our own and global trends to realise that only democracy leads to durable good governance. Thus, such talk is reflective of not wisdom but naivete.

Democracy is a form of governance based on participation, tolerance and human rights unlike despotism. But for even many educated people, these are abstract luxuries that we can't afford yet and governance must yield immediate economic progress, infrastructure, utilities and law and order even if via autocracy. A regime that doesn't ensure participation, tolerance and human rights can't give the latter concrete outcomes for too long, as global trends show.

Among the four autocracy types, monarchies are almost all gone, except the Gulf ones which thrive only on oil money. Army regimes today all do poorly in

Myanmar, Sudan, Egypt and West Africa. Theocracy in Iran and Afghanistan is struggling. Among one-party autocracies, only China and Vietnam do well, but most others — as in North Korea, Cambodia, Laos and Central Asia — don't. Also, none of our parties have the strength to be given carte blanche. Against this, dozens of democracies are doing well, even regionally. But democracy takes time to mature and deliver. In India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, it took decades. Yet people there are still stuck with it to later pick its tasty fruits.

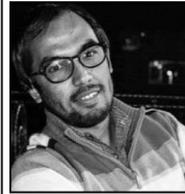
In Pakistan, even a few years of bad outcomes under a severely controlled democracy grappling with the bad legacies of long autocracy are enough for us to yearn for autocracy despite its decades of poor outcomes notwithstanding absolute powers and lavish US aid. Many blame all our ills on democracy even though we have not had even for one day the unhackled democracy some of our neighbours have had for decades. There were no national polls from 1947 to 1958 and a dubious constitution only lasted two years. Since 1958, our history is simple: we have been ruled directly by the establishment or by three parties (the PPP, PML-N and PTI) whose founders were initially brought into politics by the establishment which later fell foul of all three. Thirteen out of our 15 national polls and referendum since 1958 were seen to be rigged by the establishment and one by civilians (1977). We have obviously invented a fifth autocracy type — hybrid musical chairs — where the establishment keeps changing the junior civilian face once it invariably becomes too big for its boots and starts wanting to don the establishment's bigger

and shinier boots, only to be booted out.

Until 1971, the main impetus for autocracy came from the Bengali numerical edge that banded together western civilian and khaki elites against democracy. Since then, the main impetus is the establishment's unwillingness to let civilians rule. All three civilian elite groups — landed, commercial and middle class — have taken turns at forming parties, winning with varying levels of establishment support initially and then trying to tame it. Our problems are not the fruits of democracy but the thorns of autocracy as even our civilian regimes are establishment-controlled.

The five forms of autocracy can't deliver in a huge, diverse and unruly state like ours. The way forward is democracy. Despite all the beating democracy has taken, its pre-fruits quickly sprout whenever the establishment loosens its grip even briefly as in 1972-77 and 2008-2018 in the form of the Constitution, devolution and fair polls. True, governance was still bad as democracy matures slowly. Yet, our situation now is so bad, we can't wait for democracy to yield good governance slowly. We need good governance right after the next polls to avoid doom. But we must not try to get it via a hybrid regime; it must be brought into politics by the media, civil society, the people, donors etc must democratically pressurise the winner to appoint a competent prime minister and cabinet, from its ranks and beyond, which undertakes equitable reforms while the Zardaris, Sharifs and Imran run their parties and support reforms. The next regime may be a make or break one for us. We can't afford another business-as-usual one. If it fails, so may Pakistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

Washed away



Sajjad Hussain Changezi

Calls for protests against inflated electricity bills and increased fuel prices have become common in Pakistan's big cities, but one wonders how poor families in the rural areas are faring in the midst of such hardship. A household survey of 600 families in district Kech in Balochistan, Pakistan's poorest province, gives shocking details.

Survey respondents included families apparently benefiting from the BRACE Programme, an EU-funded poverty reduction initiative implemented by the Balochistan and National Rural Support Programmes. The survey reveals that although average monthly household income has increased by 29 per cent since the baseline in 2018, monthly expenditure has risen by more than 34pc. Despite the best efforts of NRSP and supporting partners, the end result is that poverty in these households has increased, with a net negative saving amount. If the beneficiaries of a poverty-reduction initiative are suffering setbacks, one can only imagine what rural families not covered by any social protection scheme must be going through.

ForeSight Research, a Karachi-based research firm, conducted the baseline in 2018, midline in 2021 and endline in 2023. The surveys also reveal that the lion's share, ie, 72pc of total household expenditure averaging Rs24,720 is spent on food. This was 60pc in 2018 and 66pc in

2021. If three-fourths of a family's budget is taken up by food expenses, there is no room to build assets or invest in personal and professional skills development. This is also evident from the land ownership pattern which has reduced since 2018. A decline of 5pc has been reported. In other words, most households are living at the basic survival level or even struggling to maintain the ownership of their assets.

Another major finding of the survey is that the impact of climate change has made its way from science conferences and university research papers into the common people's lives. Nothing shows that more clearly than when people from two tehsils of a single district complain about two contrasting weather phenomena. In Tump tehsil in Kech district, 45pc of the respondents complained about "excessive rainfall", whereas 50pc of the respondents in Turbat tehsil of the same district cited "lesser rainfall" as the major climate problem. A climate change expert can explain that although the obvious impact may vary from one village to another, droughts and floods are two sides of the same coin, ie, climate change.

The unpredictability of rainfall has made it difficult for rural communities to make arrangements for the safety of their families, crops and livestock. Over the last five years, loss of livestock has reportedly increased from 24pc to 45pc, loss of agricultural output from 15pc to 44pc and damage to personal property from 19pc to 26pc.

Families and communities usually step up in response to external challenges but beyond a certain threshold, they lose their stamina to put up a united front against visible external threats such as climate change. It is a most worrying find-

ing that, after the initial increase in collective efforts to protect the environment, as noted in the midline survey, fewer respondents now say they are continuing tree plantation efforts, preventing deforestation or adapting to extreme weather conditions by means of improved house construction.

Economic hardships beyond a certain threshold also result in social deterioration. This is evident from the fact that the perception of people helping each other in need has decreased from 56pc in 2018 and 30pc in 2021 to 20pc in 2023. Not surprisingly, when surveyors inquired about trust in local representatives, an increased percentage of respondents — 29pc in 2023 compared to 20pc in 2021 and 15pc in 2018 — opted for "no trust".

Balochistan has long suffered from political instability and economic deprivation but now poor families across the country are nosediving into poverty. The middle class is rapidly thinning and millions of families find it hard to keep their hopes alive for economic betterment. The economic situation needs a stable political leadership to plan and implement concrete measures, especially in regions vulnerable to climate change.

As for the international community, these findings should serve as yet another reminder that the regions and communities surveyed, though contributing least to environmental pollution are the ones bearing the brunt of climate change. The European Union has focused on Balochistan but the centre and the provincial government need to lead from the front to support the rural, poor and marginalised communities of Balochistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ADB report Political stability following elections to boost business confidence in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its recent report that political stability after upcoming elections in Pakistan could boost business confidence and pave way for new standby arrangement with International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Political stability following general elections later this year, if achieved, will boost business confidence, as will a new standby arrangement agreed with the International Monetary Fund to support economic

stabilization and rebuild fiscal buffers," says Asian Development Outlook (ADO) for September 2023.

The outlook has slightly revised Pakistan's growth target to 1.9 percent for the fiscal year 2023-24 against its projections of 2 percent made in April 2023.

"In Pakistan, growth is forecast at 1.9% in FY2024, slightly below the April projection, assuming continued implementation of reforms and supportive macroeconomic policies, recovery from flood-

induced supply shocks, and improving external conditions," it added.

The report revised down the country's growth estimate for FY2023 to 0.3% (0.6% forecast in April).

According to report, the revised projection assumes a modest rebound in demand, with private consumption and private investment growing by about 3% and 5%, respectively.

Fiscal and monetary tightening will crimp demand, as will inflation staying in double digits. On

the other hand, implementation of the economic adjustment program and a likely smooth general election should boost confidence, while the easing of import controls should support investment as fiscal tightening restrains public consumption.

On the output side, better weather conditions will enable an increase in the area under cultivation and in yields, supporting recovery in agriculture.

The government's relief package of free seeds, subsidized credit,



Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik chaired a meeting on Seed System of Pakistan and reviewed its challenges and future prospects at Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Railways, Shahid Ashraf Tarar chairing a meeting at Ministry of Railways.

HESCO recovers Rs2.835 billion from consumers, electricity thieves

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has recovered Rs2.835 billion since September 7 out of Rs169 billion in payable dues over the public and private sector consumers as well as in fines from the electricity thieves.

The company's spokesman Sadiq Kubar informed here on Tuesday that 1075 letters for registration of FIRs against electricity thieves had also been submitted in various police stations during the ongoing crackdown against theft and for the recovery.

According to him, the police had so far lodged 409

FIRs besides arresting 43 suspected thieves.

He said that the power supply from 1,159 pole-mounted transformers had been disconnected so far including the removal of 224 PMTs against which unpaid dues had accrued to Rs365.2 million.

He apprised that the highest recoveries of Rs318.28 million and Rs274.75 million were made on September 18 and September 15, respectively, from the defaulting consumers while the lowest recovery of Rs36.9 million was done on September 12.

Rupee gains Rs 1.04 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday witnessed 20th consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs 1.04 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.72 against the previous day's closing of Rs 286.76.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 283.5 and Rs 286.3 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased Rs 3.34 to close at Rs 299.56 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.90, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Shahid Tarar says: PR's existing infrastructure, rolling stock to be improved through private investments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Railways, Communication, and Maritime Shahid Ashraf Tarar Tuesday said the existing infrastructure, rolling stock, factories, and railway stations will be improved through private sector investments.

He said this while chairing a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Railways to discuss the

self-reliance plan of Pakistan Railways. Shahid Ashraf said that Pakistan Railways is following three pronged strategy to revive and expand railways in the country which include safety, efficiency, and self-reliance.

The minister said that Pakistan Railways has taken several initiatives to cut costs and enhance its revenue.

Chairman HCCI's subcommittee of Traffic, Road management meets SP Traffic

HYDERABAD (APP): On the directives of the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Adeel Siddiqui, Chairman of the Sub-committee of Traffic and Road Management Syed Ali Hassan Laljal along with members Muhammad Adnan Khan and Muhammad Danish met with SP Traffic Ghulam Rasool Sial and discussed the matters related to mutual interest.

SP Traffic Ghulam Rasool Sial said that police constables were per-

forming their duty on busy roads, Schools, Colleges and main commercial markets and also assisting to maintain the smooth flow of vehicles on the roads.

He said that traffic police sergeants and SO were monitoring the traffic system while the quick response force was also working for the restoration of traffic on emergency basis. He said that steps would be taken immediately for the restoration of traffic in those areas which were highlighted by the sub-committee of HCCI.

KCCI, NUTECH ink MoU for establishment of campus in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and National University of Technology (NUTECH), on Tuesday, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of NUTECH Karachi Campus. President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh and Rector NUTECH Islamabad Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moazzam Ejaz, signed the MoU here at KCCI, wherein both institutions have mutually agreed upon

principles for establishment of NUTECH Karachi Campus (NKC), said a statement issued here.

The MoU signing ceremony was attended by Director General Airport Security Force (ASF) Maj. Gen. Adnan Asif Jha, Pro Rector NUTECH Maj. Gen. Khalid Javed, Registrar NUTECH Brigadier Dr. Syed Adnan Qasim, Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Zubair Motiwala and other representatives

of business community.

As per MoU, NUTECH and KCCI will jointly develop NKC academics, research and skills system based on exports-supported strategies while both the institutions would also collaborate for intellectual, research, academic and professional cooperation to promote creation, development, implementation, transfer and export of indigenous industrial knowledge, technologies and skills.

Chinese policy bank ups loan support for farmland cultivation

BEIJING (APP): The China Development Bank (CDB), one of the country's policy banks, has stepped up loan support for the cultivation of high-standard farmland. By the middle of September, the lender had issued a total of 24.5 billion yuan (about 3.42 billion U.S. dollars) in loans to support farmland cultivation, which is expected to help foster 4.25 million mu (about 283,333 hectares) of high-standard farmland.

Rabi crop cultivation and season starts

Independent Report UMER KOT: Rabi crop cultivation and season has started, Urea pesticide and black marketing continues, farmers and farmers are in trouble and demand to take notice.

According to the details, preparations have started for the cultivation of rabi crops such as wheat, springer, wadaf and others in Unmarkot district including Kunari taluka, of black marketing. Due to this, the farmers and the farmers are suffering from severe problems, due to which the spring season and wheat

harvest target is affected. Instead of the rate of 11 thousand 591 rupees, it is being sold at 12 thousand 01 rupees.

Even though the rate is higher from 02 hundred to 05 rupees, urea fertilizer is not available in the market. From where they are busy selling urea fertilizer in black at high prices to influential farmers, various fertilizer dealers in their position blamed the ongoing crisis on the fertilizer companies and said that the fertilizer companies did not get the required quantity of urea fertilizer on time.

Wars are devastating for humanity Governor Punjab regrets suppression of Kashmiri people by India

Says efforts made by HWPL in world for peace are praise worthy

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of an international peace organization, Heavenly Culture World Peace Restoration Light (HWPL) working for global peace, led by Senator Kamran Michael called on Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur

Rehman said that the efforts made by HWPL in the world for peace since 2014 are praise worthy. He said that wars are devastating for humanity.

He said that the Kashmiris in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are still deprived of their legitimate right to self-determination. Governor Punjab said that India is trying to suppress the legitimate right of self-determination of

Kashmiris by usurping their basic human rights.

He said that international organizations should ensure the implementation of the UN resolutions to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Governor Punjab said international peace organizations need to be more active and play an effective role in resolving Palestine and Kashmir issues for durable peace in the world.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ghulam Ali along with others cutting cake during a ceremony on the eve of National Day of China, at China Window in Peshawar.

CM aide urges swift progress on Nowshera Mega City Housing project

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Housing and Transport Zafar Ullah Khan Umarzai on Tuesday advocated for expeditious progress in the development of the inaugural phase of the Mega City Nowshera Housing Project.

During the meeting, Umarzai emphasized the importance of expediting the first phase of the Mega City Nowshera housing scheme, urging the Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Housing Authority (KPHA) officials to complete the initial phase promptly and initiate preparations for the next phase. Dr. Ambar Ali Khan, Secretary of the Housing Department, Javed Ali, Additional Secretary, Roshan Mehsod, Director General of KPHA, Imran Wazir, Additional Director General, and other authority officers were present in the meeting.

The meeting included a comprehensive briefing by the secretary on the Mega City project.

SFA closes kitchen of JSMU for poor hygiene

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Food Authority (SFA), on Tuesday, temporarily closed the kitchen of Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) due to poor hygiene conditions while a penalty of Rs.80,000 was also imposed.

An SFA team led by Deputy Director of Canteens Pervaiz Ali Shahani paid a surprise visit to JSMU and inspected the kitchen was found in a very poor hygiene condition, said a statement issued here.

On the occasion, he also directed the university administration to improve cleanliness as per principles of hygiene. Another team of SFA led by Deputy Director Yasin Sabzoi inspected several restaurants in the district Karachi South on directives of Director General SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain. The team imposed fines amounting to Rs.100,000 for poor cleanliness and unsatisfactory hygiene conditions while the kitchen of a restaurant has also been temporarily closed.



LAHORE: A delegation of an International Peace Organization, Heavenly Culture World Peace Restoration Light (HWPL) working for global peace, led by Senator Kamran Michael in a group photo with Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore.

CM reviews law & order situation in province

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at his office to review the steps taken for the protection of life and property of the people in the province.

It was decided that stringent action would be taken against those inciting violence in the name of religion and every possible step will be taken to stop the financing of such elements. Additionally, individuals aiding wrongdoers will face intensified scrutiny, with no exceptions for those operating outside the bounds of the law.

Mohsin Naqvi ordered an organised crackdown on miscreants and criminal gangs,

emphasizing that no faction or gang would be permitted to disrupt the peace of the province.

IG police briefed about the law and order situation in the province, along with updates on legal action taken against miscreants. The meeting also paid tribute to the valiant policemen who thwarted a terrorist attack on the Kundal check post in Mianwali. Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir, chief secretary, ACS, secretary law, ACS (Home), Addl IG (Special Branch), CCPO, secretary prosecution, Addl IG (CTD), high officials and representatives from law enforcement agencies attended the meeting while RPOs participated through video link.

CM pins promotional badges to CSO

LAHORE (APP): Hamza Amanullah, Chief Security Officer (CSO) of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab has been promoted to the rank of Senior SP.

Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and IG Police Usman Anwar pinned the badges to Hamza Amanullah as Senior SP. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi felicitated Hamza Amanullah and expressed his best wishes for his continued success in his new role. CCPO Bilal Kamyana was also present.

Follow Quran, Sunnah for peace in society: Nighat

FAISALABAD (APP): Renowned religious scholar Dr. Nighat Hashmi said that application of the Quran and Sunnah to daily life would help reduce intolerance in society and spread the fragrance of love and peace. She was addressing a seminar arranged by the Career Building Society, Senior Tutor Office, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) at the Iqbal Auditorium on Tuesday. She stressed following in footsteps of the last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and said we have to make efforts to eliminate hatred in society.

Governor KP stresses upon faculty to improve ranking of institution

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Tuesday

laid foundation stone of new academic bloc in Edwards College Peshawar and stressed upon faculty members to revive the past fame and educational standard of the institution.

During visit, the governor also planted a sapling on the college premises.

Provincial Caretaker Minister, Hamid Shah,

faculty members and large number of students were also present.

He said that improving educational standard of the college was among his priorities, adding that resources would be utilized to improve its ranking.

“As a resident of Peshawar, it is my responsibility to work for improvement of the institutions that was one of its reputation and standard of education”, he said.



LAHORE: Representative of Motorway Police and Administrators of Bus transportation Company participate in the awareness rally about smog and fog, at General Bus stand in Provincial Capital.

05 dead, 1388 injured in 1302 road traffic crashes in Punjab

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1302 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs, 05 people died, whereas 1388 were injured. Out of these, 687 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 701 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

The majority (74%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the increasing number of road traffic crashes.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 654

drivers, 44 underage drivers, 188 pedestrians, and 551 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 343 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 345 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 95 in Multan with 93 victims and at third Faisalabad with 78 RTCs and 82 victims.

The details further reveal that 1388 victims were affected by road traffic crashes including 1130 males & 263 females, while the age group of the victims shows that 191 were under 18 years of age, 770 were between 18 and 40 years and rest of the 432 victims were reported above 40 years of age.

International News

EU assures Kyiv of support after first meeting outside bloc's borders

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The European Union signalled its long-term support for Ukraine on Monday as its foreign ministers convened in Kyiv for a historic first gathering outside the bloc's borders.

The meeting came as disagreements grow among EU members over support for Ukraine and as Kyiv's forces make limited gains in a high-stakes counteroffensive against Russian troops.

“We are convening in a historic meeting of the EU foreign ministers here in Ukraine, candidate country and future member of the EU,” the bloc’s foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement.

The purpose of the meeting was to “express

our solidarity and support to the Ukrainian people”, he said, acknowledging that the gathering “does not have the aim of reaching concrete conclusions and decisions”.

Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba hailed the discussions as an important signal of European support. “For the first time ever the foreign affairs council is going to sit down outside of its current borders — outside the borders of the European Union — but within future borders of the European Union,” Kuleba told reporters alongside Borrell.

There are growing fears of cracks appearing within the bloc as concern also rises over the support

of key backer the United States. Hungary, Russia’s closest ally in the EU, could now be joined by Slovakia as a potential block to more backing as populist Robert Fico pushes for power in Bratislava after winning elections this weekend.

There have also been tensions between Kyiv and some of its most strident backers on the EU’s eastern edge — most notably Poland — over the influx of Ukrainian grain onto their markets.

France’s top diplomat Catherine Colonna appeared to address the concerns, saying the meeting was a signal to Moscow of the bloc’s determination to support Ukraine over the long term.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks with European Union Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell as they visit the Memory Wall of Fallen Defenders of Ukraine, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, during the marking of Defenders of Ukraine Day in Kyiv.

Armenia's parliament votes to join the International Criminal Court, straining ties with ally Russia

Monitoring Desk
YEREVAN: Armenia’s parliament voted Tuesday to join the International Criminal Court, a move that further strains the country’s ties with its old ally Russia after the court issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin over events in Ukraine.

Moscow last month called Yerevan’s effort to join the ICC an “unfriendly step,” and the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Armenia’s ambassador. Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC are bound to arrest Putin, who was indicted for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, if he sets foot on their soil.

Armenia later sought to assure Russia that Putin would not be arrested if he entered the country.

Still, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called Tuesday’s decision “incorrect,” saying it will raise “additional questions” in Moscow, even though Armenia is “our ally, a friendly state, our partner, and a lot unites us with the brotherly Armenian people.”

Asked if Putin would have to refrain from traveling to Armenia, he added: “Of course, we wouldn’t want the president to have to ever, for whatever reason, refuse a visit to Armenia.” A diplomatic solution is needed and will be discussed with Yerevan, he said.

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Kremlin says Russia has not abandoned moratorium on nuclear testing

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Tuesday that Russia had not abandoned a moratorium on nuclear testing, and dismissed a suggestion by the editor of a state television channel that Moscow should detonate a thermonuclear device in Siberia as a warning to the West.

President Vladimir Putin, who rules the world’s biggest nuclear power, has repeatedly cautioned the West that any attack on Russia could provoke a nuclear response.

The Soviet Union’s last nuclear test took place in 1990. The United States’ last nuclear test took place in 1992 and France and

China conducted their last nuclear tests in 1996, according to the United Nations. The Kremlin said it had not abandoned the moratorium when asked about remarks by Margarita Simonyan, the editor-in-chief of state-funded broadcaster RT, who suggested that Russia should detonate a nuclear bomb over Siberia.

“At present, we have not left the regime of abandoning nuclear tests,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. “I don’t think such discussions are possible now from an official point of view,” Peskov said, adding that Simonyan’s words did not “always” reflect Moscow’s official position.



Armenian lawmakers attend the session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia in Yerevan, Armenia.

At least 10 people are dead after church roof collapsed in northern Mexico during Sunday Mass

Monitoring Desk
CIUDAD MADERO: The roof of a church collapsed during Sunday Mass, killing at least 10 people and injuring around 60, authorities said as searchers probed in the wreckage throughout the night and into Monday morning looking for survivors and more victims.

Approximately 30 parishioners were believed to have been trapped in the rubble when the roof caved in, officials said. Searchers crawled under the roof slabs and officials brought in dogs to help search for possible survivors.

The Tamaulipas state police said about 100 people were in the church at the time of the collapse.

The state security spokesman’s office said early Monday that 10 people had been confirmed dead from the collapse, which it described as likely being caused by a structural failure. The office said 23 of the 60 injured remain hospitalized, with two in serious condition.

The Mexican Council of Bishops issued a statement saying that “we join in prayer at the tragic loss of life and those injured.”



Members of a rescue team and people work at a site where a church roof collapsed during Sunday mass in Ciudad Madero, in Tamaulipas state, Mexico in this handout picture distributed.

Niger says 29 soldiers killed in attack, rejects Algerian mediation

Monitoring Desk
NIAMEY: At least 29 Niger soldiers were killed in an ambush by insurgents near the country’s border with Mali, the defence ministry said, the deadliest attack since the military seized power in a coup in July.

Separately, the Niger junta denied it had accepted an offer by Algeria to act as a mediator to solve its political crisis, even though Algeria had said on Monday it had received official notification of Niger’s acceptance.

Niger and its neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso, also run by military governments that seized power in coups, are all battling militants linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State who have killed thousands and displaced over two million people in the Sahel region. They signed a security pact last month promising to defend each other against rebels or aggressors.

The attack in Niger took place as soldiers were returning from operations against the militants.

Nepal hit by two earthquakes, injuring 11 and triggering landslide

Monitoring Desk
KATHMANDU: Two earthquakes rocked western Nepal on Tuesday, injuring 11 people, damaging homes and triggering a landslide that blocked a major highway, authorities said.

The landslide after the quakes of magnitude 6.3 and 5.3 in the district of Bajhang, bordering India, blocked the road to the southern plains, interior ministry official Rama Acharya told Reuters.

The quakes, centred in Talkot and Chainpur, struck at an interval of about 30 minutes. Police official Bharat Bahadur Shah said 11 people — seven women and four men — were injured and were being treated in hospital.

One woman was missing after being hit by another landslide triggered by the quake, he said.

One of the injured people was hit by a falling object, said Narayan Pandey, the top district official. Some homes in Chainpur, a town in the district, collapsed.

India tells Canada to withdraw 41 diplomats: report

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India has told Canada that it must repatriate 41 diplomats by October 10, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday. Ties between New Delhi and Ottawa have become seriously strained over Canadian suspicion that Indian government agents had a role in the June murder in Canada of a Sikh separatist leader and Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who India had labelled a “terrorist”.

Nijjar, 45, was the president of Guru Nanak Sikh

Nine killed after Mexican church roof collapses

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: A church roof collapsed during Sunday Mass in a northern Mexican city killing at least nine people and injuring 40, authorities said, as searchers worked into the night, desperately looking for another 30 people believed to be trapped under the rubble. Working under floodlights, military personnel supported emergency services using rescue dogs and earth moving equipment to identify and dig out survivors from the ruins of the church in Ciudad Madero.

India suspended new visas for Canadians and asked Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country on the same day.

President stresses competitive jobs opportunities for professionals to prevent brain drain

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said Pakistan was in high need of retaining its skilled professionals including doctors and nurses, and stressed that the present situation necessitates an effective strategy to prevent brain drain.

"Offering competitive job opportunities and creating a favourable work environment is essential to reduce the loss of our precious intellectual elite," he

said in his address here at the convocation of the dentistry and nursing departments of the Foundation University School of Health Science (FUSH).

President Alvi said the country invested its resources in doctors, engineers, and other professionals, however, the flight of skilled human capital had a negative impact on the economy and developmental growth.

He said the effective

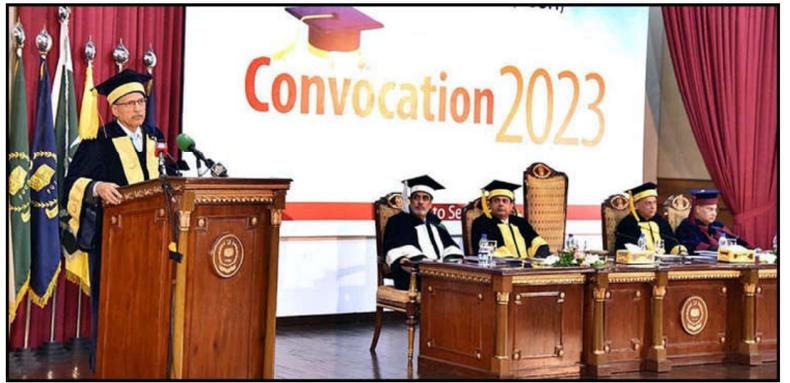
way to reduce the need for skilled doctors to seek employment abroad was to create better employment opportunities for them within the country.

Pakistan, he said, needed 900,000 nurses compared to the available 300,000 at present to cope with the requirements in the field of health services.

Dr Alvi said only nine percent of students of F.Sc (Faculty of Sciences) Pre-Medical got admission to

medical colleges in Pakistan, while the statistics were 25 percent in India and Bangladesh. The situation needed a strategy to set up more medicine schools to accommodate a greater number of students, he added.

The president pointed out that the women doctors who quit their professional fields while in a struggle to balance their family lives was a huge loss to the country.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the convocation ceremony of the dentistry and nursing departments of the Foundation University School of Health Science (FUSH).



QUETTA: Regional Director Federal Ombudsman Ghulam Sarwar Barohi presiding over a meeting at QESCO headquarters regarding outstanding dues of electricity bills against federal departments.

ECC approves first ever telecom infrastructure sharing framework

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) discussed and approved the first ever Telecom Infrastructure sharing framework.

Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar presided over a meeting of the ECC of the Cabinet, said a press release issued here.

The Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication submitted a summary for approval of "Telecom Infrastructure sharing Framework."

The ECC also approved another summary for the release of IMT spectrum for improvement of the Next Generation mobile broadband services in Pakistan. The ECC approved the constitution of an advisory committee for the release of the unsold IMT Spectrum along with its terms of reference.

The meeting discussed and reviewed the

performance and trends of key economic indicators including CPI of various essential items presented by Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives.

The meeting decided to constitute a Core group comprising Secretary Planning, Commerce, Food Security and Industry with the mandate to present concrete proposals for monitoring and advising the ECC on prices of the essential commodities as well as maintaining the stocks of the strategic products.

A summary of Ministry of Industries & Production regarding "Change of name from M/S Tuwairqi Steel Mills LTD (TSML) to National Steel Complex LTD (NSCL)" was also considered by the Committee.

The ECC gave in principle approval to the proposal, subject to further review and endorsement by the Law Division.

Health Consultant of CM states: GoB & GDA committed to fully cooperate to improve medical assistance

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan and Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) would extend full cooperation to improve the health services in Indus Hospital further.

This was stated by the Health Consultant of Chief Minister, Dr. Shahzad Alam while speaking to the Director General GDA, Majeed Rehman Qambrani in the GDA office on Tuesday.

On the occasion, Head of Campus of GDA Hospital, Dr. Aftab Ahmed brief Dr. Shahzad about overall performance of the Hospital.

He informed that practical steps have been taken to provide quality medical services to the patients in the GDA hospital being run by Indus.

He also informed that some 100,000 people were provided free treatment facilities during one year.



QUETTA: DIG Special Branch Ali Sher Jhokrani meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali.

Crackdown against power theft continues unabated

QUETTA (APP): On the special instructions of the Ministry of Energy Power Division, operations against electricity thieves and defaulters of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) are in full swing in all operation circles.

A handout issued by the QESCO, said that so far, 5117 connections have been found involved in electricity theft across the province. Illegal connections included 3049 domestic, 1986 commercial and 82 industrial.

He further said that as many as 1265 applications have been filed for legal action against electricity thieves in police stations and levies stations, and so far 380 FIRs have been reg-

istered against electricity thieves in all areas of the provincial capital Quetta.

Of which 66 FIRs have been registered in the provincial capital Quetta, 89 in Lorelai, 65 in Khuzdar, 93 in Sabi, 46 in Pishin and 21 in Makran.

Apart from this, a total of 166 electricity thieves have been arrested so far, against whom legal proceedings are ongoing.

Meanwhile, 25 lakh 30 thousand unit detection fines have been charged to the electricity thieves.

A fine of 13.83 million rupees has been imposed on all the electricity thieves, while 9.26 million rupees have been collected from the electricity thieves so far.

DC urges officer to monitor anti-polio drive

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sahabpur Mir Miran Khan Baloch has asked the officers of all the departments of the district to monitor the anti-polio campaign.

"Polio is a dangerous disease that can cripple any child mentally and physically for life, he said in a statement issued here.

Deputy Commissioner Sahabpur said a total of 67,848 children will be administered anti polio drops.

He emphasized that role of media, teachers, scholars, tribal elders and political leaders is pivotal to end the virus from the country.

DC noted the district administration and the security agencies are providing foolproof security to the health teams.

Large quantity of arms, ammunition seized in Kohlu

KOHLU (INP): The security forces seized large quantity of arms and ammunition from compound of the terrorists in tehsil Kohan of district Kohlu of Balochistan.

According to Levies sources, the operation against militant was conducted by QRF force of Levies.

The operation which continued for 11 hours was participated by 40 Levies personnel and officials.

Levies sources said arms and ammunition including anti-tank mines, 8 APMs, two APM, four RPG7, four BM12 missiles, five hand grenades, one kilogram explosives and seven 12 gun were recovered from compound of terrorists.

PTI loses one more seat in AJK Assembly

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lost one more seat in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday, after the Election Tribunal declared the election in LA 35 Jammu 2 null and void due to rigging.

The tribunal's judgment was issued on an application filed by Muslim League (N) candidate Chaudhry Ismail, who had alleged irregularities in the polling process.

The tribunal found that the rigging allegations were substantiated and ordered the Election Commission to take action against the officials involved.

The tribunal also ordered the Election Commission to re-conduct the election in LA 35 Jammu 2.

At UNGA body Pakistan terms India's occupation of IIOJK 'worst manifestation' of colonialism

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Describing India's occupation of Jammu & Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," Pakistan has called on the U.N. to push for a peaceful settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and Kashmiri people's wishes.

Noting that since 1946, 80 former colonies have gained independence, Ambassador Munir Akram told the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee that there are still peoples who are denied the right to self-

determination, "most prominently the people of occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine."

The right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people, the Pakistani envoy said, was explicitly recognized in UNSC resolution 47 and several subsequent resolutions, which prescribed that the final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir should be decided by its people through a free and fair plebiscite held under UN auspices.

These resolutions were accepted by both India and Pakistan, he said, adding that under Article 25 of the UN Charter.

Caretaker Minister Info maintains: Balochistan is poised to take lead in cutting-edge technology

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has announced that Balochistan is poised to take the lead in cutting-edge technology.

The inaugural utilization of a 3D printer by cadets at Girls Cadet College Turbat for their college projects marks the beginning of this technological transformation. In addition, the cadets at Girls Cadet College Turbat are availing themselves of Chat GPT's assistance in their labora-

tory activities.

In a statement, he outlined plans for the expansion of AI facilities beyond Girls Cadet College Turbat, ushering in a new era of AI adoption across Balochistan. He also emphasized Balochistan's ambition to excel in AI and its intention to seek collaboration with the Chinese government in this endeavor. "We are inviting private sector investments to establish modern IT labs equipped with 3D printers and AI support, ensuring that our students keep pace with their counterparts."



QUETTA: Additional Secretary Information Amjad Sohail and Abdul Aleem Bareech meeting with Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai.

Protest against killing of person ended on assurance of Achakzai

QUETTA: The heirs of a person killed in Kila Abdullah area protested here at Fayyaz Sunbal chowk here on Tuesday.

The heirs of the slain person along with other people of the area demanded of the government to arrest the killers immediately.

While they were protesting against the killing, the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai approached

them and held negotiations to end their protest.

He assured them that the culprits involved in the killing would be apprehended and brought them to the justice.

During the course of negotiations, the Minister also contacted the concerned authorities and directed them to apprehend the culprits.

Meanwhile, the protesters ended their protest peacefully on assurance of the Minister Information.

Nawaz has vast record of completing development projects: Mushahid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Standing Committee for Defense Mushahid Hussain Syed on Tuesday said that Ex Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has vast record of completing development projects in Pakistan.

A large number of people like working style of Nawaz Sharif, he said while talking to a private television channel. Nawaz Sharif, he said had a glorious period of launching China Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC), and construction of motorways. CPEC is a game changer, he said adding that Pakistan's geographical situation demands to work with regional nations to bring prosperity for the people of this country.

We have a high ratio of young talented men and women, he said adding there is an urgent need to utilize the potential of these educated and skilled genders for achieving fast growth for Pakistan.

Aneeq emphasizes unity among Muslim nations for global influence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday said the Muslim countries would have to portray a soft image of Ummah with concerted efforts on the globe.

He said this in a meeting with Bahraini Parliament Member and former Speaker Sheikh Adel bin Abdulrahman Almuawda, who called on him here in his office.

Sheikh Almuawda met with Minister Aneeq along with Pakistani scholars including Maulana Abu Turab, Maulana Atiqur Rehman Shah Kashmiri, Professor Sajjad Qamar, and Maulana Hafiz Maqsood Ahmad.

During their discussions, both leaders emphasized

the promotion of unity within the Muslim Ummah, addressing common issues, and combating Islamophobia.

Minister Aneeq reaffirmed that Pakistan's foundation was rooted in the Quran and Sunnah, and stressed the need for Muslim nations to work collectively to manifest the teachings of Islam. He highlighted that as Muslims, it was crucial to align their actions with Quranic guidance and promote Islamic values to the world.

Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of nurturing the younger generation lamenting that many young individuals were not seeking solutions to contemporary issues within the Quran's teachings.

Sheikh Almuawda expressed his country's deep affection for Pakistan as the only state established in the name of Islam. He also drew attention to historical instances of Islamophobia and the need to change the world's perception of Islam by removing the veil of ignorance.

Both leaders concurred that gradually incorporating religious education in educational institutions and spreading the message of Islam in a gentle and informative manner was essential. He also extended an invitation to Minister Aneeq to visit Bahrain to further strengthen bilateral relations.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to enhancing cooperation between Pakistan and Bahrain.

Preparations for Gwadar off-road Rally reviewed

QUETTA: The preparations for the 5th Gwadar off-road Rally were reviewed in detail in a meeting held at Gwadar on Tuesday.

The Director General Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Majeed Rehman Qambrani presided over the meeting.

The Chief Executive of the Rally Talha Rais informed that the work of 250-kilometers long track has almost been completed.

The DG GDA on the occasion said that large number of foreigner as well as national and local racers are vying in the off-road Rally.

He said that different committees have been formed to finalize the preparations.

Pitiless father kills 4 children, throws body in canal

LAHORE (INP): A pitiless man killed his four children and threw bodies in canal in Kahna area of Lahore. Police arrested the accused and recovered bodies.

According to details, accused Azeem hailing from Kahna area killed his four children Sabir, Ayesha, Habibi and Samia aged between five to 12 years and threw their bodies in Kasur Lalyani canal.

The culprit staged drama of abduction of his children but police over suspicion arrested him.

During investigation, the accused admitted murder of his four children and police after registering a case against him started investigation.

LG by-polls schedule notified

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has notified the local government (LG) by-polls schedule for four districts of Sindh including Karachi, Khairpur and Hyderabad.

The LG by-polls will be held in Karachi East, Karachi West, Khairpur and Hyderabad districts on November 5. The by-polls will be held on four seats of the union councils (UCs) in the said districts.



QUETTA: Chairman Red Crescent Society Balochistan Shafiq Ullah Lango meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Nawaz Sharif to appear before court: Rana

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Punjab President Rana Sanaullah has said that former premier Nawaz Sharif would appear before the court.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, he said the entire PML-N and the public is ready to welcome Nawaz Sharif on Oct 21. He said how the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would attract the voters without hitting the PMLN.

He said the entire Muslim world had celebrated when Pakistan had become the atomic power and it happened under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

The entire nation is facing the crisis like situation due to Baba Rehmaty, however, Nawaz Sharif is coming back to Pakistan for the nation. He said we have to improve the situation of the common man and the

PMLN head would do it by announcing the party manifesto at a gathering. During the public gathering, he said Nawaz Sharif would also express his view on his narrative and policy as well.

Criticizing the chairman PTI, the former interior minister said due to his conducts he is in jail as we had not instituted case against anyone. He said the neat and clean person turned up disastrous and country could default in his regime. He said that incidents of May 9 were attack on the defense of Pakistan and culprits involved in this occurrence should be given any relaxation. Everyone is free to contest the election as the PMLN does not want to incarcerate anyone, the minister said adding during a meeting with the Election Commission early elections had been demanded.



NASEERABAD: Traders and residents of Dera Murad Jamali blocked road and burn tyres as they are holding protest demonstration against the behavior of the district administration and Assistant Commissioners, held at Sind Balochistan National Highway road in Naseerabad.

No reason, logic behind any delay in general elections: Siraj

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Siraj-ul-Haq has said that there was no reason and logic behind any delay in upcoming general elections, adding the JI was staunchly committed to resisting any unconstitutional actions that might infringe upon the fundamental right of the people to vote.

Talking to media in Mansoorah on Tuesday, he pointed out that the constitution unequivocally stipulates the holding of elections within 90 days following the dissolution of assemblies.

Sirajul Haq stressed that stability was contingent upon upholding the constitution and conducting transparent elections.

He criticized those

who advocate for prioritizing economic reforms before elections, asserting that such calls merely echo past slogans, specifically the rhetoric of "accountability before elections." He noted that proponents of these ideas were acutely aware of their dwindling popularity among the masses and were anticipating an impending defeat.

Underscoring the responsibility of the state and its institutions to combat smuggling and corruption, the JI chief emphasized that an elected government was better equipped to address these challenges. He highlighted the people's admiration for the armed forces, attributing it to the constitutional mandate of safeguarding the nation.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Zahid Saleem presiding over a meeting regarding Balochistan Police Welfare Fund.