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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Major win for PTI as SC rules party eligible for reserved seats

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announces 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying PHC verdict which upheld ECP's order

ISLAMABAD (APP): A 13-member bench of Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday declared Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as eligible for the reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies.

The court nullified the decision of Peshawar High Court (PHC) and notifications of the ECP regarding the reserved seats, and also declared PTI as a political party.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announced the 8-5 majority verdict of the bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha Malik, Jus-

ice Syed Hassan Rizvi, and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan favored the judgment.

A nine-page written order of the top court said: "The impugned judgment dated 25.03.2024 of the high court is set aside. The order of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) dated 01.03.2024 is declared to be ultra vires the Constitution."

It further said: "The notifications of various dates, whereby the persons respectively mentioned therein, being the persons identified in the Commission's notification, dated 13th of May, 2024, have been declared to be returned candidates for reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies, are declared to be ultra vires to the Constitution, with-

out lawful authority and of no legal effect, and are quashed from 6th of May 2024 onwards, being the date an interim order was made by the court in CPLA no. 13289 of 24, the leave petitions out of which the instant appeals arise."

"It is declared that the lack or denial of an election symbol does not in any manner affect the constitutional and legal rights of a political party to participate in an election (whether general or bye) and to field candidates and the Commission is under a constitutional duty to act, and construe and apply all statutory provisions, accordingly."

The order said, "It is declared that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on solarization of agriculture tubewells and anti-power theft campaign.

No threat to govt after ruling on reserved seats: Azam Nazeer

Says SIC demanded relief but relief given to PTI which not respondent in case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday said that there was no threat to the government after the decision of apex court regarding reserved seats as it had a clear majority of 209 members in the House.

Addressing a press conference, Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) didn't recognize non-Muslims as its members, adding that legal action would be decided in consultation with political parties.

He questioned that what about the condition of Article 51 of the Constitution. The independent members of PTI were on the stance that the reserved

seats should be given to the SIC, he said, adding that apparently Article 51 and 106 were re-written, he said. The minister said that they were viewing the contents of the verdict. He said that there was a law exist about the reserved seats and it should have been allocated to the SIC.

He clarified that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was not a party in this case and that independent members of PTI did not approach any forum after winning.

Azam Nazeer Tarar said according to the SIC's manifesto, they should not be allocated minority seats. He added that PTI never claimed that their party should get reserved seats.



ISLAMABAD: Pak army patrolling at Constitution Avenue in the Federal Capital.

UN report Pakistan population to hit over 400 million mark in 2092; to surpass Indonesia in 2048

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A key UN report has placed Pakistan, whose current population is over 245 million, in the group of countries whose population is expected to increase through 2054 and could potentially peak in the second half of the century or later.

According to the current projects in the UN's World Population Prospects 2024 report, Pakistan will reach its peak population in 2092 of 404.68 million people.

It said that Pakistan's population is expected to surpass that of Indonesia in 2048 when it will reach 331.29 million.

Between 1998 and

2017, Pakistan's average population growth rate was 2.40%, the report said. For a population of over 220 million, this is a growth of about 5.28 million people per year.

Pakistan has one of the highest birth rates of 22 births per 1,000 people, it was pointed out. "Very few women use any type of birth control in Pakistan, and the surging population can put too much pressure on water and sanitation systems, result in millions of unemployed people, and overwhelm health and education systems."

Since the year 1947, when the country became a sovereign state, the population of Pakistan has in-

creased significantly, particularly because more and more people felt comfortable moving their families and businesses to the area, the report said.

Compared to the other countries in the region, the growth rate of Pakistan is about 2.1 percent higher, it said.

The report predicted that in about 35 years, if this growth continues, the population of Pakistan will eventually become double of what it was back in 2001. Judging from how the population has grown significantly over just ten years, this "doubled population" figure does not seem

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ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari hosted a state luncheon in the honour of President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, at Aiwan-i-Sadr, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was also present on the occasion.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan affirm commitment to expand bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan have affirmed their commitment to further expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of bilateral interest, especially energy, trade, connectivity, defence, and people-to-people linkages.

These topics were discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Friday.

Welcoming President Ilham Aliyev, President Asif Ali Zardari said that both countries enjoyed excellent relations and had a great scope of further improving ties in various areas of mutual interest.

He underlined the need for more regular engagements between the people and businessmen of Pakistan and Azerbaijan to cement bilateral ties.

He highlighted the im-

portance of Gwadar port, suggesting that Central Asian Countries and Azerbaijan could benefit from it for promoting regional trade, connectivity and tourism, besides bringing shared economic prosperity to the region.

President welcomed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, adding that the MoUs would give a new impetus to bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, commerce, tourism, mines and minerals, science and technology, law & justice, and culture.

President highlighted that the East had the potential to lead the world towards prosperity. He added that Pakistan wanted to build a sustainable and result-oriented engagement with Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, President Ilham Aliyev said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoyed a high frequency of people-to-people exchanges and both the countries needed to promote business-to-business relations for enhancing economic relations. He stated that Pakistan and Azerbaijan could also explore the possibility of working together in the renewable energy sector.

Later, the President also hosted a banquet in honour of President Ilham Aliyev and his delegation, which was also attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and journalists, at the President's House.

The President expressed his warm greetings for the people of Azerbaijan and reassured Pakistan's unwavering support for Azerbaijan.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Fauji Fertilizers Company Pakistan meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Senator Danesh Kumar is also present

Mandokhail calls for launching Umrah flight operation from Qta

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on Friday called for launching of Umrah flights operation from the provincial capital Quetta.

In a statement issued here, Governor Balochistan

deplored that pilgrims in Balochistan, on account of no direct Umrah flights are forced to go other cities to take flight for Saudi Arabia.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during his visit to Quetta promised to initiate Umrah flight operation from Quetta, he said adding that the flight operation will help resolve issues facing the pilgrims in Balochistan. Governor Balochistan further urged the PIA authorities to take concrete step in this connection.

PTI to emerge as largest party in National Assembly after SC ruling on reserved seats

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: Enjoying a D-Day after the Supreme Court's verdict in the reserved seats case earlier today (Friday), the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is expected to emerge as the largest party in the National Assembly as the number of Imran Khan-led party is likely to soar to 109.

In an unexpected legal victory for the main opposition party, the top court of the country ruled that the

party of incarcerated Imran Khan is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats. The decision has not only paved the way for the PTI's return to parliament, which was kicked out of the February 8 polls owing to the ECP's December 2023 ruling but has also increased the pressure on the coalition alliance by changing the composition of the National Assembly. With the majority

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QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Duurrani in a group photo with staff during his visit to Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education

PM vows to collaborate with provinces for farmers' welfare

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday vowed that after Balochistan, the federal government would also work in collaboration with the governments of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the welfare of farmers regarding the conversion of agricultural tube wells to solar energy.

Chairing a meeting on solarization of agriculture tube wells and anti-power theft campaign at the PM House, the prime minister highlighted that solar energy was the cheapest source of producing electricity, therefore promoting the solar energy in the country had become the government's top priority.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to prepare a compre-

hensive strategy after consultation with the provincial governments regarding the conversion of agricultural tube wells to solar energy in the provinces.

In the meeting, the prime minister was told that shifting diesel-powered agricultural tube wells to eco-friendly solar energy would save US\$ 2.7 billion in foreign exchange.

PM Shehbaz also instructed to formulate a comprehensive plan to further improve electricity theft prevention measures.

The prime minister appreciating the provincial governments for their cooperation with the Power Ministry to prevent electricity theft, directed the authorities concerned to present a comprehensive plan to introduce smart metering system in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Gohar Ali Khan talking with media persons after the PTI reserved seats case outside supreme court in the Federal Capital.

PTI demands of CEC to step down in backdrop of SC decision on reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI while terming Supreme Court (SC) decision in reserved seats case victory of democracy has demanded of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to step down immediately.

Talking to media men outside SC PTI chairman Barrister Gohar said decision will be remembered in the history for ever. We have got our right.

"We kept on saying our right was robbed. SC made it clear. Those who wanted to erase PTI, they received message.

He went on to say SC full court had given decision based on truth and justice in respect of reserved seats case.

Today is day of jubilation for 250 million people, democratic forces and patriotic Pakistanis, he said adding this decision will be remembered in the history.

He maintained today

11 out of 13 judges gave decision in favor of PTI. Today decision was given by 8-5.

He stressed Election Commission (EC) should implement SC decision forthwith. We hope reserved seats will be given to PTI. Our election which stands halted should be held as soon as possible.

We congratulate Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur from the core of our heart, he remarked.

He underlined Justice Mansoor Ali Shah read this decision. The way stands blocked what they were going to make amendment now. PTI counsel Suleman Akram Raja has said we have won legal war today. We have to win political war yet. This is the biggest day in the history of Pakistan. The coercers and tyrants who were trying to distribute PTI seats among others consider it spoil had to suffer defeat.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Dostain Jamalddini meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Reserved Seats: PTI needs to confess mistakes, not malign ECP: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar has said that in issue relating reserved seats in the Parliament, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) needs to confess its mistakes instead of maligning the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Ironically, it was portrayed that all in the country were guilty except the PTI, he added.

The information said that the PTI after all these blunders did not have the right to question the ECP's credibility.

Ironically, it was portrayed that all in the country were guilty except the PTI, he added.

In a statement on Friday in response to the PTI's propaganda against the ECP, he said it was the PTI which failed to hold

Never said PTI was not a political party: ECP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) claimed on Friday it never said the PTI was not a political party. The commission came up with its stance after the Supreme Court announced its verdict in the reserved seats case.

The ECP said the PTI was a political party with its name included in the list of political parties on website. Moreover, it said, the Election Commission had not misconceived any decision.

The Election Commission declared PTI's intra-party election invalid. The PTI went to various forums against it.

In the SC's decision announced on Friday, as many as 39 MNAs are declared to be with the PTI.

The Election Commission sources further said the decision of the ECP had been "upheld". PTI's intra-party elections were not valid, the logical consequence of which was that the bat symbol was withdrawn from it under Section 215 of the Elections Act.

British Investment delegation calls on Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): British International Investment (BII) Board delegation on Friday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at the Finance Division. The meeting was attended by CEO BII Nick O'Donohoe, Chairperson Ms. Diana Layfield, MD & Head of Asia Srinu Nagarajan, Regional Director South Asia Habib Yousaf, Development Directors Alex Woods & Ms. Jo Moir, Senior Economic Advisor Louie Dane, and officials from Finance Division, said a news release. The minister provided an overview of Pakistan's improving economic landscape including GDP growth rate of 2.4% for FY 24, which is expected to improve to about 3.6% in FY 25, buildup of foreign exchange reserves to USD 9.4 billion, revived confidence of investors in the capital markets and decrease in CPI inflation at 12.6% in June 2024, and increase in foreign remittances by 7.7% as compared to last year. He highlighted the successful completion of 9-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and government's commitment to achieve sustainable economic growth in future under a fund supported medium term program, negotiations for which are underway. The minister also underscored that increasing Tax to GDP ratio to about 13.7% in the medium term is the priority of the government through increasing tax base and FBR's end-to-end digitization. He further outlined the initiatives being undertaken in energy sector to reduce the cost of generation and privatization of DISCOs. It was further highlighted that the government is working on SOE reforms, privatization, rightsizing the government and bringing in investment through Public Private Partnership. Importance of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) was highlighted and the role of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in bringing in FDI in the priority areas of energy sector, agriculture sector and Information Technology (IT) sector was discussed.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary IPC Nadeem Irshad Kayani in group photograph with players and management during the prize distribution ceremony among players of AVC Challenger Cup-2024 CAVA U-18 Volleyball Championship-2024.



QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Hiking and Mountaineering Association led by its President Sharafat Hussain meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Govt. to decide due course of action after seeing detailed judgment: Rana Sanaulah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs and Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaulah on Friday said that the government would carefully review the details of the Supreme Court's judgment on reserved seats before determining its next move. Addressing a press conference, he said that the government would consider filing a review petition on the Supreme Court's decision on reserved seats after thoroughly examining the detailed judgment and consulting legal experts. He said that members who joined the Sunni Ittehad Council by giving an affidavit could be de-seated by the ECP if they join any other party. Explaining the case, he said that some individuals participated in the general elections as independent candidates and, after winning, provided formal affidavits within three days, as per the constitution and law, to join the SIC. He added that the SIC requested reserved seats, but the ECP maintained that since the Sunni Ittehad Council did not participate in the election as a party, these seats could not be allocated to them. The SIC then appealed to the Peshawar High Court, where this decision was upheld, and subsequently went to the Supreme Court.

PTI to emerge as..

Continued from page 1 members in the lower house, with 84 on board with the Suni Ittehad Council (SIC) and two independents — Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Omar Ayub Khan. Additionally, there are 68 members of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in the NA and the Jamiat Ulamae-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) has eight members while BNP-Mengal, MWM and PKMAP have one each in the lower house. Meanwhile, the MQM-P has 21 members in the National Assembly and a minority seat remains suspended. The opposition alliance in the National Assembly will surge to a strength of 120 after the PTI gains 23 reserved seats. Currently, the combined opposition, including the PTI, has 97 members. At present, the PTI has 86



QUETTA: Members of Umrani Ittehad are holding protest demonstration against killing of Mir Muhammad Aslam Khan Umrani and demanding justice for him, at Quetta press club.

Major win for PTI..

Continued from page 1 Commission shall forthwith but in any case within 7 days thereafter give notice to the political party concerned to file, within 15 working days, a confirmation that the candidate contested the General Election as its candidate. A political party may in any case, at any time after the filing of a statement as aforesaid, of its own motion file its confirmation. If such a statement is filed, and is confirmed by the political party concerned, then the seat secured by such candidate shall be forthwith deemed to be a seat secured by that political party for the purposes of para 5 above in relation to the Article 51 Provisions. It said: "The Commission shall also forthwith issue, and post on its website, a list of the returned candidates (now MNAs) and seats to which this para applies within 7 days after the last date on which a political party may file its confirmation and shall simultaneously file a compliance report in the Court."



KACHHI: Assistant Commissioner Umsal Khan alongwith FC Wing Commander Umair inspecting routes of Muharram processions.

Pakistan population to hit over..

Continued from page 1 ing in others, making reliable population data "more important than ever", said the UN sexual and reproductive health agency (UNFPA), heralding the report which is published to coincide with World Population Day. The report "must be used to reach and respond to the needs of those who have been left behind," the agency added. Marking the international day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said it was key to accurately count everyone "because everyone counts." "Our rich human tapestry is only as strong as its weakest thread. When data and other systems work for those on the margins, they work for everyone. This is how we accelerate progress for all." To study this population data more closely, the 28th edition of World Population Prospects (WPP) published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) since 1951, provides the latest demographic data for 237 countries from 1950 to 2024 and projections up to the year 2100. The WPP is crucial to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals, with about a quarter of the indicators relying on its data. The world's overall fertility rates are dropping, with women having one child fewer on average than they did around 1990. In more than half of all countries and areas, the average number of live births per woman is below 2.1 - the level required for a population to maintain a constant size. Meanwhile, nearly a fifth of all countries and areas, including China, Italy, South Korea and Spain, now have "ultra-low fertility", with fewer than 1.4 live births per woman over a lifetime.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Assistant Director Local Government & Rural Dev. Dept. Pishin is pleased to invite sealed percentage based bids per the rates by BCSR-2023 (amended up-to-date) from interested firms/suppliers/contractors having valid registration with PEC, Income Tax/GST and BRA for the following works under the PSDP 2022-25 where the time limit for mentioned projects is 30th of June, 2025 which is subjected to availability of funds. The Bid security in the form of Call Deposit for undermentioned works is 02% of estimated cost.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Executive Engineer (Building), CW, PP&H Department District Dera Bugti invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023, G.O.B. amended up-to-date from interested contractors/firms for the work listed below: Earnest Money 3% and Time limit 30-06-2025 for each work.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Kachhi invited the sealed percentage tender based on composite Schedule of Rates 2023 Government of Baluchistan along with tender Fee and item rates from interested Contractors/Firms for the work mentioned below:- Time limit 30-06-2025 for each work.

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014. BASIC ELIGIBILITY: i. The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council 2024 in relevant Category Wise in relevant discipline and registration with tax authorities i.e. (BRA, NTN and Sales Tax Department), where applicable. The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014. Two similar projects, building under taken in the past three (03) years. Turn over at least 70% of estimated cost in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Affidavit that firm has never been blacklisted. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single stage - One envelope Bidding Procedure. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: Issuance: The contractors/firms having valid registration with PEC in aforementioned category in relevant discipline can obtain the bidding documents from the address mentioned below on production of Green Challan form for an amount of Rs. 2,000/- (non-refundable) deposited in the head of account C-02716 through Government Treasury/National bank of Pakistan Dera Bugti or can be downloaded from website of BPPRA, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. The contractors/firms who obtain bidding documents by downloading them from BPPRA website will also be required to produce deposited Green Challan @ Rs.2,000/- for each work. The documents if requested by mail will be promptly dispatched by registered mail for which cost of mail will be borne by the applicant, however, under no circumstances the Procuring Agency will be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed. Earnest Money as mentioned above should be submitted in the form of bank guarantee or Deposit at Call from a scheduled Bank. Dead line of Submission: The Bidding Documents duly filed signed and attached with Copies of supporting documents must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before 29th July, 2024 at 11:00 Hrs. Opening: The tender document will be opened on 29th July, 2024 at 12:00 Hrs, before procurement committee in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives / agents. Bid validity Period (90 days). Place of issuance and submission will be:- Address: Office of the Executive Engineer (Building) C&W PP&H Department District Dera Bugti. Telephone No: 0835410162, Fax No: 0835410562. E-mail address: Mohanmadejaz23821@gmail.com.

The procurement shall be carried out per Balochistan Public Procurement rules, 2014. Eligibility:- The Authorized Dealer must have valid registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN, GST & BRA (Original) valid PEC certificate registration (Original) with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category and discipline with renewal for the year 2023-24, where applicable including three years works experience and bank (Turnover) The Bidder must have completed three assignments of similar nature and the same above value work in the last two years in hand. 10% Security Deposit Should be submitted by Contractor/firm in case of rate offered below 10% of the total cost. In case of failure, Bid may be rejected at any STAGE. In case of contractor / firm they should have valid dealership certificate of manufacturers. The pipes may be tested at site/lab on firm's cost. The Manufacturers will provide tax paid certificates. The Joint venture is not allowed. The firm authorized representative will be allowed having original CNIC and authorization letter/Deed must be provided on Judicial Stamp paper of Rupees 100 attested by the Notary public or first class Magistrate. The tender fee should be deposited in the head of account PHE Tender Fee through Green Challan in National Bank of Pakistan Dhadar only. Terms & Condition: (A) under following condition bid will be rejected, (i) Conditional & telephonic bid / tenders, (ii) bid not accompanied by a bid security of required amount of bid (iii) bid Submitted after specified date & time. (iv) blacklisted firms /contractors. (v) Original firm or authority letter mention against each work and original CNIC, Stamp with letter Head. (B) Bid validity period 90 days. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage, One envelope procedure. BID SECURITY: 2% of total bid Value in the shape of CDR must be submitted in Favor of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE Division Kachhi from Scheduled Bank. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS ISSUANCE: The Contractor/Firm should download NIT and Bidding Document by self From: WWW.BPPRA.ORG.PK SUBMISSION: The last date for submission is 29-07-2024 at 11:00 AM. OPENING: The tender will be opened on 29-07-2024 at 12:00 PM. Place of issuance, submission inquiries, and opening will be: ADDRESS: Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Kachhi @ Dhadar. E-Mail: xenphe0000@gmail.com Other terms and conditions are attached to tender documents. NOTE: It may be noted that no pay order will be accepted/entertained and the firm's complete title/name should be written on the call deposit. All the terms & conditions/sites of the work can be seen in office hours of the undersign. Under sign have reserve rights to reject all any bid with any condition. The Tender form/Documents will be download BPPRA website.

ٹیڈر نوٹس. بیورو ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو بلوچستان (دھادڑ) کوٹہ کوٹہ سید ذیل یونٹوں میں تعمیراتی اور صفائی کے کام کے لیے مارے جانے والے سال 2024-25 کے لیے بیورو ڈیپارٹمنٹ کوٹہ کوٹہ سید ذیل یونٹوں میں تعمیراتی اور صفائی کے کام کے لیے ٹینڈرز طلب ہیں۔ ٹینڈرز کو بلوچستان (دھادڑ) کے بیورو ڈیپارٹمنٹ (دھادڑ) کے ہیڈ کوارٹر میں جمع کرانے کی تاریخ 28 جولائی 2024ء تک 1130 بجے تک جانے چاہئے جو کہ روز بابت 12 بجے موجودہ عملیاتی کے دورے کے لیے ہے۔

TENDER NOTICE. The District Council Dera Bugti invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242507497691 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA. Tender fee Rs. 1000/-

Executive Engineer (Building) C&W PP&H Department District Dera Bugti. PRQ No.247/12-07-2024. www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION KACHHI AT DHADAR. PRQ No.235/12-07-2024. www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob

CHIEF OFFICER DISTRICT COUNCIL DERA BUGTI. AB No.56/12-07-2024. www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob

Secretary Planning inaugurates CMT for reliable census data

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) Awaiz Manzoor Sumra on Friday inaugurated the Census Master Trainers (CMT) Training Program to provide reliable, timely, and authentic data crucial for informed decision-making, boosting productivity and exports.

He said this while addressing the inaugural session of Training of Census Master Trainers 7th Agricultural census-2024 orga-

nized by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), said a news release.

The secretary recognized the Agricultural Census team for their pivotal role in the CMT training program, emphasizing the link between agricultural data and policymaking.

He encouraged the CMTs to fully engage in their training to ensure informed decision-making and stressed the need for uniform training delivery to supervisors and enumerators nationwide for effective implementation.

"This training of Census Master Trainers is not merely a preparatory step but a cornerstone in our efforts to gather accurate and timely agricultural data," he remarked. "The success of the 7th Agricultural Census hinges on the competence and dedication of our trainers and enumerators. It is imperative that the knowledge imparted here today cascades down uniformly, ensuring consistency and reliability in data collection processes," he added.

He reiterated the government's commitment to using data for evidence-based policies, particularly in the agricultural sector, where accurate data is vital for planning and implementing development strategies. Dr. Naem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) expressed gratitude to the secretary for his support and highlighted the collaborative efforts of PBS, stakeholders, and the government in advancing the 7th Agricultural Census.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani addressing as chief guest at the certificate awarding ceremony of 35th senior management course at National Institute of Management (NIM).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, Parliamentary Leader of PPP, in Senate Senator Sherry Rehman, Ambassador of France to Pakistan Nicolas Galey, Farooq Sattar and others stand in honor of national anthem of both countries during national day ceremony at residence of France Ambassador, in the Federal Capital.

DG Wafaqi Mohtasib directs Federal Government entities to resolve people's problems

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Director General, Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat, Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmad and Consultant PR & Media, Khalid Sial, held a Khuli Kutcheri in the Wafaqi Mohtasib Regional Office located at Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir under the directions of the Wafaqi Mohtasib, Mr Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi.

These officials listened to the public complaints against Federal Government Entities in Azad Kashmir area and passed on the spot instructions to their officials who were in attendance there.

The Khuli Kutcheri was attended by a very large number of complainants belonging to Muzaffarabad and adjoining areas, who had a lot many complaints against Government Departments like NADRA, Pakistan Posts, BISP, National Savings, NHA and State Life Insurance Corporation.

It was found that most of the complainants are not fully conversant with the procedure being followed the BISP in view of their lower literacy level.

ICT admin cracks down against alms seekers; 12 arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a coordinated effort led by the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates have launched an operation targeting professional beggars across various areas of the Federal Capital.

According to the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, the operation resulted in the arrest of 12 professional beggars.

The arrests were made by Assistant Commissioners in different jurisdictions.



ISLAMABAD: Governor of Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan meet Parliament House Khateeb Mulana Ahmed ur Rehman.

Girls grab more top positions in SSC Part-II exam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Maintaining the previous trends, girls bagged majority of the top positions in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Part-II 1st Annual Examination 2024 as per the declaration of the result by the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) on Friday.

In the Science group, Zebadia Naseeb from Army Public School, EME College Campus, Rawalpindi secured first position with 1087 marks while Hijab Fatima from Global School System, Rawalpindi Cantt obtained second position with 1085 marks.

The third position was shared by Mossadiq Shahbaz of Army Public School, Golra Campus, Rawalpindi and Fatima Wajid from Fauji Foundation Model School, Morgah Campus, Rawalpindi with 1084 marks.

In Humanities group,

ICT admin imposes ban on entry some Ulema for fiery speeches

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to maintain peace and security during Muharram, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has issued a one-month ban on the entry of some Ulema known for their sectarian and fiery speeches.

According to a notification issued here, the district administration, following the District Intelligence Committee's recommendation, has prohibited the entry of 17 Ulema into the city. This measure aims to prevent any potential unrest during the Muharram observance.

Among those banned are Allama Tahir Ashraf, Maulana Muhammad Ilyas, Maulana Abdul Khaliq Rahmani, and Allama Aurangzeb Farooqi.

The list also includes Maulana Yusuf Rizvi Ilyas, Peer Irfan Al-Meshadi, Dr. Asif Ashraf Jalali, and Maulana Mohammad Hanif Qureshi.

Other Ulema included in the ban are Allama Jaffar Jatoi, Zakir Shaikat Raza Shaikat, Zakir Asif Raza Alvi, Zakir Anwar Ali Najfi, Allama Allama Kameel Mehdi, Allama Shehshah Naqvi, Zakir Kamran Abbas, and Zakir Wasim Abbas Baloch, Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

AIOU organises Open House 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Department of Computer Science, Allama Iqbal Open University on Friday organized the "Open House 2024," where final year BS (Computer Science) students showcased their projects addressing societal needs.

A total of 77 students participated, presenting 27 projects. These included a gas leakage detection project, a rural emporium (e-commerce platform), a system for cleaning and protecting wheat from pests, a battery-powered modern wheat harvesting machine, a PC watch tower, and a 3D driving tutor, among others. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Professor Dr. Hajra Ahmed. On this occasion, Dr. Hajra inspected all the projects, and the students gave presentations.

Chairman Senate urges strong governance for Pak development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday, emphasized the urgent need for effective governance to tackle Pakistan's socio-economic challenges.

He was addressing the 35th Senior Management Course participants at the National Institute of Management (NIM).

Drawing on his experience as both Prime Minister and Senate Chairman, Gilani highlighted the pivotal role of a professional and dynamic bureaucracy in achieving national development goals.

NDMA's rain alert cautions for medium level urban, flash flooding & landslides

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)'s National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) on Friday anticipated that rainfall was expected in various parts of the country over the next 3 days.

The NEOC alert underscored, "If rainfall exceeds 50-100 mm, it may lead to urban/flash flooding in local nullahs and river tributaries.

Likely exposed urban areas include Gujranwala, Lahore, Sialkot and Rawalpindi whereas Gallyyat, Kashmir, Kohistan, Mansehra, and Murree are prone to landslide and flash flooding."

The NDMA has advised PDMA and Local

Administration to closely monitor the situation and take appropriate measures to safeguard the population at risk.

The public is advised to take preparatory actions including maintaining household drainage systems to prevent water logging. Report any blocked drains or potential hazards to local authorities promptly. People are advised to take caution while travelling to landslide-prone areas. Communities at risk are also advised to follow instructions from local authorities. The public is urged to download NDMA's 'Pak NDMA Disaster Alert' mobile app for timely disaster alerts, guidelines, and precautionary measures.

tion for women, which he deemed vital for a prosperous Pakistan.

He encouraged the course participants to utilize their training to foster inclusive development while adapting to changing domestic, regional, and global dynamics.

Recognizing NIM's commitment to excellence in professional training, the Chairman commended the institute's role in shaping future leaders.

Intl day of combating sand & dust storms observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms was observed on Friday.

According to the United Nations, sand and dust storms have become more frequent and severe in recent years.

The day was observed to raise awareness and address the alarming increase in frequency and severity of these natural disasters.

The UN General Assembly had declared the period from 2025 to 2034 as the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to combat these destructive storms and mitigate their impact on communities worldwide.



ISLAMABAD: Students and faculty members of government boys degree college Harnai visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

WB Mission commends BISP success in achieving CRISP targets

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank (WB)/Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Implementation Support Mission for the Crisis Resilient Social Protection (CRISP) project highlighted the successful achievement of all targets related to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

The mission, visited the BISP office on Friday, was led by Senior Social Protection Specialist Amjad Zafar Khan.

The mission included key participants such as Melis U. Guven (Lead Economist/Co-Task Team Leader) and Zaineb Majoka (Economist), among others.

During the wrap-up meeting with Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid and Secretary BISP Amer Ali Ahmad, the mission presented its findings for the period Jan-June 2024.

Amjad Zafar Khan highlighted the successful achievement of all targets related to various initiatives including innovations to the Social Registry, Biometric Payment Systems, Hybrid Social Protection Schemes, Health and Nutrition Improvements, and School Enrollment Incentives.

He remarked that all targets were met satisfactorily and are on track.

Chairperson Rubina Khalid expressed gratitude to the World Bank mission for their support and assessment of BISP's performance.

She stressed the importance of creating awareness about new initiatives among beneficiaries and extending outreach at the Union Council level for better communication and mobilization.

More rain-thunder shower likely at various parts of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast more rain-thunder shower associated with windstorm/gusty winds for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, North-East/Central Punjab, Pothohar region, Islamabad, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and North-East Balochistan during the next 24 hours. Heavyfalls may also occur at isolated places in Kashmir, Northeast/Central Punjab, Pothohar region, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Northeast Balochistan.

According to the synoptic situation, monsoon currents from Arabian Sea were penetrating upper/central parts of the country. A trough of westerly wave was affecting upper parts of the country. During the last 24 hours, rain-wind/thunder shower with isolated heavyfalls occurred in Islamabad, Pothohar region, northeast/central Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

KP Governor visits Chinese embassy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday visited the embassy of People's Republic of China at Islamabad where he was warmly welcomed by the Chinese ambassador Jiang Zidong.

The Governor while praising the role of China in progress and development of Pakistan said that extension of CPEC route from DI Khan to Balochistan was of paramount importance, which would help achieve the desired objectives. The Governor said DI Khan was the first nearest station to the capital and the new international airport near it under CPEC would help bring far reaching positive results.

He underlined the need for establishment of a new economic zone near the

CPEC route that would help enhance trade and business activities in the region.

The Governor said that 34 universities of KP are ready to present its services about teaching Chinese language and underlined the need for awarding special scholarships to students of KP especially of merged tribal districts.

The Governor said relations between the two countries are deep-rooted and time-tested and that nobody could create any crack in it. The Chinese ambassador said that the Pakistan Peoples' Party and the ruling party of China have deep-rooted cordial relations. Great responsibilities rest on the shoulders of Faisal Karim Kundi after assuming the office of KP Governor following his nomination by PPP for this important constitutional slot.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi meets Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Jiang Zaidong at China Embassy.

IGP Islamabad briefs Red Zone commandos

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi conducted a special briefing for the Red Zone Commandos (RZC) at the Central Police Office Islamabad. DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza and other senior police officers were also present on this occasion.

During the briefing, IGP Islamabad reviewed the performance of the Red Zone Commandos. He issued directives to ensure the safety of important government buildings, offices, national and foreign citizens,

emphasizing the critical role of the Red Zone commandos in enhancing security for ambassadors, foreign delegations, embassies, and key public and private offices situated in the red zone, ensuring prompt resolution of any untoward incidents. He reiterated that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the Islamabad Police's top priority.

Previously, on special orders from IG Islamabad, a combat refresher course was conducted to enhance the efficiency and professional skills of Red Zone commandos.



The course included basic anti-terrorism training aimed at enhancing the capabilities of police officers and adopting optimal strategies during emergencies.

All set to observe 'Kashmir Martyrs Day' tomorrow with full solemnity, reverence

ISLAMABAD (APP): All is set to observe 94th 'Kashmir Martyrs Day' at both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and rest of the world on Saturday to pay tributes to the martyrs of Jammu & Kashmir especially those 22 valiant sons of the soil who rendered supreme sacrifices of their precious lives 94 years on July 13 in 1931 in front of Central Jail Srinagar raising mutiny against the despotic Dogra maharajah rule.

The historic day is considered to be the foundation stone of the Kashmiris struggle for liberation of the motherland from the clutches of the cruel Hindu Dogra regime.

The tragic day is the milestone in the history of Kashmiris struggle for freedom of the motherland from dogra and later ongoing long Indian forced and unlawful

occupation for last 77 years. It was revolt against atrocities on July 13, 1931 when people rose against the autocratic Dogra rule and protested against the prosecution of sympathizer of Kashmir freedom struggle, Abdul Qadeer Khan Ghazi. The people of Jammu & Kashmir e people living at both sides of LoC and rest of the world observe the Kashmir Martyrs Day on July 13 every year with the renewal of the pledge to continue the grand mission of the Kashmiri martyrs through perpetuating the freedom struggle, with full vigor, for the achievement of the birth right of self determination and for the liberation of Illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir from the tyrannical Indian rule. Special prayer meetings, symposiums will be the hallmark of the day across Azad Jammu & Kashmir as well as at various places in the strife-torn IIOJK.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Nasir Mahmood, chairman senate standing committee on housing and works presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Saturday July 13, 2024

Misery and despair

A pervasive gloom darkens the days of almost all working-class Pakistani households. From tea shops to opinion columns in local newspapers, the conversations reflect a growing unsettlement with the status quo. Most serious economists appear increasingly alarmed that Pakistan has sailed too deep into uncharted, treacherous waters. They worry that public mutiny may be inevitable unless there is an immediate course correction, of which there is no sign.

Meanwhile, on online discussion forums, increasing numbers of desperate mothers post queries for part-time jobs because they are no longer able to meet school fees and household expenses on one pay cheque. Heart-rending videos on social media document the desperation of street vendors, labourers, pensioners and widows as they struggle to balance their electricity bills and food expenses, while educated professionals are sharing anecdotes about the cutbacks they have been forced to implement as they wonder whether they will ever be able to get their quality of life back.

Is a life lived happily and respectably too much to ask for from your country? Many young citizens seem to believe so. A worryingly high proportion of the demographic wants nothing more than to leave. They would rather live and work anywhere than in Pakistan, which, they feel, undervalues their economic contributions, underappreciates their social needs, and suffocates them with arbitrary restrictions. The people responsible for their welfare do not care. They are too focused right now on 'economic management', which historically seems to entail little more than repeatedly selling to the IMF the idea that the Pakistani authorities are serious about getting the economy back on track. However, we have yet to see any attempt at meaningful reforms or a realisation that their efforts at 'stabilising' the economy are impoverishing millions and driving the young away.

Never before has Pakistan been tested with such severity of economic distress, nor has society ever been as demoralised as it appears now. This is not sensationalism; economists and historians agree it is a fact. It would appear, therefore, that the most serious challenge right now is restoring hope among the masses.

For starters, the unending political crisis must be resolved urgently. Prolonging it is only exacerbating feelings of despair about the country's future. Secondly, taxation must be made vastly more equitable. A few million honest taxpayers should not be forced to foot the bill for the legislature and executive's failure; it is highly demotivating for the most productive workers. Thirdly, the political leadership must provide the youth with a vision for a better tomorrow.

This does not mean promises of more motorbikes and laptops: there needs to be a bigger, more forward-looking plan in place that can help absorb millions of new entrants into the workforce in meaningful employment opportunities.

Reema Omer

One of the most typically expressed beliefs in Pakistan about the judiciary is that 'judges must only speak through their judgments'.

How far is this true today?

In common law countries, the idea that judges should not speak extra-judicially perhaps has roots in the 'Kilmuir Rule', which largely prohibited judges from speaking to the public in the United Kingdom. In a letter to BBC's director general written in 1955 in response to an invitation to senior judges to speak about great British judges from the past, Lord Kilmuir, the lord chancellor at the time, wrote: "So long as a Judge keeps silent, his reputation for wisdom and impartiality remains unassailable; but every utterance which he makes in public, except in the actual performance of his judicial duties, must necessarily bring him within the focus of criticism..."

The Kilmuir Rule was widely accepted for 32 years in the UK, until in 1987 another lord chancellor, Lord MacKay, stated

it was "difficult to reconcile with the independence of the judiciary" and judges should decide such matters for themselves.

International law, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), also guarantees the right to the freedom of expression of all people, including judges. This right is subject only to necessary and proportionate restrictions for legitimate purposes, such as 'public order', which may include the proper administration of justice.

The ICCPR also provides for the right to a fair trial and the requirement that courts must be "independent and impartial". Among other things, this means that in addition to being free of actual bias, courts must also appear to a reasonable observer to be impartial.

This implies potential for certain special restrictions on judges' exercise of expression. Any such restrictions would nevertheless need to comply with Article 19 of the ICCPR, including that they be a necessary and proportionate measure for one of four permissible purposes, in this

case to ensure public order.

The UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary further clarify the relationship between judges' right to freedom of expression and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary: "In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, members of the judiciary are like other citizens entitled to freedom of expression... provided, however, that in exercising such rights, judges shall always conduct themselves in such a manner as to preserve the dignity of their office and the impartiality and independence of the judiciary."

Judges should, therefore, recuse themselves from any case where their statements or other exercise of the right to free speech give rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias.

The test is not, however, whether anyone, with even a little knowledge about the situation 'might' believe the judge to be partial. Rather, it is whether a reasonable person, knowing all the circumstances, would doubt the judge's impartiality. A review of international standards, re-

gional jurisprudence, and academic literature finds that as a general rule, judges are encouraged not to speak on matters relating to party politics, or when speaking publicly would directly undermine the rights of the litigants before them, would impede on the separation of powers, or involve the judge in public controversies.

While certain exercises by a judge of their freedom of expression could be a basis for disciplinary action, such action would itself have to comply with respect for judicial independence, including in relation to fair process and thresholds of seriousness. Also, any disciplinary consequences, including removal, would again need to satisfy the requirements of necessity and proportionality.

But even with these overall constraints, there are broad and important areas about which judges have a duty to speak because they have a unique contribution to make to public discourse.

In this regard, recommendations by the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), an advisory body of the Council of Europe on issues relating to

the independence of judges, in its 2022 opinion on judges' freedom of expression are particularly relevant.

The CCJE recommends, for example, that "in situations where democracy, the separation of powers or the rule of law are under threat, judges must be resilient and have a duty to speak out in defence of judicial independence, the constitutional order and the restoration of democracy, both at national and international level. This includes views and opinions on issues that are politically sensitive and extends to both internal and external independence of individual judges and the judiciary in general."

The CCJE adds: "By enhancing understanding, transparency and by helping to avoid public misrepresentations, judges may help to promote and preserve public trust in the judicial activity."

There may also be cases where judges consider it their 'moral duty' to speak. On this issue, the judgement by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in 'López Lone vs Honduras' (2006) is in-

structive. The court held the rights of several judges to freedom of expression, assembly, and association were violated by their dismissal for actions they took to protest against a coup d'état and in favour of the re-establishment of democracy in Honduras.

The court noted "the prohibition of judges from participating in activities of a party nature should not be interpreted... in a way that prevents judges from taking part in any discussion of a political nature". It held "there may be situations in which a judge, as a citizen who is a member of society, considers that he or she has a moral duty to speak out" and this might indeed be seen not only as a right but an obligation of judges during a coup d'état or other "times of grave democratic crises". Instead of outdated prohibitions on judges speaking outside of their judgments, it is necessary for our discourse around judges' speech to be guided by the human rights framework — both the right of the judge to the freedom of expression, as well as principles of an independent and impartial judiciary and the right to a fair trial.

Health and politics

Zafar Mirza

"Science can identify solutions to pressing public health problems, but only politics can turn most of those solutions into reality." — Thomas R. Oliver

When problems as well as their solutions are known, and yet people continue to suffer, then we have a bigger problem of a different kind. Unless this bigger problem is tackled, even advanced knowledge about definitive solutions will never be enough to alleviate human suffering.

Think about the two sentences above and look around you. Try to understand any major public health problem in Pakistan. You will soon reach the conclusion that the problem is clear in terms of its etiology, pathology, epidemiology, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. If at all, there may be minor knowledge gaps, but too insignificant to hamper the implementation of proven interventions based on science and ample evidence. And yet, you would start wondering why these solutions are not being implemented here. This phenomenon, however obvious it sounds, is the problem to focus on

if we are genuinely interested in resolving killer problems.

Let's dissect two public health problems to qualify the above argument.

Pakistan's last National Nutrition Survey (NNS) in 2018 revealed that 43 per cent of women of reproductive age and 57.4pc of adolescent girls (10-19 years) in the country were suffering from iron deficiency anaemia, ie, almost every second female. This is a national average hiding extreme differences between urban and rural and rich and poor women. Let us focus on adolescent girls as they are the future.

Anaemia in females is noted when haemoglobin goes below 12gm/dL. Its manifestations include paleness, tiredness, weakness, breathlessness, etc. Imagine a girl with these symptoms becoming a woman, getting married, giving birth repeatedly, taking care of the household and, in many cases, experiencing domestic violence — a very hard life indeed.

According to NNS, anaemia was diagnosed in adolescent girls in 140 districts. The differences across districts were stark.

In Punjab, 93.3pc girls were anaemic in district Bhakkar compared to 57.4pc in Lahore, the provincial capital. In Sindh, district Tando Allahyar had 81.2pc anaemic girls whereas Karachi South, a relatively affluent district, had 45.4pc. In Balochistan, the poorest province, almost every girl in Killa Abdullah — 99.4pc — was anaemic whereas the provincial average was also high, ie, 72.4pc. Similarly, in KP it was as high as 85.3pc in Swabi and 36.2pc in Peshawar.

This data confirms that districts that are poor and not a part of provincial capital districts had comparatively a much higher number of girls with low haemoglobin. It also confirms the weakness of primary healthcare (PHC) in poor areas of the country, where it is needed the most. Iron deficiency anaemia is an almost 100pc treatable condition with improvement in diet and some cheap medicines. The consequences of not addressing it are terrible for the health of women during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as for the health of newborns and child growth and development.

So how is anaemia among poor girls a political issue? It depends on how we understand politics. If we see it only in terms of gaining power at all costs and using that power for personal gain or for the benefit of cronies and coalition partners, as has been our national experience, then, of course, anaemia among poor girls is not a political issue.

But if we adopt a more enlightened understanding of politics in the context of a republic, the Constitution, citizenship, human rights and equity, then 'who gets what, when, how' becomes a political issue. Only then would adolescent female citizens in Bhakkar, Tando Allahyar, Killa Abdullah and Swabi become a political and fiscal priority. Only then would governments invest in creating conditions in these districts which could prevent and treat anaemia. Only then would governments actively advance universal health coverage by strengthening PHC. Currently, Pakistan is among the lowest spenders on health globally and only around 30pc of the meagre health budget is spent on PHC.

In another example of how political determinants of health work, I remember vividly a discussion in the federal cabinet about whether the Sehat Sahulat programme should be universalised. This is a programme which was envisaged as a targeted financial protection scheme for the poor, according to criteria set by the Benazir Income Support Programme, in cases of hospitalisation. The underlying concern was that poor people end up making catastrophic expenditures in the case of hospitalisation and fall deeper into poverty. A study published by PIDE in 2021 showed that 22pc of households in Pakistan, mostly rural households, had faced catastrophic health payment issues.

In this context, it is clear that the programme was aimed at protecting the poor. However, the discussion in the cabinet eventually resulted in universalising the scheme and the fundamental argument made by a few of the more vocal PTI ministers was that our government did not have much to show on account of performance so if we made health insurance available to all, and not

just to the poor, it would bring us more votes in the next election. Despite meagre resources and the obvious consequences of the poor being crowded out, the quality of services going down and corruption going up, the decision was made to universalise it in Punjab and ICT. KP had already done the same. I opposed the decision but political considerations prevailed. At one stage, the programme had to be stopped even for the poor. It then resumed with modifications.

A study of healthcare systems around the world reveals that health conditions improve in countries when their political leaders make the right choices and decline or remain stagnant when health for all is not prioritised in national policies and budgets.

Meanwhile, anaemia in adolescent girls across the border in Iran is only about 8.5pc as opposed to 57.4pc in Pakistan because their leaders made decisions to set up a strong PHC system. And in the case of Sehat Sahulat programme, finally better sense has begun to prevail at least at the federal level to limit the free service to the poor.

Possible solution

Anwar Kemal

The Russia-Ukraine conflict traces its origins back to the Soviet era when certain districts in eastern and south-eastern Ukraine, most notably Crimea in 1954, were transferred from Russia to Ukraine. At the time nobody could have foreseen the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

When Mikhail Gorbachev assumed power in 1985, he adopted policies of Glasnost and Perestroika that were meant to rejuvenate the Soviet Union. Instead, they inadvertently reshaped the European and global order, undermining Russian interests. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent reunification of Germany signalled the end of the Russian-dominated Warsaw Pact.

Remarkably, it was Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin, who clandestinely orchestrated the Soviet Union's coup de grâce in 1991, in concert with the presidents of Ukraine and Belarus.

Mikhail Gorbachev accused this troika of "turning the world upside down", but he too must share responsibility for the debacle. Consequently, the internal boundaries of the semi-independent Soviet republics became official international borders, without the exercise of due diligence. The Soviet Union's breakup set the stage for future conflicts between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Russia and Georgia, and Russia and Ukraine.

After the Soviet Union's dissolution, the West extended NATO eastward, expanding it from 16 members in 1999 to 32. President Vladimir Putin regarded NATO's expansion and Ukraine's 2014 Euromaidan nationalist movement, which toppled the pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich, as a strategic threat.

In April 2014, Russia annexed Crimea and backed separatists in eastern Donbas, igniting a low-intensity conflict. A full-scale war erupted in February 2022 when Russia launched an extensive invasion of Ukraine. Since 2014, the toll has been staggering: hundreds of thousands of Russian and Ukrainian troops killed or wounded, over 40,000 Ukrainian civilians dead or injured, and millions displaced or driven to seek refuge abroad.

Russia currently controls over one-fifth of Ukrainian territory. A hiatus in American aid enabled Russia to advance and further erode Ukraine's military capabilities and infrastructure. In April 2024, the US approved a \$61 billion aid package and signed a 10-year security pact, while European nations established a \$54bn 'Ukraine Facility'. Despite these efforts, Ukraine faces relentless pressure on the battlefield and a barrage of punishing Russian drone and missile strikes. Additionally, it lacks the military strength to recover its lost territories.

President Putin's recent ceasefire proposal demanded that Ukraine withdraw entirely from Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, officially abandon its NATO aspirations, and that Western sanctions be lifted. In June 2024, Putin visited North Korea and Vietnam, and in exchange for North Korean support, appears to have abandoned Russia's previous opposition to North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

A NATO summit meeting held in Washington, D.C. on July 9-11, 2024, apart from accusing China of supporting Russia's war effort, has pledged support for "an irreversible path" to future NATO membership for Ukraine

as well as additional assistance totalling \$43.3bn. The possibility of escalation between NATO and Russia, each wielding thousands of nuclear weapons, highlights the urgency of finding a just solution.

A solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict requires both sides to acknowledge that a military solution is neither feasible nor desirable. The Russian demand that Ukraine forgo NATO membership will have to be accepted, otherwise there would be zero hope of securing Ukrainian withdrawal from Ukrainian territories, particularly Crimea, which holds substantial strategic and historical significance for Russia.

Recognition by the two sides that the exercise of sovereignty is often symbolic may help them understand that their decade-long conflict is not about annexing territory or collecting tribute like mediaeval monarchs.

The sovereignty issue could be addressed through a formula for shared governance/sovereignty and dual citizenship in certain disputed areas transferred to Ukraine during the Soviet era. This approach would honour the historical and cultural ties between the two nations, while maintaining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Parents' concern

Zubeida Mustafa

Here comes yet another attempt at kick-starting a public discourse on the most neglected issue in Pakistan: public sector education. This time the initiative has been taken by Nargis Rahman, the dynamic head of the Pakistan Women's Foundation for Peace, which has launched a series of seminars on the subject. Two meetings have been held so far, with one more scheduled.

Nearly a dozen speakers have expressed their views on the malaise of 'stagnated' public sector schools in the country. It is remarkable how a variety of problems have been addressed to give participants a better understanding of what is going on.

However, this exercise has so far not produced an answer to a frequently asked question: 'What can civil society do to get the government to put its education house in order?' Only those in office can undertake this task. All the speakers were eloquent in analysing the problems, and identifying tentative solutions. They all seemed to know full well that the policymakers are aware of what is wrong and what needs to be done to improve the situation. After all, most of the experts who spoke in the two seminars have either worked with the power wielders, or are now engaged in some form of partnership with the government. But we were not told why the experts are failing to get the government to pay heed to their sound advice. The fact is that on such occasions no one wants to call a spade a spade.

There are two reasons for our rulers' lack of political will to put their act together when it

comes to education. First, by denying the masses knowledge and education, the powers that be hope to keep the people ignorant and incapable of thinking critically and developing problem-solving skills. The neglect of family planning, the emphasis on 'English medium' education and the promotion of excessive religiosity are also designed to make people complacent and fatalistic. As a result, they accept their poverty and the oppression heaped on them without resisting. They are also more subservient and easier to control and exploit.

The second reason for our rulers wanting to maintain the status quo is that it would add to the loot that accrues to so many employed in the sector. Money is the grease that keeps the system going. There are some honest, hardworking, well-qualified and conscientious people who work within the system but they are, arguably, heavily outnumbered by the corrupt. Tales of corruption are legion, and mercifully, some speakers had the courage to focus on them. The power of money to buy or sell 'privileges' and 'advantages' that are not legally earned is now taken for granted. It is corruption that leads to inefficiency. The examination boards are the biggest money minters and need a clean-up operation if education in Pakistan is to survive.

Returning to the earlier question of what is to be done, I would suggest the Dr Akhter Hameed Khan approach. Doctor Sahib launched the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi, based on his faith in the ability and native knowledge of the people, who were its beneficiaries. His philosophy was that every community has its own

leaders who can solve their own problems if facilitated by outside expertise that also understands this philosophy. That is how Orangi's drainage system became a success story narrated all over the world.

In the context of education, it would mean restructuring and expanding the powers of school management committees so that they act as regulatory bodies that give the community a greater say in the future of their children. Every school should have an SMC comprising parents and informal leaders/elders of the community from where the students are drawn. Others to be included should be the school headmistress/head-

master and some members of staff and some representatives from the education department (specifically the district education office).

Above all, some members of the public, the likes of school adopters, should be invited to join the SMC and play the role of middlemen and use their good offices to mediate in the conflicts that will be inevitable. Hopefully, this will improve the working of schools as the presence of the adopters will neutralise the corrupt and inefficient.

The adopters could invest some of their funds in providing extra benefits to the school. Perhaps they could pay the salaries of one or two teachers who are needed and provide snacks to undernourished children. Some donations for libraries with librarians would also help. Personally I think this scheme is doable and should help. Not everyone is corrupt. The honest need moral support to stand up for integrity and honest work. — Courtesy Dawn

CM directs establishment of Quran Mahal to preserve old copies of Holy Quran

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has decided to establish a "Quran Mahal" in the provincial capital Peshawar in order to preserve the old copies/pages of the holy Qur'an and directed the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) to provide a suitable plot for this purpose.

He further directed that the proposed Qur'an Mahal should be a masterpiece of Islamic architecture, adding that the shaheed copies/pages of the holy Qur'an from across the province would be preserved in the above mentioned Quran Mahal.

He was chairing the first meeting of the Auqaf department, held here at Chief Minister's House the other day. Provincial Minister for Auqaf, Adnan Qadri, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad

Ali Khan, Secretary Auqaf and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

On this occasion, the chief minister was briefed about the administrative and financial matters of the department, lease policy of the Auqaf's properties and other important matters.

Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur decided to hold Rahmatul-lil-Alameen (AS) conferences this year in a grand and impressive manner across the province at official level. He directed the quarters concerned to make arrangements for holding these conferences at provincial as well as divisional and district headquarters level throughout the province.

He announced that Rs. 5.00 million would be provided for holding Rahmatul lil Alameen Conference events at the provincial level, whereas Rs. 2.00 million would be

provided to each provincial headquarter for this purpose. Similarly, district headquarters would also be provided with Rs. 1.00 million each to hold such conferences/events.

The chief minister further decided that the Ulama-o-Mashaikh Conference would also be held in the province. He, on this occasion, directed the authorities concerned to identify suitable land for a government graveyard so as to meet the requirements of Peshawar City in this regard.

The meeting also decided the establishment of Assets Management Unit and GIS mapping of the Auqaf properties across the province. Similarly, it was decided to hire a reputable law firm for better follow-up of the cases pending in various courts related to the waqf properties of the Auqaf Department.



LAHORE: Members of civil society hold a protest against Israel attack on Gaza outside press club, in the Provincial Capital.

Minister promises investigations by JIT into mysterious death of woman

MULTAN (APP): Punjab minister for social welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Sohail Shoukat Butt and Chairperson Women Protection Authority (WPA) MPA Hina Pervaiz Butt visited the residence of Syed Asad Abbas Shah and promised thorough investigations into the mysterious death of his married daughter which he had alleged was a planned murder and not a suicide.

"A joint investigation team would be deputed to investigate the case on merit and all evidences would be collected", the provincial minister announced after he along with WPA Chairperson conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the woman's father and offered Dua for elevation of her stature in the afterlife.

The minister said that case would be thoroughly investigated and disinterment of the grave would be carried out for her post burial post-mortem to

collect more evidence. He said that Punjab government would extend all out support to the family of the deceased woman.

Expressing deep grief over the unnatural death of the woman, which was made to look like a suicide, MPA Hina Pervaiz said that Punjab government would utilise all resources to extend justice to the deceased woman's father.

She said, no one can be allowed to torture women and added that Islam completely prohibited this inhuman act.

She said, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed her sadness and grief over the untimely death of the victim woman and directed them to immediately visit the residence of her father to convey condolences on behalf of CM Punjab and extend assurances that justice would prevail at all cost.



LAHORE: Shafqat Abbas, a senior officer of Information Group receiving certificate on completion of National Management Course at NSPP.

120th NMC, 35th SMC courses for civil servants' promotion conclude

LAHORE (APP): The closing ceremony of 120th National Management Course (NMC) and 35th Senior Management Course (SMC) was held here at the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) on Friday.

Some 49 participants of the National Management Course and 46 of the Senior Management Course were awarded certificates at the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, chief guest former federal secretary Tasneem Noorani said that the government officials were aware of the challenges facing the country. It was important for them to be in tune with the best international policies to compete, and

hopefully the courses will guide them in that regard. He congratulated the participants on completion of their courses.

NSPP Rector Dr Ejaz Munir, in his remarks, said that the NSPP was a reliable institution for training of civil servants in Pakistan.

It helped enhance their capacities for making policies and their implementation at different levels, and prepared them to face the challenges of good governance and public service delivery, he added.

By promoting house research and think tanks, the NSPP was playing an important role in public policy research in the country, DR Ejaz said.

Chinese CG visits Sundus Foundation

LAHORE (APP): Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shirin visited the Thalassemia Center Sundus Foundation here during which he presented a check of 2.3 lakh to the Director of Sundus Foundation Khalid Abbas Dar and assured to provide further support in treatment.

Talking about the visit of Sundus Foundation, Chief Operating Officer Abdul Sattar said that this is the second visit of the Chinese Consul General in 15 days, for which "we are grateful to him". He has promised that including donations, he will help Sundus Foundation in all matters, Sattar added.

Drug peddler awarded 9-year imprisonment

FAISALABAD (APP): Additional District and Sessions Judge Saqib Farooq Awan has awarded nine year imprisonment and Rs 80,000 fine to a drug peddler, here on Friday. According to the prosecution, Balochni police had arrested a drug pusher, Asif Ali, of Chak 96/R-B red handed with 1.4kg hashish on April 4.

The convict will undergo additional imprisonment if he fails to pay the fine.

11 dead, 1,298 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 11 people were killed and 1,298 others injured in 1,266 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 570 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 728 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed 720 drivers, 58 underage drivers, 148 pedestrians, and 441 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 300 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 320 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 108 accidents and 114 victims, and at third Multan with 75 accidents and 66 victims.

According to the data, 1,069 motorbikes, 98 auto-rickshaws, 106 motorcars, 27 vans, 15 passenger buses, 42 truck and 114 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road traffic accidents.



LAHORE: People make their way through a flooded road after heavy monsoon rains in the Provincial Capital.

Democracies can't thrive without public trust: Murad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that without the unwavering trust of the public, it is difficult for democracies to thrive, therefore, it is crucial to provide efficient service delivery and good governance directly to the people to rebuild their confidence.

"If the public does not support public servants, it should serve as a warning for them to work with conviction and personal commitment."

This he said while speaking at the graduation ceremony of the participants of the 35th Senior Management Course (BS-19 officers), who have completed their 16-week

long Course today at this prestigious National Institute of Management (NIM), Karachi.

DG NIM Dr. Lubna Ayub, Chief Instructor Khaliq Shaikh, Chief Instructor, Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC), and others.

The CM congratulated all 38 officers, including two female participants, for completing their course.

Mr Shah said that opting for public service as a profession was more of a personal choice and voluntary commitment than a mundane occupation.

The CM said that the present SMC cohort included officers from various cadres and groups

of the federal government who have come from all corners of Pakistan, and the Sindh Government as well.

He said the Sindh government would continue to own the NIM Karachi as our very Institute, and would further strengthen linkages and collaborate with it, and extend all necessary support for the fulfillment of professional needs of the participants as much as possible.

Murad Shah said that the mandatory requirement for promotion to BS-20 positions has provided all the officers with a platform to update their knowledge base and brush up their skills, enabling them to address policy issues and service delivery challenges.

Cabinet committee members visit processions routes, imambargahas

SARGODHA (APP): Provincial Minister and Chairman Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafiq visited the main procession route and Imambargahs of Sargodha city along with other members of Cabinet Committee.

According to a handout issued here, they met with local peace committee officials, processions organizers and Shia leaders at Imambargah 7-block.

Later talking to the media, Khawaja Salman Rafique said mobile service would be suspended only in sensitive declared areas on Ashura Day. He said administrations and

thoughts of all schools of scholars are on a one page. "Alhamdulillah, Muharram is passing in a peaceful manner," Khawaja Salman Rafiq said.

The minister said there is no problem of law and order in the province and the arrangements for Aushra Muharram are going on according to the rules and regulations.

"Unity among Muslims is the guarantee of our safe future," he added.

Provincial Ministers Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Bilal Akbar Khan and Secretary Interior Punjab Noorul Amin Mengal, Commissioner Sargodha Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti.

Sindh Govt pumps in funds to revamp healthcare

MIRPURKHAS (APP):

Provincial government has invested heavily in improving facilities and providing free treatment to the poor, according to Member Provincial Assembly Khair-u-Nissa Mughal. Speaking at a meeting convened to tackle the health sector's problems in Mirpurkhas on Friday, Mughal stressed the need for a collective effort to address the challenges.

The meeting, attended by Deputy Commissioner Dr Rashid Masood Khan and other officials, revealed that the district has 112 health facilities, including 102 under the supervision of PPHI, but faces shortages in staff, doctors.



KARACHI: PTI workers and supporters distributes sweet to celebrate the verdict of SC in favour of PTI on reserved seats for women and minorities.

Police diligently performing Muharram security duties: IGP

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said on Friday that during the heavy rain in various areas of the province including the provincial capital, the Punjab police diligently performed Muharram security duties, played an active role in relief activities and ensured protection of life and property of citizens.

He said all supervisory officers personally monitored the relief activities in the rain-affected areas in their districts beside ensure timely action. He said that

Lahore breaks 30-year rain record: MD WASA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Managing Director of the Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) Lahore, Muhammad Ghaffar said on Friday that Lahore has experienced record-breaking rainfall this year, surpassing the 30-year mark.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that WASA staff had been actively engaged in drainage operations across the city.

"The highest rainfall in Lahore so far was recorded in the Tajpura area with 175 mm," he said and added, other areas with significant rainfall include 101 mm at Lakshmi Chowk, 99 mm in Mughalpur, and 98 mm in Gulshan Ravi. Paniwala Talab saw 71 mm, Cordoba Chowk saw 70 mm, and the airport area received 59 mm of rain.

Further, he told Chowk Nakhda recorded 88 mm, Iqbal Town 75 mm, Cordoba Chowk again 70 mm, and Samanabad 65 mm. Upper Mall reported 51 mm, Samanabad 49 mm, Gulberg 41 mm, Nishtar Town 40 mm, Jail Road 38 mm and Farrukhabad 35 mm.



FAISALABAD: Children carrying a big size national flag in a street at Peoples colony in the city.

Governor Punjab visits residence of Barrister Mian Amir Hassan

LAHORE (Online): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan visited the residence of Barrister Mian Amir Hassan to attend a Majlis. In the Majlis tragedy of Karbala was discussed. On this occasion tributes were paid to Imam Hussain (peace be upon him) and the martyrs of Karbala. Barrister Amir Hassan, Mian Tariq Sajjad, Dr. Mazhar Iqbal, Engineer Mansoor Hussain, Shahzad Saeed Cheema, Information Secretary of People's Party Central

Punjab, Sardar Ali and others were present.

Later, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan visited Darbar Bibi Pak Daman and offered special prayers for peace in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Saleem Haider Khan said that Muharram is a holy month which reminds of the great sacrifices of the martyrs of Karbala. He said that Ahle-bayt sacrificed their lives but did not bow down to falsehood.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan during his visit to residence of Barrister Mian Amir Hassan to attend a Majlis.

CJ LHC to constitute larger bench Petition against allowing by govt to ISI to tap phone calls of citizens

LAHORE (Online): Justice Ferooz Haider of Lahore High Court (LHC) has recommended to constitute larger bench in respect of petition filed against allowing by government to Inter Service Agency (ISI) to tap phone calls of citizens.

Justice Ferooz Haider took up for hearing petition filed by former member of assembly Ghulam Sarwar Friday.

Justice Ferooz Haider sent the petition to Chief Justice (CJ) LHC to constitute larger bench. The court said in its note important points have been raised in the petition. Therefore, larger bench be constituted to hear the case.

The federal government step for

allowing ISI to tap phone calls of the citizens was challenged in the court.

Prime Minister, federal government and Pakistan Telecommunication have been made respondents in the petition.

The petition said government of Pakistan through a notification has allowed ISI to tap phone calls of the citizens. The PTA act under which this notification has been issued, its rules have not been framed so far.

Constitution of Pakistan ensures privacy and freedom of expression to the citizens.

The petition added as per Indian SC decision tapping phone calls of citizens is violation of the constitution.

More tours to be arranged for orphan children: CM aide

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister on Tourism, Culture, Archaeology and Museum Zahid Chanzeb said on Friday that more tour trips and training sessions would be arranged for orphan and street children to provide them an opportunity to participate in recreational and healthy activities. "The leadership camp and other healthy activities are providing the best opportunity to these children to learn more about eco-tourism, hone their innate capabilities and become useful part of society and face the present-day challenges effectively," he said in a release issued here Friday.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) and the Al-Khidmat Foundation

(AKF) arranged a five-day tour and leadership camp for the orphan children to the scenic spots in Swat Valley. The children visited Kalam, Mataltan Valley, Mahodhand Lake, Shahi Ground, Usho Forest and other scenic spots and also held a leadership camp there. The children also launched a cleanliness drive and collected plastic and other trash to keep the site clean and neat and also promote sustainable tourism and a sense of cleanliness among the visitors and tourists.

The event provided orientation to the children about future prospects and effective ways to seize new opportunities.

Training and interactive sessions as well as indoor and outdoor sports events were also held during the event.



GILGIT: Chairman IPO-Pakistan Ambassador (R) Farukh Amil chairing meeting of Enforcement coordination committee.

MPAs make detailed review of development projects

SIALKOT (APP): Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Muhammad Manshaullah Butt and Chaudhry Faisal Ikram, along with the Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Programme (PICIP) team, made a detailed review of laying sewerage lines, construction of disposal stations, road maintenance and traffic management at Sublime Chowk, Gohdarpur, Korpur, Muradpur and Kotli Behram.

Members Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Muhammad Manshaullah Butt and Chaudhry Faisal Ikram said that after laying the sewerage line from Sublime Chowk to Gohadpur Chowk, the road has been made motorable by laying base and sub-base. However, after the commencement of the project to lay conduit/sewerage lines on the Gohadpur Road up to Kotli Behram, the pressure will increase due to the shift of traffic from Sublime Chowk to Gohadpur Chowk.

Administrator Municipal Corporation Sialkot Muhammad Iqbal also accompanied him on

PM directs preparing action plan for PASSCO's privatisation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to prepare an action plan for the privatisation of the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Cooperation (PASSCO). The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters related to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research and PASSCO, also instructed to carry out the

restructuring of the Wheat Board. He said the restructured Wheat Board should include representatives of farmers, Land Information Management System and PASSCO. The prime minister called for taking effective measures to enhance the yield of wheat and other crops. He asked the relevant authorities to formulate an alternate strategy for

wheat procurement by the federal government and hold consultation with the provincial governments and also those of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as well as relevant departments. The participants of the meeting were briefed about the ToRs and restructuring of the Wheat Board, and also on increasing the crops yield as well as reforms in the PASSCO.

Federal cabinet members including Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Attaullah Tarar, and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and relevant senior officers attended the meeting. The meeting approved the restructuring of Wheat Board.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on restructuring of Wheat Board and matters related to PASSCO.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. XU Hangtian, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China called on Federal Minister, Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Shaza, Dr Jack Lau discuss matters of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and President Qatar Science and Technology Park Dr Jack Lau on Friday discussed matters of mutual interest and regarding start-up ecosystem and innovation. During a meeting Dr Jack Lau briefed Shaza Fatima about Qatar Science and Technology Park and said that slightly large companies from Pakistan are encouraged to establish a strong physical presence in Qatar, as it would facilitate their expansion and provide them with a strategic base in Middle East. He urged Pakistani entrepreneurs to come and work on cutting-edge foundational technologies in Qatar, saying that these

opportunities are being provided by several unicorns that are setting up operations in Qatar. Shaza Fatima said present government was taking steps for promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in the country. She said Prime Minister of Pakistan was focused upon equipping youth with latest tech training and their capacity building. She said youth of Pakistan has great potential and talent, adding that start-ups exchange program can be started between Qatar and Pakistan. Ignite and Qatar Science and Technology Park can jointly work regarding this exchange program. The minister also stressed upon arranging visit of Pakistani students in Qatar to Qatar Science and Technology Park.

FPCCI celebrates Malawi's I-Day welcomes appointment of honorary consul general

Independent report KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has welcomed the appointment of Mr. Abdullah Zaki as the honorary consul general of the Republic of Malawi on behalf of the entire

Pakistan, explained that there is an enormous potential for Pakistani exporters in Malawi in diverse sectors - textiles, rice, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, sports goods, construction materials, motorcycles,



business, industry and trade community of Pakistan. He emphasized that Mr. Abdullah Zaki is from within the business community; and, FPCCI is confident that he will be able to open the doors of Malawi for Pakistani exporters. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh highlighted that Southeast African country of Malawi has a population of 25 million people; but, our exports to them is only \$9 million per year. This makes it clear that we have a substantive potential to increase our exports. Mr. Abdullah Zaki, honorary Consul General of Malawi in

etc. Malawi is also a great destination for Pakistani industrialists as labor is cheap and taxation is low, he added. Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, proposed that the business community of Pakistan should be given visas swiftly and facilitated to explore the Malawian market. He further elaborated that Pakistan should also explore people-to-people and cultural relations with Malawi as some of the Pakistani businessmen have established significant footprint in Malawi and Muslims are in big numbers in Malawi as well.

CCP hosts stakeholder engagement session for Cement manufactures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has hosted stakeholder engagement session, advocates significance of disclosing material information on Cement bags. The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), in furtherance of its Policy Note for the Ministry of Science & Technology and PSQCA, has organized a maiden stakeholder engagement session focusing on disclosure of 'Manufacturing/Packaging and Expiry/Best Before' dates on cement bags, said a press release issued here

on Friday. The Session was presided by Mr. Saeed Ahmed Nawaz, Member CCP. While, the attendees included representatives from Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA), Construction Association of Pakistan, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Lucky Cement, Cherat Cement, Fecto Cement, Fauji Cement, Gharibwal Cement, Kohat Cement, Maple Leaf Cement, Attock Cement, Bestway Cement.

PSX Inducts Meezan Bank as the First Market Maker for GoP Ijarah Sukuk

Independent Report KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) is pleased to announce the induction of Meezan Bank as the first market maker for CDS-eligible Government of Pakistan (GoP) Ijarah Sukuk (GIS) issued through primary market auction at PSX. This addition aims to enhance liquidity in the CDS-eligible Government Debt Securities (GDS) market through the quotation of two-way prices and to facilitate secondary market depth of GoP Ijarah Sukuk (GIS). Since the commencement of GIS auctions through the PSX platform on December 8, 2023, and the subsequent secondary market trading of GIS, there has been a gradual increase in retail

investor participation. Meezan Bank's induction as a market maker for GIS marks another milestone in PSX's journey towards becoming a world-class exchange. Meezan Bank is already a market maker for four listed Shariah-compliant debt securities and has been a key player in PSX's effort to issue GIS. The Bank's expertise in Shariah principles and Islamic Finance, as well as its commitment to promoting the widespread use of Islamic principles in the financial services industry, has been instrumental in paving the way for the primary market issuance of GIS through PSX. On the induction of the GIS market maker, Mr. Farukh H. Khan, MD & CEO.

Spanish envoy calls on Finance minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan Jose A. de Ory Friday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division. The minister welcomed the Ambassador and discussed the cooperation and longstanding relations between the two countries, said a press release here. The minister gave an update on some of the indicators including building up of foreign exchange reserves to USD 9.4 billion, robust performance of the stock exchange, declining trend

of inflation rates with CPI inflation clocking in at 12.6% in June 2024, and increase in foreign remittances by 7.7% as compared to last year. He also highlighted the successful conclusion of the 9-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and apprised about the government's intention to continue with the economic reform agenda under a fund supported medium term program. Aurangzeb emphasized the government commitment to achieve economic stability by increasing tax to Gross Domestic Product.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with President Qatar Science and Technology Park Dr. Jack Lau.

SCCI chief stresses strengthening of Pak, Indonesia bilateral trade

PESHAWAR (APP): President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Fuad Ishaq has called for strengthening bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and Indonesia. He was talking to members during the visit of Mr. Rahmat Hindiartha Kusuma, Charge De Affair, Mr. Axelsyah R Miraza, Economic Attaché and M Syofiyon Sur of the Embassy of Republic of Indonesia in Pakistan, during their visit to the Chamber here Friday. Mr. Kusuma in his multi-media presentation, said that the bilateral trade volume was far away from potentials of the both countries. He stressed the need for establishment of business to business

contacts and taking mutual benefits from each other's potentials and experience and promotion of cooperation in multiple-sectors, including tourism, education, health and others. The meeting was attended by Senior Vice President SCCI, Sanaulah Khan, Vice President Ejaz Khan Afridi, former president Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Sherbaz Bilour, members of executive committee of the Chamber Monawar Khurshid, Aftab Ali Khan, Qurtul Ain, Fahad Amin, Muhammad Ismail Safi, former senior vice president Imran Khan Mohammad, Haji Aftab Iqbal, Nadeem Rauf, Ashfaq Ahmad, Syed Ejaz Ali Shah, Waqar Ahmad, Ihsanullah, Nisar Ahmad, Sohail Javed, Saddar Gul.

Pakistan to send 1000 agriculture graduates to China; Rana Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday said Pakistan will send 1,000 agricultural graduates to China for higher education and training, which will focus on specialized skills in agriculture and food security. The minister said this during a meeting with the Counselor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China XU Hangtian, said a news

release. The meeting aimed at finalizing the modalities for sending Pakistani agricultural graduates to China, which was announced during the Prime Minister's recent visit to China. Rana Tanveer said that students would be selected from all over Pakistan, with priority given to students from Balochistan, and the Confucius Institute at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad would implement the scholarship program.

He said that the students would learn modern agriculture and research in China, and the training would cover specific skills in agriculture and food security. Rana Tanveer said that students would be selected from all over Pakistan, with priority given to students from Balochistan, and the Confucius Institute at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad would implement the scholarship program.

PSX loses 48 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday shed 48.26 points, a slight negative change of 0.06 percent, closing at 79,944.10 points against 79,992.35 points on the last trading day. A total of 437,315,657 shares were traded during the day as compared to 389,024,310 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 23,484 billion against Rs 20,924 billion on the last trading day.



FAISALABAD: Chairman Arfa Karim Group Lt Col (retd) Amjad Karim Randhawa presenting a shield to President of Chamber of Commerce Dr Khurram Tariq during inauguration ceremony of Arfa Karim Technology College, at a local hotel.

SACM directs for facilitation of investors at essential stages

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher has directed that the interested foreign investors in various potential sectors of the province should be provided with possible facilities at essential stages. He issued this directive while presiding over a meeting regarding provision of facilities to foreign investors here in the Committee Room of the Industries Department on Friday.

KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company (EZDMC) Adil Salahuddin, Deputy Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs Department Azizullah Jan and other authorities attended the meeting. During the meeting, the SACM said that all concerned departments and agencies must have an effective coordination among themselves so instead of unnecessary delay all facilities including issuance of no objective certificate (NoC) are provided to the investors in time. He further said that a complete checklist should be made available on the easy business web portal of the Board of Investment and Trade (BoIT) for the convenience of investors in all respects regarding the documents and requirements to ensure the provision of all matters including the required documents through an easy platform.

Besides Deputy Commandant Special Security Unit Tariq Iqbal, Chief Planning Officer Industries Department Basit Khalil, Director (Business Facilitation) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade Iqbal Sarwar and other managers of the board Akhtar Ali and Gul Muhammad, Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships, Hyundai Hong Kong, APL Le Havre, Sara, Hanyu Fressia, Carol and Top Fortune scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Chemicals, LPG and Coal, berthed at QICT Terminal, Grain Terminal, Engro Terminal, Sui Southern Gas Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday. Meanwhile three more ships, Maersk Pelepas, Roan Teresa and Houyoshi Park are also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day. Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containers carrier 'Hyundai Hong Kong' left the port on today morning while three more ships, APL Le Havre, Hanyu Fressia and Toxotis are expected to sail on today afternoon.



HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in packing the mangoes in the clay made pots at fruits market.

Weekly inflation up by 0.11 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.11 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on July 11, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 318.96 points as compared to 318.61 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the

combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 23.33 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, however, decreased by 0.17 per cent and went down to 310.46 points from last week's 310.99 points. The SPI for consumption group of Rs 17,732-22,888 also decreased by 0.08 percent. The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 22,889-29,517.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mohsin Aziz, chairman senate standing committee on power presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

60 bodies found in Shujaiya after Israeli assault on Gaza City

Monitoring Desk
GAZA CITY: Residents of Gaza City were trapped in houses and bodies lay uncollected in the streets under an intense new Israeli assault on Thursday, even as Washington pushed for a peace deal at talks in Egypt and Qatar.

The civil defence agency in Gaza said that around 60 bodies have been found in Gaza City's Shujaiya district, devastated by a two-week Israeli offensive.

"Once the Israeli occupation forces withdrew from the Shujaiya neighborhood, civil defence crews, with local residents, managed to recover about 60 martyrs up to now," agency spokesman Mahmud Basal said.

Israel said on Wednesday it had ended its operation against Hamas in the district.

Hamas says a heavy Israeli assault on Gaza City this week could wreck efforts to finally end hostilities just as negotiations have entered the home stretch. In a statement, the Palestinian group said mediators had yet to provide it with updates on the state of the talks since it made concessions last week in response to a US-backed Israeli peace offer.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency was headed to Cairo for more ceasefire talks. US envoy Brett McGurk was in Israel, where he met Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Thursday that many details still need to be hammered out to secure a deal between Israel and Hamas for a ceasefire

and the release of prisoners.

"There's still miles to go before we close if we are able to close. So I don't want to say that it's immediately around the corner, but it does not have to be far out in the distance if everyone comes in this with the will to get it done," Sullivan told reporters, adding that there has been no change in policy with regard to a US pause of shipment of 2,000 pound bombs to Israel.

Sullivan also said President Joe Biden will soon give an update on the status of ceasefire talks.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said US President Joe Biden and his administration are complicit in Israeli war crimes and violations of international law in the Gaza conflict, and he called for sanctions against Israel.



Rescuers search for survivors in the river Trishuli after a landslide swept two buses away.

Finland passes law to block migrants crossing from Russia

Monitoring Desk
HELSINKI: Finland's parliament passed a law on Friday granting border guards the power to block asylum seekers crossing from Russia, after more than 1,300 people arrived in the country, forcing Helsinki to close its border.

Finland has accused neighbouring Russia of weaponising migration by encouraging scores of migrants from countries such as Syria and Somalia to cross the border, an assertion the Kremlin denies.

Helsinki believes Moscow is promoting the crossings in retaliation for Finland joining NATO, which backs Ukraine against Russia's invasion.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo has said

the bill is vital to stop future arrivals, despite the law being at odds with its international human rights commitments.

"This is a strong message to Russia, a strong message to our allies, that Finland takes care of its own security, we take care of the security of the EU border," Orpo told a press conference after the vote.

There have been no new arrivals by asylum seekers since March. Finland shut its land borders with Russia late last year.

Finland's move is similar to steps taken in recent years in other European countries, including Poland and Lithuania, to make it more difficult for migrants to cross the border from Russia and Russia-ally Belarus.

Israel military says 'failed' to protect Gaza border kibbutz from Hamas attack

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: The Israeli military acknowledged Thursday it "failed" a kibbutz where more than 100 people died during Hamas's October 7 attacks after an internal probe found serious flaws in troops' conduct. Kibbutz Beeri saw one of the fiercest battles of the Hamas incursion into southern Israel with hundreds of militants and troops fighting for control for nearly 24 hours.

It was also one of the most controversial, with the inhabitants complaining that the army took too long to intervene.

4 migrants die while attempting to cross the English Channel from northern France

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Four migrants have died while trying to cross the English Channel from France to the U.K., French authorities said Friday.

The migrants' vessel capsized and punctured off the coast of Boulogne-sur-Mer, in northern France, the prefecture responsible for the region said in a statement. Sixty-three people were rescued by the French coast guard.

A French navy patrol boat spotted the overcrowded vessel early Friday as it deflated off the French coast. Several people were "drifting in the water while others were still clinging to the broken rubber dingy," the statement said. Navy vessels, a fishing boat and a Navy helicopter joined the effort. Survivors were brought to the shore in Boulogne.

Bangladesh police fire rubber bullets as students stick to their guns

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh police on Thursday fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse university student protesters demanding the scrapping of quotas they say are rigged to support pro-government job candidates.

The quota system reserves more than half of well-paid civil service posts, totalling hundreds of thousands of government jobs, for specific groups including children of heroes from the country's 1971 liberation war.

Students launched protests earlier this month, demanding a merit-based system, and have continued demonstrations despite Bangladesh's top court suspending the quota scheme this week.

Officers forcibly dispersed around 150 students in the eastern city of Comilla after they attempted to block the main highway to the capital Dhaka, police inspector Syed Fazle Rabbi said. "Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse them," he said.

Comilla Medical College Hospital director Sheikh Fazle Rabbi said that 11 protesters had been injured, with two since discharged. None of the injured had been hit by rubber bullets.

Amnesty International said in a statement that it had seen reports of at least 20 injured in the incident, and urged authorities to "halt the use of unnecessary and excessive force".



Students scuffle with police during a protest in Dhaka to demand merit-based system for civil service jobs.



Displaced Palestinians arrive in Nuseirat, central Gaza Strip.

Nato boosts Asia ties to counter China

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Nato leaders on Thursday looked to bolster ties with Asian partners after slamming China as a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war, before holding talks with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky at the end of a summit in Washington. The 32-nation alliance has used the pomp-filled set piece in the US capital to showcase its resolve against Moscow and backing for Kyiv.

The three-day gathering has been overshadowed by political uncertainty in the United States as President Joe Biden fights for his

own political survival.

After spending the bulk of the summit focused on bolstering Ukraine, Nato shifted attention eastwards by welcoming the leaders of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

A strongly-worded declaration from Nato released Wednesday called Beijing a "decisive enabler of Russia's war against Ukraine" through its supplies of dual-use goods such as microchips that can help Moscow's military.

China "cannot enable the largest war in Europe in recent history without this negatively impacting its interests and reputation."

Indirect nuclear talks with US ongoing via Oman, says Iranian FM

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran is still conducting indirect nuclear talks with the United States via Oman, Iran's Etemad newspaper on Thursday quoted Iran's acting foreign minister as saying. Ali Bagheri Kani's reported comments followed remarks on Monday in which a White House spokesperson said the United States was not ready to resume nuclear talks with Iran under the newly elected president, Masoud Pezeshkian.

"Indirect talks are being conducted through Oman but the negotiation process is confidential and its details cannot be recounted," Bagheri Kani was quoted as saying. Efforts were being made to leave "suitable grounds" for negotiations for the new Iranian government that will take office in the next few weeks.

Pezeshkian, a low-profile moderate who won Iran's run-off presidential vote last week, has said he will promote a pragmatic foreign policy and ease tensions with the six powers.

Washington DC on Thursday. The blunder will further fuel concerns about his mental acuity after a disastrous debate performance against Donald Trump two weeks ago. It comes just before a press conference that could decide the fate of his reelection bid.

US President Joe



Bosnian Muslim men say prayer during a mass funeral at the Srebrenica Genocide Memorial in Potocari, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia reburies remains of 14 Srebrenica massacre victims

Monitoring Desk
SREBRENICA: The remains of 14 victims of the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Bosnia's Srebrenica were reburied on Thursday, the 29th anniversary of what became Europe's first atrocity since World War Two constituting genocide.

In May, the United Nations General Assembly declared July 11 an international day of remembrance for the Srebrenica massacre in a vote survivors

hailed as historic and Serbs as a failure, reflecting enduring ethnic divisions in Bosnia. The youngest of the 14 victims reburied on Thursday was a 17-year-old boy, the eldest was 68. Their remains, originally exhumed from mass graves, were laid to rest after a ceremony in a memorial cemetery outside Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. About 6,750 of the massacre victims are interred in the memorial cemetery, and some others at local grave sites.

India announces 'Murder of Constitution Day' remembrance

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India said on Friday it would hold an annual "Murder of the Constitution Day" from next year, commemorating a dark historical chapter tied to the family of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's chief political rival.

June 25, 2025 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, when then-premier Indira Gandhi suspended the constitution in response to a court ruling that threatened her hold on power.

The following months saw thousands of activists jailed, press freedoms suspended and an abusive compulsory sterilisation campaign that forced millions

Russia tried to assassinate CEO of arms firm sending weapons to Ukraine, CNN reports

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US intelligence discovered earlier this year that Russia planned to assassinate the chief executive of German arms manufacturer Rheinmetall which has been producing artillery shells and military vehicles for Ukraine, CNN reported on Thursday, citing five unidentified U.S. and Western officials. The plot to kill Rheinmetall CEO Armin Papperger was one of a series of Russian government plans to assassinate defense industry executives across Europe who were supporting Ukraine's war effort, according to CNN.

The United States informed Germany, the report said, adding that German security services were able to pro-

tect Papperger. Rheinmetall said in a statement that "necessary measures are always taken" in regular consultation with security authorities.

The company is one of the world's biggest producers of artillery and tank shells. It began ramping up production after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, a close ally of current President Vladimir Putin, previously said Russia would retaliate by hitting any facility Rheinmetall set up in Ukraine. The comments came after Rheinmetall said in May 2023 it had set up a joint venture with Ukrainian state-owned conglomerate Ukroboronprom to build and repair tanks in Ukraine.

63 missing after Nepal landslide sweeps two buses into river

Monitoring Desk
CHITWAN: At least 63 people were missing in Nepal on Friday after a landslide triggered by heavy monsoon rains swept two buses off a highway and into a river, authorities said.

Dozens of search and rescue personnel were combed the site for survivors of the accident in the central district of Chitwan, district official Khimananda Bhusal told AFP.

Bhusal said that the buses were carrying at least 66 people between them but three passengers had been able to escape before they crashed into the Trishuli river and were now being treated in hospital.

"We are not sure of the total number because the buses could have picked up others on the road," he said. "The river has swollen and no one else has been found yet."

The accident took place along the

Narayanghat-Mugling highway, around 100 kilometres west of the capital Kathmandu early Friday at 3:30am local time.

One bus was heading from the capital Kathmandu to Gaur in Rautahat district in southern Nepal and the other was en route to Kathmandu from southern Birgunj.

A driver was killed in a separate accident on the same road after a boulder hit his bus. He died as he was being treated at a hospital. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal expressed sadness over the accident in a post on social media platform X. "I direct all agencies of the government, including the home administration, to search for and effectively rescue the passengers," he said.

Deadly crashes are common in the Himalayan republic because of poorly constructed roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.

Zelenskyy says to win the war, US needs to lift limits on striking military targets inside Russia

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday embraced the support of allies who have provided substantial new military aid and a path to joining NATO, even as he emphatically pushed for the help to arrive faster and for restrictions to be lifted on the use of U.S. weapons to attack military targets inside Russia.

"If we want to win, if we want to prevail, if we want to save our country and to defend it, we need to lift all the limitations," Zelenskyy said alongside NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in the final hours of a summit that saw Ukraine receive fresh commitments of weapons and other support to firm up its defense against Russia.

The summit unfolded against the backdrop of a tumultuous American po-

litical cycle, with mounting angst among Democrats about President Joe Biden's ability to serve another four years following a shocking debate flop two weeks ago that threw the future of his presidency into doubt.

An untimely verbal flub Thursday evening did little to soothe concerns, when Biden at an event for the unveiling of an agreement called the Ukraine Compact mistakenly introduced Zelenskyy as Russian President Vladimir Putin. Some in the room gasped at Biden's gaffe, which the U.S. president quickly sought to clean up by saying, "President Putin? You're going to beat President Putin," Biden said to Zelenskyy. "I'm so focused on beating Putin, we got to worry about it."

New British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron declined to criticize Biden.

Ukraine seizes cargo ship, detains captain for exporting 'looted' grain

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine seized a foreign cargo ship on the Danube River and detained the captain on suspicion of helping Moscow export Ukrainian grain from Russian-occupied Crimea, officials said on Thursday.

Kyiv has accused Russia of trading stolen Ukrainian grain since the 2022 war began. Ship seizures, however, have been rare and shipping sources said they were concerned about possible retaliation at a critical time in the year as Ukraine grain exports reach a peak.

The Cameroon-flagged USKO MFU was presented with an arrest order and detained along with its Azeri captain after entering the waters of Reni, a Ukrainian port on the Danube where the river forms the border with Romania, prosecutors said.

The head of Ukraine's prosecutor's office for Crimea, Ihor Ponochohny, told Ukrainian TV that officials were surprised to spot the vessel on the Danube, since ships implicated in illegally carrying grain from Russian-held areas tended to steer clear of Ukraine's waters.

Since 2022, Ukraine has imposed arrest in absentia on 21 ships involved in the trade, he said.

"[The seizure] should be a clear signal for those countries that help Russia circumvent sanctions and sell agricultural products stolen in the occupied territories, that there may be responsibility for this," he said. The vessel had repeatedly docked at the Crimean sea port of Sevastopol to pick up agricultural products in 2023-24.

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Philippines rejects 'use of force' to undermine its South China Sea interests

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines rejects the "use of force" to undermine its interests in the contested South China Sea but it does not want any conflict and has agreed with China to ease tensions in a contested shoal, officials said on Friday.

"We don't want war," National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano told reporters in Manila.

Ano said efforts were underway to de-escalate tensions in the disputed waterway, where Manila and Beijing have accused each other of aggressive behaviour involving their ships and of damaging the marine environment.

Central to recent standoffs is the disputed Second Thomas Shoal, where the Philippines maintains a rusty warship manned by a small crew that it deliberately grounded in 1999 to reinforce its maritime

claims. It regularly sends supply mission to troops stationed there.

Last month, Manila accused the China Coast Guard of intentionally ramming and deliberately puncturing navy vessels and seizing weapons to disrupt a military resupply mission, seriously injuring a Filipino sailor who lost a finger.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, including the Second Thomas shoal, and rejects a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague that Beijing's expansive claims had no basis under international law. The case was brought to the court by the Philippines.

"We reject any attempt to deny our strategic agencies, especially by the use of force that seek to coerce and subordinate the national interests of the Philippines," Ano separately told a forum marking the eighth anniversary of the Hague ruling.

Ahsan proposes four-pronged approach to synergize efforts to achieve sustainable development

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Friday said that by aligning its national strategies with global objectives, fostering regional and international collaboration, driving innovation, and sharing knowledge, the world community could synergize efforts to achieve sustainable development.

"It is through these collective actions that we will create a future that is prosperous, inclusive, and resilient," he made these remarks while speaking at a panel discussion during the Second High-Level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development with the topic Sustainable Development: Continuous Actions for a Better Future.

Ahsan Iqbal proposed a four-pronged approach: Alignment, Collaboration, Innovation and Knowledge Sharing to align national development strategies with regional and global initiatives to exert joint efforts and achieve comprehensive effectiveness.

Explaining his proposals, he said that firstly, aligning national development strategies with regional and global initiatives requires a

shared vision. Each country must tailor its national goals to reflect the broader objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the GDI.

"For Pakistan, this meant embedding the principles of sustainable development into our Vision 2025 framework and our 5Es national economic transformation plan, ensuring that our economic, social, and environmental policies are in harmony with global standards," he added.

He said that the 5Es plan — encompassing Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment & Climate Change, Energy & Infrastructure, and Equity & Empowerment — aims to create a holistic and integrated approach to development.

By focusing on these five pillars, Pakistan is working towards inclusive growth, efficient resource utilization, and environmental sustainability, he added.

For instance, he said: "Our efforts in green energy, particularly the shift towards renewable sources, directly contribute to global climate goals and add, by setting national targets that mirror international commitments, we create a

cohesive and unified front against global challenges."

About the second proposal, he remarked that true synergy is achieved through robust collaboration. Initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI) provide excellent examples of how regional and global collaboration can amplify national efforts.

Ahsan Iqbal pointed out that a prime example of this collaboration is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), adding, the CPEC has significantly contributed to sustainable development in Pakistan by enhancing infrastructure, boosting energy production, and creating economic opportunities. The development of new highways and railways under CPEC has improved connectivity, facilitating trade and economic growth.

Additionally, CPEC projects in renewable energy, such as wind and solar power plants, have increased Pakistan's energy capacity while promoting cleaner, sustainable energy sources.

"We must foster partnerships that transcend borders, encouraging public-private partnerships,



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairs the first meeting of High-Level Committee on the Requirements and Arrangements for the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting to be held in Islamabad (15-16 October 2024) at Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Pakistan urges UN-backed framework to govern cyberspace facing threats from technologies' misuse

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A senior Pakistani diplomat has called for a UN-backed legally-binding comprehensive framework to govern global cyberspace that he said was the common heritage of mankind.

"Threats from un-governed global cyberspace prompted Pakistan to establish a national position on this critical issue," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said at an event sponsored by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament

Research (UNIDIR) at UN Headquarters on Thursday.

"Like many countries," he said, "we face significant challenges from the misuse of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)." Cyber-attacks, cyber-terrorism, disinformation campaigns, and attacks on critical infrastructure directly impact regional and global security, the Pakistani envoy said.

Offensive cyber capabilities possessed by certain states and sophisticated hacking tools available to non-state actors have

turned cyberspace into an arena of conflict, he pointed out.

"In given circumstances, Pakistan believes that it's time to create a legally-binding comprehensive framework, under the UN's auspices, to govern global cyberspace," Ambassador Jadoon added.

The unique nature of ICTs, he said complicates the application of international law in cyberspace as the borderless nature of the internet leads to a fragmented legal landscape, hindering cohesive international cooperation.

Pakistan-Hungary pledge to enhance Parl. cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday highlighted the importance of bolstering parliamentary cooperation between Pakistan and Hungary during a meeting with Hungarian Ambassador to Pakistan, Béla Fazekas.

Emphasizing the longstanding friendship between the two nations, Sadiq pointed out their shared commitment to global peace and sustainable development.

He advocated for regular interactions between parliaments, particularly through friendship groups and exchanges of delegations, to facilitate shared learning and collaboration.

The Speaker also stressed the need to expand cooperation beyond parliamentary initiatives, focusing on trade, investment, and education — key areas that could yield mutual benefits. Ambassador Fazekas expressed gratitude for Sadiq's remarks and reaffirmed Hungary's recognition of Pakistan as a vital regional player. He extended an invitation for Speaker Sadiq to lead a parliamentary delegation to Hungary, underscoring Hungary's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties. The meeting concluded with a mutual pledge to enhance cultural and parliamentary exchanges, setting the stage for deeper collaboration.

Amir calls for addressing concerns of Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for States & Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Engr Amir Muqam on Friday emphasized Pakistan's enduring friendship and cooperative spirit with Afghanistan, particularly in addressing the concerns of Afghan refugees.

The minister in a meeting with Afghanistan's Charge d'Affaires Sardar Ahmed Khan Shakeeb called for strengthening bilateral ties.

Muqam said that Pakistan has extended the stay of Proof of Registration (POR) card holders for one year, recognizing the ongoing humanitarian situation.

Deputy PM Dar reviews arrangements for SCO CHG to be held on Oct 15-16

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired the first meeting of High-Level Committee on the Requirements and Arrangements for the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting to be held in Islamabad on 15-16 October 2024.

The committee has been constituted in pursuit of the Prime Minister's directive to ensure hosting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting in Islamabad in a befitting manner.

The committee comprises, as its members, Federal Ministers for Economic Affairs, Interior, Information and Broadcasting, and Secretaries of the Foreign Affairs, Cabinet, and Interior as well as Chairman CDA.

The committee discussed the needs assessment and gave directions to the concerned authorities for making efficient arrangements, in line with SCO practice, Pakistan's international standing, concomitant with Pakistan's traditional hospitality.

The committee members expressed satisfaction at the ongoing preparations. The Deputy PM stressed the need for maintaining the momentum of preparations.

Since becoming full member of SCO in 2017, Pakistan has been actively participating in various SCO forums. As Chair of the SCO CHG, Pakistan will be hosting the 23rd meeting of the CHG in autumn this year.

CHG is the second-highest decision-making body of the SCO.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visiting Markazi Asna Ashri Imam Bargah in G-6.

Larger bench recommended on plea challenging decision of phone tapping

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has recommended a larger bench formation on a petition challenging federal government decision mandating ISI and other agencies of intercepting phones of citizens.

LHC's Justice Farooq Haider heard the petition filed by former MPA Ghulam Sarwar, remarking that key legal points were raised in the application. The court suggested formation of a larger bench for hearing on this petition.

An application was sent to the LHC chief justice for the formation of a larger bench.

Citizen Fahad Shabbir has filed a petition challenging the notification in

the LHC through Advocate Nadeem Sarwar, making the prime minister, the federal government and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) respondents.

The petitioner contends that the constitution allows the privacy and freedom of speech to citizens. And phone tapping is a clear-cut violation of the constitution according to the Indian Supreme Court, he argues.

Fazal partially accepts SC decision on reserved seats, extends goodwill to PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has stated that his party partially accepts the Supreme Court's decision to allocate reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Speaking to the media, Fazlur Rehman commented on the decision to grant reserved seats to the PTI, noting that constitutional and legal experts are the ones who can provide a definitive opinion on the Supreme Court's decision.

A two-member bench, led by Justice Asjad Javed Ghalal, issued a 14-page written ruling on Javed's petition. The court criticized the repeated arrest of Javed as a misuse of the legal system, stating that the continuous detention despite previous releases appeared to be an attempt to undermine the judiciary.

The judgment noted that detention orders were issued by the Deputy Commissioners of Lahore and Gujranwala while Javed was already in custody.

DC Khuzdar chairs meeting about transfer agricultural tube wells on solar energy

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Muhammad Arif Khan Zarkoon on Friday chaired a meeting regarding the transfer of agricultural tube wells to solar energy.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer Operation QESCO Khuzdar Abdul Qayyum Bangulzai, Jhalawan Zamindar Action Committee official Abdul Wahab Ghulmani Eid Muhammad Advocate Abdul Hameed Advocate, Assistant Commissioners and other government officials.

In the meeting, consultations were held on the process of transferring tube wells on solar energy, a program introduced by the federal government and Chief Minister Balochistan.

The meeting was informed that this program was being started by the government to bring more stability in the energy saving agriculture sector and to increase the production of agricultural commodities and provide relief to the farmers.

A comprehensive road-map and strategy are being developed to accelerate the process of converting landowners' tube wells to solar power.

The government and local landowners will continue to work together to make this energy saving program a success, said in the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the importance of tackling electricity theft and the need for alternative energy sources to meet energy needs.



ISLAMABAD: Official delegation of Azerbaijan held session with Federal Ministers, Abdul Aleem Khan, Dr Musaddiq Malik, Jam Kamal Khan and Awais Leghari.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan agree to enhance bilateral trade, investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the side lines of the visit of the President of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, a high-level official delegation from Azerbaijan held meeting with Federal Minister for Petroleum and Water Resources Dr Musaddiq Malik to enhance bilateral trade and investment. The Azerbaijani side was led by Mr Parviz Shahbazov, Minister for Energy accompanied by Mr Sahib Mammadov, Deputy Minister for Economy, Mr Yusif Abdullayev, Executive Director of Export and Investment Promotion Agency (AZPROMO), Mr Ulvi Mansurov, Executive Director of Azerbaijan Investment Company, Mr Elchin Mammadov, Advisor to the Minister of Digital Development and Transport, Mr. Togral Kocharli, Head of Global

Business Development of SOCAR Trading and Mr Emin Guliyev, Senior Specialist of Investment Promotion Department AZPROMO.

The Pakistani side was led by Dr Musaddiq Malik, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Water Resources, accompanied by Awais Leghari, Federal Minister for Power, Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Communication and Privatization, Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce, Lt. General Sarfaraz Ahmed, National Coordinator (SIFC) and federal secretaries, said a news release issued here on Friday Dr Musaddiq Malik welcomed the delegation and recalled the historic ties between the two countries based on common faith and deep-rooted cultural.

PTI to convene Awami assembly amidst political uncertainty

LAHORE (INP): In a significant move amidst the ongoing political turmoil, Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has scheduled a crucial meeting of its Awami Assembly members. The gathering is set to take place tomorrow at 11 o'clock outside the Punjab Assembly. Opposition leader Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar is slated to address the assembly, with the discussion focusing on the strategic response following the recent Supreme Court decision. Additionally, PTI ticket holders, who have declared victory according to Form 45, will be in attendance. This assembly aims to formulate a cohesive plan of action, reflecting the party's stance and future steps in light of the judicial verdict. The meeting is expected to chart the course for PTI's next political maneuvers in Punjab.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Livestock & Dairy Development Bakht Muhammad Kakar inspecting computer room in Animal Sciences Institute

SSGC increases efforts to bring down incidences of Gas Theft, removes 2,890 illegal connections

QUETTA (APP): Sui Southern Gas Company's Security Services and Counter Gas Theft Operations (SS&CGTO) and Customer Relations Department (CRD) teams continue its drive against gas theft, removing illegal connections.

A statement issued by SSGC said on Friday that the teams carried out multiple raids, after working upon survey reports in which they identified the areas where gas theft was being committed and immediately took actions against those involved in this heinous crime. Overall 2,890 illegal gas connections were removed.

A large scale operation as carried out at Al-Emarat City, Hub, where 2,500 residents were found involved in gas theft. This major operation uncovered the fact that the residents of this city had tampered with the 8" steel high pressure industrial main gas pipeline which was laid in

front of the society.

The raid was jointly carried out by teams of CRD, Distribution and Zonal Manager Balochistan to apprehend the culprits involved in this case. The holes used for tapping into the gas system were sealed by the team and the area is being kept under strict observation and subsequent claims are being raised.

In Karachi, CRD team carried out raids in Federal B. Area, where they removed 142 illegal connections. The residents had extended gas via rubber pipes and were supplying to these households. 07 illegal connections were removed by the team in Ramswami Gardens. Subsequent claims are being raised.

In Quetta, 99 disconnections were made in Cant and City Zone combined, where the residents had used overhead and underground clamps for accessing gas, illegally through the Company's main supply

line. Additionally, another 111 disconnections were made in lower and upper Balochistan for which claims are being raised.

In Larkana 22 illegal connections were disconnected, while in Nawabshah, 5 illegal connections were removed that were involved in gas theft. All rubber pipes, clamps, and materials used for gas theft were taken in custody and FIRs are being lodged against those involved in this crime against which claims are also being raised.

In Hyderabad, 4 disconnections were made in Qasimabad region after receiving a complaint regarding gas theft in SSGC's Khuli Kachehri session held in Hyderabad region.

Gas theft is a serious crime against the community as it hinders the supply to the customers and it can be quite harmful for the residents as even a smallest mistake can lead to damaging results.

No justification to retain his office by CEC after SC decision: Hafiz Naeem

ISLAMABAD (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman while welcoming Supreme Court (SC) decision on the petition of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) regarding reserved seats has said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) should now resign and go home.

"This matter should not end here but a Judicial Commission (JC) be constituted and the seats of national and provincial assemblies be returned to

those who are entitled to them.

He further said the duality of those parties were exposed due to this decision which were occupying these seats illegally against the democratic opinion and were playing on both sides of wicket.

CEC should resign forthwith because there is no justification for retaining the office by him now after SC decision, he demanded.

Massive landslide disrupts commutes in Fort Munro

DG KHAN (APP): Torrential rainfall at Rakhi Gaj located the tribal area of Fort Munro in Koh-e-Suleman caused huge damage across the area, official source informed. The big landslide was witnessed at about 10 km area of Rakhi Gaj, the tribal part of Koh-e-Suleman. The landslide resulted in breakage of huge cliff of mountains that fell off on inter provincial highway, Quetta Road.

The landslide occurred due to the cracking

of the mountain, leading to substantial debris falling onto the highway.

According to officials, the highway closure resulted in long vehicle queues on both sides.

Commuters and travellers are experiencing significant disruptions and delays due to the blockage.

The spread of huge boulders at place to place almost came to halt the two-way traffic from Blochiston to Punjab and Fort Munro.



QUETTA: Activates of Jamat-e-Islami hold protest against price hike.