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Imran Khan says: Another May 9 incident could have been leveled against us had we held August 22 public meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has said there was apprehension of chaos on September 22, therefore, Islamabad public meeting was postponed. Had we held public meeting May 9 like incident could have occurred. This is question of prestige of court. Court allows us to hold public meeting but administration cancels it. Islamabad public meeting has been postponed for last time, he said this in an informal talk with the journalists here in Adiala jail Rawalpindi. He further stated no judicial inquiry has been conducted so far in respect of May 9, 2023 incident. Had we insisted on holding public meeting on August 22, it was feared May 9 like event could have been shifted to us again. He held information

was given religious parties are on protest. There is threat for fomenting chaos. Therefore I called Azam Swati and Barrister Gohar and postponed public meeting. He pointed out they have issued NOC for September 8 public meeting. If any one tries to create any hindrance then on September 8 then they will themselves be responsible. When PML-N is seized with fear that we are holding talks with establishment then they recall May 9. I have not to talk with any government of form 47. I will never want country drifts into chaos. Reacting to security sources statement he said who I am. I am head of the largest political party of the country. Therefore, I am demanding for open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed.



KARACHI: Speaker Balochistan Captain (ret) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

Sindh & Balochistan assemblies to increase cooperation, vow Speaker BA & Sindh CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah have expressed consensus on promoting the cooperation between the two provincial assemblies. The Speaker Balochistan Assembly was in meeting with the Chief Minister Sindh whom he visited in Karachi on Friday. The Chief Minister Sindh welcomed the Speaker Balochistan Assembly on his visit to Karachi. During the course of meeting, matters of mutual interests were discussed by Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and Syed Murad Ali Shah. They also spoke on the sessions and business of the two assemblies during the meeting. Besides they also talked the rains and flashfloods caused due to the climate change in the provinces. It may be mentioned here that the Speaker Balochistan Assembly reached Karachi on Friday where he met the Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah.

Missing brothers of Mashwani case: Government seems to be beneficiary of enforced disappearances: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has given indication to issue strict order in the case pertaining to recovery of two missing professors brothers of Azhar Mashwani. The court remarked apparently it seems as if government is beneficiary of enforced disappearances. How the people are kidnapped and chief executive does nothing. Attorney General (AG) had said he would brief Prime Minister (PM). Chief Executive knows about these matters but even then enforced disappearances are taking place. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked if government has not to follow due process then what can we say. They cannot estimate how much

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Police kill main suspect in deadly ambush on cops in RYK's Katcha area

Monitoring Desk
LAHORE: The Punjab police said on Friday it had killed the main culprit behind a rocket attack from dacoits in Rahim Yar Khan District's Machka area that martyred 12 cops. Organised criminal gangs have been active in the riverine border areas of southern Sindh and central Punjab for decades, often making money through kidnap-for-ransom assaults. Two police vehicles carrying around 22 policemen were on their way back from a police camp in the Katcha (riverine) area, where recent rains had rendered the road extremely muddy, causing one of the vehicles to break down.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan and Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran in a group photo with participants of two-days training regarding Public Awareness and Access to Information



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority.

Complex problems of Balochistan actually requires serious solution, says Governor

Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail emphasizes voice of all stakeholders including youth should be involved in process of decision making and equal access to resources and services

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the complex issues of the province actually requires serious solution. The Governor said that he says it with conviction following his affiliation with practical politics spanning around four decades that our diversity is our biggest strength. Therefore, the major issues of the province can be resolved through wholehearted representation and partnership of the province in the federal and provincial institutions including parliament. The Governor was speaking to the delegation who called on him under leadership of the central leader of Jama'at-e-Islami, Sirajul Haq here at the Governor's House on Friday. Also present on the occasion were the provincial minister, Mir Asim Kurd, parliamentary secretary, Barkat Rind and members of the provincial assembly, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch and Zarak Khan Mandokhail. Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that sustainable peace and prosperity of the country is linked with peace and prosperity of Balochistan. He said that we do imagine of such Balochistan where the real issues are resolved through meaningful political dialogue. He stressed that the voice of all stakeholders including the youth should be involved in the process of decision making and equal access to the resources and services. He said it is included in our top condition to increase the voice of youth in the policy and decision making recognizing their important character. He stressed the need to provide equal opportunities and facilities to the people so that they may polish their learning and creative capabilities. He also stressed that there is a need to take the existing tense situation and prevailing sensitivity seriously by government and all political organizations and civil society. He insisted that we should take steps in the interest of country and people keeping in view the tense situation of whole region just because we can't afford more hatred and disputes. The Governor exhorted to the ruling elite as well as the political elders, religious scholars and intellectuals to play wholehearted role in finding peaceful solution to the present tense situation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, and British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott, jointly launched the "District Education Performance Index" in Federal Capital.

PM offers aid to Bangladesh amid severe floods

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif, expressing profound sorrow and grief over recent catastrophic floods, on Friday offered assistance Bangladesh to help cope with the devastating situation. In a letter to Chief Advisor, Bangladesh Dr. Muhammad Younis, Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif expressed Pakistan's solidarity during this challenging time, stating that the country stood with those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods in the floods. This was shared in a press release by the PM's Office. He lauded the people of Bangladesh for their renowned bravery and courage, particularly in the face of adversity. The prime minister expressed confidence that Bangladesh's leadership will guide the country through this challenging period.

Another case of Congo virus reported in Quetta
QUETTA (INP): Another case of Congo virus has been reported in Quetta on Friday. According to Health Department the patient suffering from Congo virus is undergoing treatment in the isolation ward of Fatima Jinnah Institute of Chest Diseases, Quetta. The 14-year-old patient belongs to Quetta whose blood test confirmed Congovirus, Health Department said.

Ahsan concerned over alarming results of District Education Performance Index
ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday expressed concern over the fall of 58 percent of the country's districts in the medium category of the District Education Performance Index (DEPIx), and remaining in the under-performing agencies. The report is the first of its kind to measure district-level education performance, focusing on key outcomes such as access, learning, equity, governance and inputs like infrastructure and public financing. Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan's 124 districts have scored an average of 53 percent in education, with no district falling into the high-performance category except Islamabad. The report highlighted issues such as lack of Internet access and the diminishing role of technical institutions in education. The minister said the declining quality of education has led to decreased enrollment in government schools and stressed the need for revolutionary measures like providing Internet access in schools, ensuring technological education and increasing digital literacy. He also informed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has recently established a task force to on education emergency. He said, a five-year plan would be shared with the provinces. Sharing additional findings of the report, he acknowledged the progress Pakistan has made in human capital development but noted that the pace remains slower compared to other emerging economies and regional peers.

Balochistan torrential rains claim 22 lives including children
QUETTA (INP): The recent torrential rains in Balochistan have claimed 22 lives, including 11 children, and injured 13 others, PDMA on Friday. According to a report by the PDMA, the rains have affected 5,448 individuals and damaged 158 homes, with 622 partially damaged. Additionally, 102 acres of crops and 35 kilometers of roads have been affected by the flash floods. The PDMA report also stated that seven bridges have been damaged, and 131 livestock have perished due to the heavy rains. It is pertinent to mention here that Chief meteorologist Sardar Sarfraz at the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) predicted season's strong monsoon spell from August 26-30, which was expected to impact Balochistan, entire Sindh and southern Punjab where citizens were advised to take necessary precautions to ensure their safety.

Health ministry confirms second case of Monkeypox
ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health on Friday confirmed that second case of Monkeypox has been reported in Pakistan. According to spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, the patient came from the Gulf countries with symptoms. He added that the Health Desk at Peshawar Airport transferred the patient to hospital timely whose Mpox test was reported positive. The spokesperson said that the Ministry of Health is ensuring continuous monitoring of the situation. National Coordinator for Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that an effective system of screening and surveillance system was functional at all airports. He added border health staff were working diligently at airports and entry points. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that the government was ensuring serious measures to keep people safe from epidemics.

BA session summoned from September 2
Independent Report
QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly has been summoned from September 2 in the provincial assembly's Hall here. According to an official notification issued here by the Provincial Assembly's secretariat on Friday, the Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has summoned the session of provincial assembly at 03:00 PM. As per the notification, the session would remain continued till September 12, 2024. There would be five sittings during the session of provincial assembly, mentioned in the notification.

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Govt mulls shutting down all utility stores across country

Prime minister seeks recommendations for introduction of alternative system to such stores; Work underway to transfer employees to other departments, says secretary of industry and production

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The federal government has decided to close Utility Stores across the country, a move confirmed by the secretary of industries and production ministry during a Senate Standing Committee meeting on Friday. The secretary told the meeting the decision was part of a broader strategy of the government to exit non-essential business operations, and that efforts were ongoing to reassign affected employees to other institutions. The announcement was made during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Industry and Production, which was chaired by Senator Aoun Abbas. The secretary emphasized that the government's aim is to streamline its operations by moving away from activities deemed non-essential. According to the Utility Store management, the federal government has given them two weeks, while the subsidy on items available at the stores had already ended. According to the management, after the news of closure of the stores, there was concern among more than 11,000 employees, out of which 6,000 were permanent and others on contract and daily wages. On the other hand, the standing committee took strict notice on the decision to close Utility Stores and sought details on the statement of the industries secretary. Committee Chairman Senator Aoun Abbas Bappi expressed concern over the government's decision. INP adds: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has sought proposals for shutting down the state-owned Utility Stores Corporation (USC) and replaces it with a new system. The prime minister also called for proposals within two weeks for an alternative system in place of the Utility Stores. The government was mulling to give cash amounts to BISP consumers of the Utility Stores. In the meanwhile, the Utility Stores have stopped sale of subsidized items to the BISP consumers.



QUETTA: A delegation led by former Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq in a group photo with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

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RAHIM YAR KHAN: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi attending funeral prayer of martyred police personnel in Rahim Yar Khan.

Attends funeral prayers of martyred policemen Naqvi determines to take action against attackers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has pledged to take stern action against the attackers who killed 13 police personnel in the Kacha area of Rahim Yar Khan. Naqvi described the incident as a "sad tragedy" and directed all necessary measures to prevent such incidents in the future. He ordered a coordinated operation against the perpetrators, stating that they would be dealt with "iron hands." Meanwhile the funeral prayers for police personnel martyred in the attack by robbers in Machhka were held at the Sadiq Shaheed Police Lines Rahim Yar Khan. Presiding over a high-level meeting at Rahim Yar Khan Airport on Friday, Naqvi emphasized the need for robust security measures and instructed authorities to equip operational forces with modern weapons and safety equipment.

Punjab Health minister emphasizes commitment to providing best health facilities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing healthcare services across the province. In a meeting with Professor Javed Akram, Head of the Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine (PSIM), and other key officials at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, the minister emphasized the ongoing efforts to provide the best health facilities to the masses. During the discussion, he highlighted that the PSIM has been instrumental in advancing medical services globally, including within Pakistan. He further stated that, in line with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision, significant improvements are being made in the healthcare system and available facilities. "Allah Almighty has given us a rare opportunity to serve patients in government hospitals," he remarked, underlining the importance of this responsibility. Professor Javed Akram announced that the PSIM is organizing an international conference in November, aimed at furthering medical education.



LAHORE: Provincial Ministers for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazeer preside over the 7th meeting of cabinet committee for Dengue and other diseases.



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Governor Kundi thanks PM in construction of Dera-Rajanpur road

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Friday expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister for National Highways Abdul Aleem Khan and the officials of the National Highway Authority (NHA) for their support in the construction of 329 kilometers Dera Ismail Khan to Rajanpur road. In a video message, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that the construction work on this vital road will begin this year. He said that the road will be upgraded from a two-lane to a four-lane highway with the support of the Asian Development Bank, holds immense importance for both Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. Tenders for the project have already been issued that would usher new era of development, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi added.

The Governor also highlighted that construction work on the Ramak to Tibba Qaisarani section of the road will start within this year. The project is divided into four phases, with the Dera Ismail Khan to Ramak to Punjab Tibba Qaisarani section covering 96 kilometers. Additionally, Kundi mentioned that tenders for the Dera Ismail Khan Chashma Lift Canal project will soon be issued. The Prime Minister has allocated 19 billion rupees from the federal budget for this project. Kundi thanked Federal Minister Musadiq Malik and the Chairman of WAPDA for their roles in this initiative. The Governor also revealed that the No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the Dera Ismail Khan International Airport has been issued, with construction expected to start next year. Kundi emphasized that these mega projects will significantly contribute to regional development, highlighting that practical steps are being taken rather than just making promises. The road and canal projects are set to be inaugurated later this year, while the airport project will commence in the coming year.

Meeting appreciates govt plans, efforts to protect minorities' rights in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): A Chairperson of Punjab Women Protection Authority Hina Parvez Butt highlighted the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's Digital Punjab and development of the province. She said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the rights of women, especially those belonging to religious minorities, were being safeguarded. She added that women in Punjab were making significant contribution to development of Pakistan, and they were prominently visible in every field. Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora, presiding over the meeting, said that the Punjab government was taking all possible steps to protect rights of religious minorities to ensure elimination of the sense of deprivation that emerged in the past among the religious minorities.



HYDERABAD: People are using boat for transportation due to non-availability of bridge to cross the canal, at Channel Mori in Hyderabad.

Eman Shah says: GB govt's Rs 5bn fund to bridge healthcare gaps for deserving patients

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Eman Shah Friday said that Gilgit-Baltistan government has taken a major step towards bridging the region's healthcare gap with the establishment of a Rs 5 billion endowment fund, where the fund will cover treatment costs for deserving patients, alleviating financial distress and ensuring timely medical care. The government's commitment to prioritizing citizens' health and well-being is further demonstrated by plans to increase the fund annually, he said while talking to PTV news. The establishment of the endowment fund is a testament to the Chief Minister's vision for a healthier Gilgit-Baltistan, he added. By providing financial assistance to deserving patients, the government aims to reduce the burden of medical expenses on low-income families and ensure that everyone has access to quality healthcare, he mentioned. For deserving patients in Gilgit-Baltistan, the endowment fund brings a ray of hope, he said, adding, many patients in the region have been unable to access medical treatment due to financial constraints where this fund will now provide them.

Justice Chaudhry Iqbal recuses from hearing case against internet shut down

LAHORE (Online) Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal of Lahore High Court (LHC) has recused from hearing petition against internet shut down and installation of firewall. The petition against internet shut down and installation of fire wall came up for hearing in LHC Friday. Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal while recusing from hearing petition filed by Judicial Activism Panel ordered to transfer the case to the court of Justice Shakil Ahmad. The court said Justice Shakil Ahmad is hearing cases similar to this case. The petitioner had taken plea internet and social media apps have been shut down in the country without giving any reason and notice. Every sphere of life and business is being affected due to internet shut down. It was further said in the petition that shutting down internet runs contrary to fundamental human rights. The court was requested to nullify the federal government decision for shutting down internet besides issuing order for complete.

ANF recovers 234 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations managed to recover 234 kg drugs worth Rs 20 million and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He said that 123.6 kg opium and 108 kg hashish were recovered from a vehicle intercepted on M-1 Motorway Islamabad and two accused were arrested. In another operation, 1.5 kg heroin was recovered from a woman netted near Kamalpur Interchange, Faisalabad. 400 grams ice was recovered from an accused rounded up on Hub River Road Karachi.

GB govt forms committee to address dam affected people's grievances

GILGIT (APP): Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan while addressing a high-level meeting regarding the implementation of CBMs for the Diamer Bhasha Dam and Dasu Dam said that these dams are of utmost importance for Pakistan's prosperity. CM GB said the people of Diamer have made sacrifices for the completion of these projects. It is our collective responsibility to address the genuine concerns and apprehensions of the affected people, he added. He said the non-implementation of CBM's has raised severe concerns among the people of Diamer. He added that in a recent meeting with the Chairman WAPDA, the issue of CBM's was also discussed. In the meeting, Brigadier @ Shoaib Tahir, General Manager of Land Acquisition and Resettlement, and General Manager/Project Director Diamer Bhasha Dam Engineer Nizakat Hussain presented the revised CBM plan on the directives of the Chairman WAPDA and briefed about it. On this occasion, the Chief Minister formed a special committee comprising elected members of the Assembly from Diamer.

4 of family found dead in car

SARGODHA (APP): Four members of a family were found dead in a car, in the jurisdiction of Bhera police station on Friday. Motorway police received a call about a suspected car (LEF-7339) at Bhera motorway interchange. On information, the motorway police reached the spot and found five member of a family in a precarious condition in the car. Rescue-1122 volunteers shifted the victims to a hospital where Romeela (60), Mehwish (30), Samer (28) and Auon (4) expired while Umar Qasim (30) was still under treatment. The victims were belonged to Lahore. Doctors said the consumption of tainted food was the cause of death.

International News

Kamala Harris accepts Democratic nomination ahead of US elections with pledge of 'new way forward'

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic presidential nomination in Chicago on Thursday before a rapturous crowd, pledging a "new way forward" if she beats Republican Donald Trump in November's blockbuster election. The 59-year-old sought to strike a presidential tone as she delivered a message of unity and opportunity for Americans following one of the most extraordinary turnarounds in US political history. She lashed out at Trump, accusing him of trying to "take our country" backwards and of cosying up to foreign "tyrants" like Russian President Vladimir Putin. "On behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on earth, I accept your nomination to be president of the United States of America," the vice president said to huge cheers. "I will be a president who unites us around our highest aspirations," she vowed. The convention became a giant party to celebrate Harris's astonishing ascent from something of a political afterthought to Democratic standard bearer upon President Joe Biden's surprise decision to end his reelection bid. A sea of waving Stars and Stripes flags and chants of "USA" filled the arena as jubilant Democrats anointed Harris. She was later joined on stage by her running mate Tim Walz and their families, as they held their arms aloft while 100,000 red, white and blue balloons tumbled from the ceiling. Country act The Chicks sang a version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" while pop star Pink also performed as the Democrats rolled out a list of celebrity backers. Harris pledged to be a "president for all Americans" in a bid to reach out to undecided voters. With the November election, Americans have a "fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism and divisive battles of the past — a chance to chart a new way forward," she promised. Harris then took aim at 78-year-old Trump, whose campaign has been upended by having to face a woman two decades younger, rather than the increasingly frail Biden, 81. "We know what a second Trump term would look like," she said, referring to a right-wing think tank's blueprint for a future Republican government. "It's all laid out in 'Project 2025,' written by his closest advisors, and its sum total is to pull our country back to the past."



US Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, US 2024 Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris, Minnesota Governor and 2024 Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz and Tim Walz's wife Gwendolyn Walz hold hands at the end of the fourth and last day of the DNC at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois.

India's Modi meets Zelensky on historic Ukraine visit

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelensky on a historic visit to Kyiv on Friday, where he is pushing for a solution to end more than two years of war with Russia. Modi embraced Zelensky — who looked visibly emotional — at the Mariinsky palace in Kyiv, in the first ever visit by an Indian premier to Ukraine. The Indian leader is casting himself as a possible peacemaker between Moscow and Kyiv. But his visit comes at a dramatic moment in the two-and-a-half year war, with a diplomatic settlement appearing more elusive than ever. Kyiv's forces are mounting a major incursion into Russia's Kursk region while Moscow's army is advancing in eastern Ukraine.

27 killed as Israeli tanks push deeper into Gaza

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli forces pressed deeper into areas of the central and southern Gaza Strip as they battled Hamas fighters, while Palestinian health officials said on Thursday that Israeli strikes had killed at least 27 people across the enclave. The new escalation comes hours after US President Joe Biden pressed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the urgency of sealing a deal for a truce in Gaza and the release of prisoners, the White House said. Separately, US and Israeli delegations started a new round of meetings in Cairo on Thursday to secure a ceasefire deal. Months of on-off talks on a ceasefire have circled the same issues, but Israel and Hamas have stuck firmly to their demands. In the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya, a strike on a house killed 11 people, including children and women, the bodies of some of whom had been buried, according to the territory's Civil Emergency Service. Medics said another strike killed six people, including a local journalist, in a house in Al-Maghazi camp in the central Gaza Strip, while five others were killed in separate strikes in the south. Later on Thursday, five Palestinians were killed and several wounded in an Israeli airstrike that hit people near a square in Khan Younis, health officials said. The Israeli military said its forces had intensified their operations in Deir Al-Balah, in central Gaza.

France's Macron holds talks with key political players in a bid to form a new government

Monitoring Desk PARIS: After the excitement of the Paris Olympics and a Mediterranean vacation, now French President Emmanuel Macron has to figure out how to make his country governable again. Faced with a hung parliament, social tensions and ballooning debt, Macron kicked off talks Friday with key political players in a bid to choose a new prime minister who would form a government and end the deadlock created by snap legislative elections last month. Members of the left-wing New Popular Front coalition that won the most seats pressured Macron for a quick decision. Their nominee for prime minister, little-known civil servant Lucie Castets, said after Friday's meetings in the Elysee Palace that she was ready to govern, and ready for compromise to get things done. But the party only has about a third of the seats in the National Assembly, France's powerful lower house of parliament, and no party has a majority. Macron's centrist alliance came in second and the far-right National Rally came in third. There's no rulebook that requires Macron to name a candidate from the party that won the most seats, or lays out a timeline for a decision. The absence of any dominant political bloc is unprecedented in France's modern Republic.

21 Indians dead, more feared missing after bus plunges into Nepal river

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Half of the passengers in a bus carrying 43 Indians died on Friday when the vehicle plunged into a rain-swollen river in neighbouring Nepal, according to a spokesperson for the Himalayan nation's armed police. A total of 21 people died and 22 were injured, Shailendra Thapa, a spokesman for the armed police, said, adding that all 41 passengers and two crew were Indian and headed to the capital Kathmandu from the tourist city of Pokhara when the accident occurred. Roads in the mountainous region can challenge drivers as they are often narrow and treacherous, making it tough to manoeuvre large vehicles around hairpin curves. Rescuers pulled 22 people from the rain-swollen waters of the Marsyangdi river in the Tanahun district, about 118 kilometres from Kathmandu, of which 12 were seriously injured and airlifted to the capital. Police and army teams climbed down long metal ladders to reach the river, using ropes to pull the injured and dead.

UK PM tells China's Xi he hopes for 'honest' discussions

Monitoring Desk LONDON: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer told Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday he hoped they could have "honest" discussions about thorny issues as they held the first call between leaders of the countries in over two years. The formal conversation was the first between the pair since Starmer won power last month, and was also the first official call between a British leader and Xi since March 2022. The chat comes amid a period of strained relations between London and Beijing over espionage allegations and Beijing's tightening control over former British colony Hong Kong. The two remain major trading partners, however, and are both permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. According to a Downing Street readout of the call, Starmer noted hope that he and Xi "would be able to have open, frank, and honest discussions to address and understand areas of disagreement when necessary". Such issues include "Hong Kong, Russia's war in Ukraine, and human rights," the readout said. China was Britain's fifth-largest trading partner as of 2023, according to UK statistics, but diplomatic relations were icy under Starmer's predecessor Rishi Sunak. Soon after taking office in October 2022, Sunak declared an end to the so-called "golden era" of UK-China relations trumpeted by former prime minister David Cameron. Sunak characterised China as a "systemic challenge" to UK values. Espionage allegations have since presented additional hurdles to repairing relations, with Beijing saying in June that Mi6 recruited Chinese state employees to spy for the UK.

NDMA convenes 4th session of Disaster Response Committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): As per Prime Minister's directives, NDMA convened the fourth meeting of National Disaster Response Committee (DRC) at NDMA headquarters here on Friday.



QUETTA: MP A Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Kibzai meeting with Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Nausherwani

PTA intensifies crackdown against illegal issuance of SIMs

ISLAMABAD (APP): FIA seized 25 suspicious SIMs, and 2 suspected BVS devices. The Retailer of the franchise was arrested at the spot and FIR has been registered by the agency. FIA Cybercrime Circle is further investigating the case.

AC Hub hands over important medicines to MS of JGQH

QUETTA (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Hub Muhammad Ali Durrani handed over necessary medicines to Medical Superintendent (MS) of Jam Ghulam Qadir Hospital (JGQH) on Friday.



PESHAWAR: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, at Markaz-e-Islami in Peshawar.

DC warns of stern action against violators: Quetta district admin issues revised price list of different edibles

QUETTA: The Quetta district administration has issued revised price list of different edibles warning the shopkeepers and vendors to follow the same, otherwise stern action would be taken against them.



ISLAMABAD: As per PMs directives, NDMA convened the fourth meeting of National Disaster Response Committee (DRC) at NDMA HQs in Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives and co-chaired by NDMA Chairman Lt. General Inam Haider Malik.

Malik urges PTI to shun hate rhetoric, promote peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Masood Malik on Friday warned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Chief Minister should desist from making hate-based statements and spreading chaos in the country.

NP Chief honored with luncheon in Quetta

QUETTA: A luncheon was hosted by Mir Madad Khan Kharani Balochi in honor of National Party's chief and former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch.



HUB: Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid and Advisor for Industries Mir Ali Hassan Zehri attending a briefing by Firm supplying nutrition food items for World Food Organization

Fare of Umrah flights decreases by Rs. 20,000: Governor appreciates launch of Quetta-Jeddah Umra flights & further discount in fares by PIA

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has appreciated the initiatives of Pakistan International Airlines regarding launch of the special direct Umrah flights from Quetta to Jeddah and reduction in their (flights) fares.

Awam Express narrowly avoids accident in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): A bogie of the Awam Express, traveling from Lahore to Karachi, derailed at Lahore Railway Station on Friday, causing damage to the platform but no injuries.



QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran distributing certificates among participants of two-days training regarding Public Awareness and Access to Information. Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan is also present

PM directs to instantly constitute SMEDA, other vital institutions' Boards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday chaired a meeting on matters related to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), emphasizing the crucial role of SMEs in Pakistan's economy.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Chairman Quetta Welfare Council Haji Daud Jamal Bareech meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Pak father-son duo sets Guinness World record, praised by PM Shehbaz

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): A Pakistani father-son duo has set a new Guinness World Record for the fastest time to climb around a person. Irfan Mehsood and his 5-year-old son Sufiyan Mehsood accomplished this impressive task in just 7.87 seconds.

Standing body for fisheries meets, discusses matters of fisheries department

QUETTA: The Standing Committee for fisheries met with the Chairman of the Committee and Member Provincial Assembly, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch in the chair on Friday.

Govt appoints Arshad Munir as Addl. Secretary, PMO Public

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government on Friday appointed Muhammad Arshad Munir, a BS-21 officer of the Information Group as Additional Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (Public).



QUETTA: Chairman Standing Committee Maulana Hidayatur Rehman presiding over a meeting regarding Fisheries Department

LHC abolishes ban on inter-provincial movement of chicken

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has abolished the ban on inter-provincial movement of broiler chicken.

Pakistan sees annual exodus of 0.8m workers seeking jobs abroad on protected visas

ISLAMABAD (INP): Approximately 0.8 million Pakistanis travel abroad each year to seek and obtain jobs in different countries, using valid protected work visas issued by the Protectorate of Emigrants.