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Haniyeh's martyrdom in Tehran a flagrant violation of International laws: PM Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday strongly denounced the attack that led to martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, chief of Hamas Political Bureau, in Tehran, terming it a barbaric act that was a flagrant violation of international laws and rules. The extraterritorial assassination, he said, had sparked widespread condemnation across the world including Pakistan, Turkiye, Russia, Iran, China and Malaysia which had denounced the attack in the strongest words.

Ismail Haniyeh's children and grandchildren had also been ruthlessly martyred, he added.

The prime minister was chairing a meeting on the situation of Palestine which was attended by the parliamentarians representing the

government's allied political parties.

Shehbaz Sharif said that the bloodshed in Palestine continued for last nine months claiming lives of many innocent Palestinians everyday. Over 40,000 Palestinians including thousands of children had been martyred till date. "The world is silent over this barbarism," he said. "Such terrorism and extremism is highly condemnable."

The prime minister said Netanyahu was out to destroy Palestine. Despite clear verdicts of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and resolutions of the United Nations, Israel could not be stopped from its barbaric acts.

He expressed gratitude to the countries from the West such as Ireland and Spain who had openly supported the Palestinian cause and its two-state resolution.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a consultative meeting of Allied Parties regarding deteriorating situation in Palestine.

Govt, allied parties urge world to address genocide of Palestinians

Nation to observe day of mourning today to show solidarity with Palestinians; Funeral prayers in absentia after Friday prayer; special resolution in parliament to express solidarity with Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government allied parties on Thursday decided that the nation would observe a day of mourning across the country on August 2 (Friday) in solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters and to condemn the Israeli state-sponsored terrorism in Palestine.

A consultative meeting of the allied parties on the deteriorating situation in Palestine, in a joint declaration, also announced that the funeral prayer in absentia for Ismail Haniyeh, chief of Hamas Political Bureau, who was assassinated in Tehran on Wednesday, would be offered by the nation after Friday prayers.

The meeting, which was presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, also decided to present a resolution in the Parliament to express full solidarity with the people of Palestine.

The participants of the meeting strongly condemned the ongoing Israeli brutalities in Palestine for last nine months, and expressed full solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters.

They also expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

They were of the view that the Hamas leader's assassination

incident was a conspiracy to sabotage the efforts to get stopped the ongoing Israeli atrocities on the Palestinians and establish peace in the region. Such incidents destroyed the world peace.

The prime minister termed the ongoing Israeli state-sponsored terrorism in Palestine a tragedy for the Muslim Ummah.

The meeting demanded to ensure immediate provision of humanitarian aid to the unnamed Palestinians.

It was decided that Pakistan would continue to provide relief goods, besides taking effective measures for the medical assistance of the oppressed Palestinian brothers and sisters. It was further decided that the injured Palestinians would be brought to Pakistan for treatment.

The meeting also decided that Palestinian medical students would be admitted to medical colleges in Pakistan with financial support to continue their education.

The participants were of the view that with the ongoing genocide and state-sponsored terrorism in Palestine, Israel was violating the resolutions of the United Nations, the decisions of the International Court of Justice and international laws, while the world community remained a silent spectator.



GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Hamood-ur-Rehman leading team of high ups of Police, elites of All Parties to negotiation with leaders of Baloch Yekjehti Committee during their Raji Machi protest

As part of reform agenda, privatization process of DISCOs has begun: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said, as part of the present government's reform agenda, the process of privatization of DISCOs has been started after an amendment in the State Owned Enterprises Act.

Addressing a press conference along with Muttahida Qaumi Movement leader Mustafa Kamal here Thursday, the information minister said that he pointed out that inefficiency and corruption of DISCOs span over several decades. Therefore, he said it was decided to bring competent and professional people from the private

sector to run the DISCOs free from any political interference.

He said a delegation of MQM Pakistan comprising Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Mustafa Kamal met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and matters related to electricity bills and IPP issue were discussed.

The minister appreciated the MQM for always showing responsibility and constructive approach towards resolving national issues and played a positive role in the reforms agenda. He said that he was grateful to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement for raising its voice on this issue.

Ghazala Gola elected as Chairperson of BWPC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola and Member Provincial Assembly, Ms. Farah Azeem Shah were elected as the Chairperson and General Secretary of Balochistan Women Parliamentary Caucus (BWPC) respectively here on Thursday.

The election of office bearers of BWPC was held in its first sitting in the committee room of provincial assembly.

According to an official communique shared by the provincial assembly's secretariat, all the office bearers were elected unopposed.

While Ms. Shahid Rauf was elected as the Vice Chairperson of the Caucus, Ms. Salma Kakar and Ms. Hadia Nawaz were elected as the Treasurer and Secretary respectively.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail presides over the 10th Senate session of University of Balochistan.

Governor for paying wholehearted attention on financial management and educational discipline to develop public universities

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stressed we have to pay wholehearted attention on the best financial management and educational discipline for putting the public sector universities on path of sustainable development.

The meeting discussed in detail the solution to the financial hardships being faced by the University as well as increasing the educational standard and creating partnership between the academia and industry and finding new means of income. The Governor on the occasion appreciated the services of acting Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University, Professor Dr Zahoor Ahmed Bazai and his whole team for the university.

He said that the UoB team is doing well, but still we have to move forward.

Certain important decisions were made in the meeting following the suggestions and recommendations of the participants.

UAE envoy calls on Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi called on Minister for Defence and Defence Production and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Thursday.

The Minister lauded the vision and efforts of President and Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan for development and transformation of UAE, a news release said.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said: "Pakistani Nationals are playing a productive role in various fields for the progress of UAE. Pakistan will continue to extend its support for UAE in civil and defence sectors."

He expressed that there was a lot potential of cooperation between Armed Forces for enhancement of existing cooperation.

Matters pertaining to commercial/civil aviation sector of Pakistan and UAE were also discussed for enhancing scope in aviation sector between both countries.

Fateha offered for LEAs personnel killed in Gwadar and Pishin:

BA voices concern about protest sit-in in Makran; say people facing hardships

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly has voiced concern about the protest sit-in being staged in different parts of Makran Division and said that the people are suffering due to the protest.

The members of provincial assembly including the leader of Opposition, Muhammad Younas Zehri, Rehmat Saleh Baloch and others raised point of order during the session held with Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola in the chair on Thursday.

The Leader of Opposition said that steps should be taken for resolving issue of dharna in Makran. He said that people can't visit their areas due to the dharna. While on the other hand, the onions crop is

also destroying due to the blockage of roads.

While the province is burning, but no one has been taking cognizance of the situation, the leader of Opposition regretfully pointed out.

The MPA Rehmat Baloch pointed out that people are facing hardships due to dharna in Makran. He said that even the drinking water is not available now due to the situation. He asked the government to show seriousness towards the issue.

He also pleaded to consider the demands of participants of dharna.

Speaking on the point of order, the Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Ali Madad Jattak said that talks are continued with the participants of dharna.



QUETTA: Inspector General Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh presenting commemorative shield to recently transferred IG FC (North) Chaudhary Ameer Ajmal.

28 die as rains batter several parts of KP, Punjab

24 dead in rain-related incidents across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; At least four killed, seven wounded as rain breaks 44-year record in Lahore

PESHAWAR (INP): At least 24 people have been killed and 17 others injured in different rain-related incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last three days.

According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority, 73 houses were completely damaged while 71 were partially damaged due to rains in Kohat, Peshawar, DI Khan, Hazara and Malakand divisions.

Flash floods and house collapses were also reported in Hangu, Haripur, Mansehra, Lower Dir, Charsadda, Mohmand, Bajaur, and Abbottabad. The report added that landslides were also reported in Abbottabad.

Meanwhile at least four citizens, including a girl, lost their lives and 7 others were wounded in separate incidents of electrocution and roof collapse after Lahore was hit by heavy monsoon rainfalls that broke a 44-year record on Thursday.

The second-largest city of Pakistan was lashed by almost 360 millimetres of rain which flooded hospitals, interrupted power and submerged streets in the metropolitan home to 13 million, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said.

Today's rain broke a previous record of 332 millimetres over three hours in July 1980.

The heavy downpours resulted in several casualties and damages to the properties and paralysing infrastructure in different parts of the provincial capital.

CS directs secretaries to pay special attention for prompt redressal of complaints

QUETTA (APP): Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan on Thursday directed the secretaries of various departments to pay special attention for prompt redressal of complaints filed by the public on the Pakistan Citizen Portal and on file tracking system in order to resolve the pending or overdue cases without any further delay.

A meeting of Secretaries Committee held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan has reviewed important matters including file tracking system, IPMS, Pakistan Citizen Portal, time restriction in offices and other important issues.

Shakeel Qadir Khan said that the attendance of officers and employees in the provincial offices has been improved but it needs



ISLAMABAD: Provincial Minister for Education Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani in a group photo with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and others participants on the eve of inaugural ceremony of "she power" project at Chinese Embassy.

Pakistan urges Afghanistan to ensure their land isn't used for terrorist activities

ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office says the latest UN Security Council report endorses Pakistan's view that Afghanistan has hideouts and sanctuaries for terrorist groups including "Fina al-Khawarij", the banned TTP.

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said the report contains the view that the TTP could transform into an extra regional threat as well as umbrella organization of other terror groups.

Muntaz Zahra Baloch urged Afghanistan to take immediate, effective and robust action against the terrorist groups including Fina al-Khawarij. She said the Afghan side should ensure that their land is not used for terrorist activities inside Pakistan.

Referring to the killing of Chief of the Political Bureau of Hamas Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, she said targeting individuals inside sovereign states is a violation of international law and global norms. Such acts carry the seeds of further escalation.

She said it is yet another demonstration of indiscriminate and disproportionate Israeli aggression that has continued unabated to the detriment of regional and global peace and security.

The spokesperson said Israel must be held accountable for its transgressions and actions. She said Israel's extraterritorial acts have endangered regional security. She urged the backers of Israel to prevail on Israel to end its unlawful military operations in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries in the region.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Ali Madad Jattak, Mir Asim Kurd Gailu, Parliamentary Secretaries Mir Liaquat Lehri, Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai, Sanjay Kumar, Meena Majeed Baloch, Hadia Nawaz Baloch, and MPA Zarak Mandokhail, Farah Azeem Shah, Mir Yunas Aziz Zehri, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch, Malik Naem Khan Bazai, Shehnaaz Umrani, Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini, Mir Zabid Ali Reki, Zafar Agha, Khair Jan Baloch, Dr. Nawaz Kibzai and Kalsoom Niaz Baloch addressing the joint.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Haniyeh's murder

The shocking assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh early on Wednesday in Tehran has plunged the entire Middle East into the unknown, with the threat of a regional conflagration increasingly high.

The Palestinian leader was in Tehran to attend the inauguration of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. While Israel has not accepted responsibility for this grievous provocation, there can be little doubt who is responsible. Only a few hours before Haniyeh's killing, the Israelis had bombed a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut, apparently to target a top commander.

Following Haniyeh's murder, an Israeli minister 'celebrated' this grim achievement on the social media platform X. The Israelis are playing with fire, and their brinkmanship can push the entire region into a catastrophic maelstrom.

With the assassination, Tel Aviv has thrown the gauntlet at Tehran, and it will be very difficult for Iran not to respond to this grave provocation on its soil. Israel has struck one of Iran's closest allies in the heart of the 'axis of resistance'. Tehran needs to conduct a thorough internal investigation to determine just how such a high-profile individual was targeted. This would not be the first time Israel is believed to have struck inside Iran. Top Iranian nuclear scientists and generals have been targeted in similar fashion.

However, whatever the investigation reveals, security was ostensibly lax, and the Iranians should have strengthened their defences considering the string of previous assassinations. Yet retribution is almost certain. The Iranian supreme leader — who has the final say on all major policy decisions — has asserted, with reference to the Haniyeh killing, that it is "our duty to avenge his blood".

Condemnation of the killing has been pouring in from various quarters. Iran's brothers in arms in the 'axis of resistance' — Hezbollah, the Houthis — have slammed the crime, while Russia has dubbed it an "unacceptable political murder". China, on the other hand, has said it is "deeply concerned" while Pakistan has criticised "Israeli adventurism".

The fact that they have been unable to crush Hamas in Gaza over the last nearly 10 months has led Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabal to destabilise the wider Middle East, violating the sovereignty of Syria, Lebanon and Iran. The only way out of this crisis — and the window for peaceful resolution appears to be closing fast — is for an immediate halt to the massacre in Gaza.

Of course, with the Haniyeh assassination, the prospects of a ceasefire appear to have been buried for the foreseeable future. The US can still prevail upon Israel to wind down its murderous campaign. But in an election year, this will be highly unlikely as both contenders compete for the blessings of the Zionist lobby in Washington. The Middle East will surely be on tenterhooks for the next few days.

Raining athletes

F.S.Aijazuddin

The opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympics in Paris was like baking a soufflé in the rain. Even French expertise could not make it rise.

The French, defying convention, decided not to hold the inaugural ceremony in a stadium. They used the Seine, its ornate bridges and the iconic Eiffel Tower instead. The French should have consulted the British. In 2012, they ignored the Thames. Rain has ruined many a royal regatta.

A century has passed since Parisians last hosted the Olympics. In 1924, 3,089 athletes took part, of them 2,954 men and 135 women. In 2024, there are 11,040 competitors, half of whom are female.

Athletes compete as countries and also as members of National Olympic Committees. This year, there are 206 such NOCs — an insidious ruse by which the IOC will decide which country to admit and which to punish.

The Olympics imitate the power politics of the UN. In 1964, South Africa was excluded for its apartheid against blacks. In 1972, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) was excluded for its racist policies. In 2000, Afghanistan was excluded from Sydney for its misogynist policies.

In both 2016 and 2020, the IOC banned Russian athletes from competing under their national flag because of 'doping violations'. In 2024, Russia and Belarus have been banned over the war in Ukraine. However, their athletes can still compete as 'individual neutral athletes', under a neutral flag.

Meanwhile, Nato and its allied countries suffer no such strictures. Ukraine — their battleground — has sent 140

competitors. Israel mired in Gaza is fielding 88 competitors, the State of Palestine eight. Even the stateless have been admitted. The IOC has allowed 37 athletes to compete as a Refugee Olympic Team.

It would be a simpleton who still believes that the Olympic motto ('Faster, Higher, Stronger — Together') carries any meaning. The Olympics remain a white man's Coliseum, albeit with an increasing number of black gladiators.

The majority of the Summer Olympics have been held in white countries — in Western Europe, the US, Canada, and Australia. Four Summer Games have been hosted in yellow countries (all in East Asia), three have been hosted in Eastern Europe, and two in Latin America. Black Africa has yet to host any Olympics.

The first black Olympian George Poage won two bronze medals in the St Louis Olympics, 120 years ago. In Berlin 1936, Jesse Owens won four gold medals. Hitler chose not to meet Owens. In 1960, an Ethiopian Abebe Bikila (the son of a shepherd) startled the world by winning the marathon (running barefoot). He repeated his success in Tokyo 1964.

Today, colour is no longer a badge of nationality, nor gender a divisor of sex. (Some liberal Parisians were shocked at the tableau of drag queens performing a parody of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper.) One needed the stamina of an Olympian to watch the opening ceremony (it spanned four hours) until its shimmering finale at the Eiffel Tower, where the Canadian chanteuse Celine Dion sang Edith Piaf's signature L'Hymne à l'Amour. In between, about 10,500 rain-soaked athletes with their supporting team officials

waved national flags in a nautical armada that cruised slowly down the Seine. From its banks, viewers were entertained by Lady Gaga performing Mon Truc en Plumes in a flurry of pink ostrich feathers, reminiscent of the legendary chanteuse Mistinguett.

Other distractions were a frenetic group of Can Can dancers ending with splits, and a team of spirited dancers splashing mindlessly (like the cast of Friends) in a fountain.

Frankly, some of the images were horrific — multiple ones of a de-ca-pitated Queen Marie Antoinette framed in the windows of a public building, or famous portraits half-submerged in the Seine. The surrealist artist Salvador Dali would have loved these.

To be fair, there is only so much you can do with a river of flowing water, just as a Son et Lumière using the flat-faced pyramids at Giza offers limited options.

Pakistan's lean participation in the Olympics is a triumph of private endeavour over public neglect. In 1960, 1968, and 1984, we won the gold in hockey. For the past three Olympics, we failed even to qualify. As in our politics, we no longer play team sports.

This year we have sent seven self-motivated athletes to Paris. The talented javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem (27); the sprinter Faiga Riaz (24); sharpshooters G.M. Bashir (37), Gulfam Joseph (24), and Kishmala Ta-lal (22); and two minor swimmers Jeha-nara Nabi (20) and Ahmed Durran (18). They are old enough to compete, and young enough to succeed in future Olympics.

They owe nothing to the state. Over 245 million Pakistanis owe everything to them — for loving our country, despite what it is. — Courtesy Dawn

Parallel tracks

Syed Sheheryar Raza Zaidi

A highly polarised nation is in the throes of one of its most divisive election campaigns. One candidate is on the wrong side of 70 and the other is backed by the incumbent in power. The candidate mentioned first has not only recently survived an assassination attempt, he has also been convicted on charges of a personal nature that he denies. Yet, most signs point to a victory for this candidate, who has already had one crack at power. At the same time, he is the one who many observers believe caused irreparable damage to his country's international relations when he was in power.

The irony is that this description of the maverick American presidential candidate Donald Trump can very easily apply to Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan. The two men, despite being geographically apart, seem to be on similar trajectories.

When Imran Khan was in power, he and then president Trump had a public spat on the online platform Twitter. Back then, it appeared that Pakistan would be headed in the direction of fractured relations with the US as long as these two men were at the helm of affairs. Yet, we soon saw Trump and Khan give a display of public bonhomie, with the latter visiting the US at the invitation of the former and coming back to loud fanfare, reminiscent of the time when he had lifted cricket's holy grail.

Those were the good old days as far as the two were concerned. Since then, one of them lost a hotly contested election to President Joe Biden, while the other first lost a no-confi-

dence vote, leading to his ouster, and then 'lost' a disputed election, despite the widespread public adulation for him. What stuck on both Trump and Khan, however, was the 'anti-establishment' tag — largely because both individuals have had a hard time accepting their fate and continue to challenge established norms, even if it means calling into question national elections.

Donald Trump at the time of his ascent to power had witnessed an almost meteoric rise. Running on the back of his notorious television appeal and the fanfare associated with it, he built an almost cult-like following of individuals who even today are ready to back him despite all odds, forgive him for the gravest of gaffes and overlook all his faults. All because Trump has carefully cultivated an image of himself as the only saviour who can make his nation great again. Compare this with the high regard that the supporters of Imran Khan hold the PTL leader in. An icon for his supporters, Khan may have enjoyed excellent relations with those at the helm of affairs once, but now stands for all things anti-establishment.

As fate would have it, both found themselves facing various dates in courts, having to defend themselves against charges of misuse of authority, mishandling of state documents/ secrets among others. While legal challenges for opposition leaders is not a new phenomenon in Pakistan, as far as the US is concerned, the barrage of legal challenges faced by Trump is unprecedented. Whether such charges have any basis in reality or are an attempt to undermine a worthy opponent are

questions best left to the courts to answer.

Yet, what sets Trump, the presidential candidate apart from Pakistan's incarcerated former prime minister — notwithstanding the recent favourable court decisions in the latter's case — is his ability to still have his skin in the game. For all of the alleged lobbies in America working overtime against Donald Trump, the former president enjoys the backing of a lopsided supreme court, which has recently ruled in favour of a partial immunity for former US presidents in matters related to the exercise of their professional duties while in office. As such, despite being convicted on 34 charges by a court in New York state, Trump is still legally empowered to run for president.

A lot can be said about the justice system in the US and Pakistan and how Pakistan often finds itself having to face a lot of bad press for the supposedly ineffective way its courts operate. Nothing quite amplifies this like the fate of the two leaders in Pakistan and the US.

One despite being convicted finds himself free to conduct his electioneering, appear on television, take part in debates and ride high on the back of the inflation-hit incumbency of the Democrat presidency.

The other finds himself incarcerated for convictions and allegations, kept so far away from the public's eye that he now captures their imagination.

Whether the two men can come back to power remains to be seen, but that their ideas are here to stay is not for argument anymore. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan's huge potential to join G-20 countries: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar said on Wednesday that Pakistan has huge potential to join G-20 countries through structural reforms in the country's economy. The government is fully committed to structural reforms in the country's economy by capital market and corporate sector regulation for sustainable economic development, he said.

Office Building of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), along with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here. Deputy Prime Minister said today is a very special day on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). "I still remember that, "We have a huge journey for evolving capital market and corporate sector reforms in the economy from 2013 to 2017 in the country. He said that SECP's

energetic and committed team in 2013 fully supported the government vision and executed the government reform vision for SECP and regulation of the corporate sector.

Ishaq Dar said that in the previous government of PML-N, "We have had a huge challenge and resistance faced for establishing an integrated Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in the country and the government was successful and established the PSX which was a huge achievement.

He said that after the new integrated stock exchange.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar delivering remarks at the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Head Office Building of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

Pak, Ethiopia agree to foster deeper ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Ethiopia agreed to strengthen bilateral relations and explore new collaborations in trade, finance, education and economic reforms, acknowledging the mutual benefits that could be derived from such initiatives. According to press release issued by finance ministry, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Jemal Bekir Abdula on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Pakistan. These reforms are part of a broader home-grown agenda aimed at achieving economic stability. The Minister highlighted recent positive developments, including improvements in foreign exchange reserves, state-owned enterprise (SOE) reforms, and advancements in the power sector.

The Finance Minister extended a warm welcome to Ambassador Abdula and provided an overview of the economic reforms currently underway in

International Rating agencies have started acknowledging the economic stability as a result of government's economic decisions, he said adding country's economic outlook has improved as confirmed by recent Fitch reports and now government aims at achieving economic sustainability.



HYDERABAD: Motorcyclists queue up at PSO, ready to fill their tanks and hit the road with newfound savings after the fuel price drop by Government.

Data regulation, cybersecurity topmost priorities: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that data regulation and cybersecurity are the topmost priorities of the present government.

and Meta representatives attended the Roundtable session. Convener Digital Pakistan Committee Tania Aidrus and Secretary IT Aisha Humera Chaudhry were also present.

She said that Ministry of IT & Telecom is committed for the growth of IT sector, as taking IT exports up to \$25 billion is our target.

Shaza Fatima said that on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, private sector is being fully supported and facilitated. She said that steps are being taken for transforming Pakistan into Digital Economy. Detailed discussion was held on data localisation, and the participants also gave recommendations regarding data hosting and data sensitivity.

She was addressing Roundtable on Open Data Flows & Pakistan's Digital Economy held at Ministry of IT on Thursday.

Managing Director Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) Jeff Paine, Google

Gold rates up by Rs.1,400 per tola to Rs.254,900

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,400 and was sold at Rs. 254,900 on Thursday against its sale at Rs. 253,500 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 1,201 to Rs. 218,536 from Rs. 217,335 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 200,324 from Rs. 199,224, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs2,900 and Rs.2,486.28 respectively.

SCCI president visits BFC

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik with a three-member delegation visited the Business Facilitation Centre (BFC) and reviewed facilities on Thursday.

On this occasion, Ghafoor Malik expressed satisfaction over the issuance of NOCs to the business community from the BFC. He said the business community was getting benefits from the BFC, adding that the objective of the BFC was to provide services under one roof to businessmen.

PQEPC briefs Aurangzeb on company's working, confronted issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Thursday held a meeting with the delegation of Port Qasim Electric Power Company (PQEPC) which was led by CEO Liang. The delegation briefed the minister about the operations of the power company and certain issues it faced due to overdue receivables, a news release said.

It said that Power-China was a major state-owned Chinese enterprise and key investor in Pakistan's energy market. The company would continue to work with the Government of Pakistan and play its role in the improvement of power sector. The finance minister welcomed the suggestions made by the delegation and stated that Pakistan acknowledged and appreciated the investment made by PQEPC China.

K-Electric RE Projects garner local, Int'l interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): K-Electric (KE) completed another significant milestone in its ambitions to enhance its share of renewable energy in its generation mix, envisaged under the company's Power Acquisition Program (PAP). The company announced the receipt of a total of 15 bids for the first of its ambitious renewable energy initiatives of 150 MW solar projects at Winder and Bela, Balochistan, said a press release issued on Thursday.

process for multiple renewable energy projects earlier this year following a successful nod of approval from NEPRA.

This transparent approach is a testament to KE's commitment towards sustainable energy solutions. Over the next 5 years, KE aims to add a total of 1300 MW of renewable energy projects, furthering its commitment to sustainable energy solutions. Syed Moonis Alvi, CEO of KE, expressed his enthusiasm about this development, stating, "Garnering 15 bids for the first cohort of the solar energy project is a huge milestone for KE."



ISLAMABAD: The joint meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board and Cabinet Committee on Monitoring Sugar Export was presided over by Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Syed Najmi Alam says Livestock deptt should take all possible steps to timely vaccinate animals of cattle owners of Sindh

Independent Report
KARACHI: Advisor to Chief Minister of Sindh on Livestock and Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam has said that the raiding team conducts raids twice a month through its campaign to catch illegal nets from all the coastal areas of Sindh. However, the Livestock Department should take all possible steps to timely vaccinate the animals of cattle owners of Sindh. He expressed this while presiding over two separate high-level meetings of the Marine Fisheries and Livestock Department in his office on Thursday.

In meeting Secretary Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Kazim Hussain Jatoti, Director General Marine Fisher-

ies Dr. Ali Muhammad Mastoi, Director Marine Dr. Asim Karim, Director Red Farm Khaliq Ahmad Soomro, Director Coastal Fisheries Ijaz Ahmed Memon, Managing Director Karachi Fish Harbor Safdar Hussain Rizvi, Director General Livestock Sindh Dr. Hizbullah Bhutto, Director General of Sindh Institute of Animal Health Dr. Nazir Hussain Kalhor, Director General Poultry Production Dr. Manoor Hussain Rana, Director Livestock Animal Breeding Dr. Naubat Khan Khoso, Director Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CVDL) Tando Jam Dr. Madan Lal, Director Poultry Dr. Kabir Ahmed and Project Director Dr. Shah Murad Rand participated.



FAISALABAD: People are carrying coffin of stage actor late Sardar Kamal after offering funeral prayers in the city.

22 brands of mineral water declared harmful for human consumption

Independent Report
KARACHI: As many as 22 brands of mineral water have been declared harmful for human consumption. Among the mineral waters which have been declared harmful for human consumption are Fiji, BRO-H 20, Koh Noor, Rayaal Silver, Smart, Aqua Qismat, Asha Premium, Drinking Water, Buxton, Cliff Water, Health Drinking Water, Crystal Pure Life, Dream Pure, Neo Health Drinking Water, Oriaf, Faraz Water, Premium Safa, Pure Refined Water, Smart Indus Pure

Water, Splash Water, Still, Starlite Water, Vivo Water Plus Premium Drinking and Masafi. Director General Sindh Food Authority Muzamil Hussain Halepoto has directed the management of the said mineral water to withdraw their products from the market within seven days. He said that action would be taken under the Sindh Food Authority Act against those who didn't follow the orders of Sindh Food Authority. He said that no one would be allowed to play with the health of the people.



PESHAWAR: Opposition members and MPAs KP Assembly are participating in the dinner hosted by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

Governor KP expresses concern over worsen law and order situation, developmental schemes in province

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi has expressed concern over the worsening law and order situation and neglected developmental schemes in the province.

The Governor hosted a dinner in honor of the opposition members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly at the Governor's House on Wednesday night.

The dinner was

attended by key opposition members including Dr. Ibadullah, Leader of the Opposition in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Parliamentary leader of PPP Ahmed Karim Kundi, Arbab Usman of ANP, Malik Tariq Awan of PML-N, Rehana Ismail of JUI-F and others.

During the event, the discussions focused on the current political, economic, and law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Opposition members expressed grave concerns over the deteriorating security situation in the province, highlighting the recent incidents of terrorism, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, and general unrest in Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan and the merged district of Kurram Parachinar. They voiced their disappointment that the provincial government

3 people die, seven injured in rain-related incidents

LAHORE (APP): Heavy rain in several parts of the provincial capital on Thursday resulted in loss of three lives and injuries to seven people.

According to a Rescue-1122 spokesman, the roof of a house in a suburban village near Baba Bulleh Shah Interchange at Gajjumata Lahore collapsed, which resulted in one death and injuries to five people.

Another roof collapsed at Shaukat Khanum Chowk, in which two people suffered injuries.

C&W staff put on high alert during rains: Bharth

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has put all the field formation of Communication and Works (C&W) Department on high alert during the rains with an aim to avert any difficult situation by storm water. The engineering and field staff under the supervision of executive engineers remained in the field while visiting the important roads, public buildings, particularly hospitals in Lahore and across the province.

The Minister for Communication and Works Sohaib Ahmad Bharth, after Thursday rain, visited

Minister welcomes WHO collaboration on health initiatives

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has expressed gratitude for the ongoing collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) on various health projects.

The minister made these remarks during a meeting with a WHO delegation at the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) on Thursday.

Highlighting the provincial government's commitment to enhancing healthcare services, the minister stated, "Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, we are striving to provide better health facilities to the people." He emphasized that raising

public awareness is crucial for significantly reducing the prevalence of hepatitis in Punjab. "Teamwork is essential to achieve positive outcomes from our policies, and improving the health system is our top priority," he added. He also mentioned that the scope of hepatitis screening has been expanded throughout the province.

He noted the growing challenge of controlling Pakistan's population and stressed the importance of intensifying screenings for Hepatitis B and C. Dr. Meg Darthy, HIV Global Director from WHO, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting the Punjab Health Department.



PESHAWAR: UNICEF Chief Field Officer Mr. Radolslaw Rzehak giving shield to a participant during the Launching ceremony of Global Breastfeeding Month at a local hotel in Provincial Capital city.

CS inspects drainage work during heavy rain

LAHORE (APP): During the heavy rainfall, Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman visited different areas of the city including Services Hospital, Lakshmi Chowk, Qartaba Chowk, Circular Road and other major points. He directed that special measures should be taken for smooth flow of traffic during the rains. He asked the administrative officers to remain in the field and check the underpasses and disposal stations. He said that the relevant departments should be on alert to deal with any situation due to rain. Commissioner Lahore.

International News

Calls for revenge at Iran funeral for Hamas chief Haniyeh

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran held funeral processions on Thursday amidst calls for revenge after the killing of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in a strike in Tehran blamed on Israel.

The Islamic Republic's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led prayers for Haniyeh ahead of his burial in Qatar, having earlier threatened a "harsh punishment" for his killing. In Tehran's city centre, thousands of mourning crowds carrying posters of Haniyeh and Palestinian flags gathered for the ceremony at Tehran University before a procession, according to an AFP correspondent.

Haniyeh's death was announced the day before by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, who said he and his bodyguard were killed in a strike on their accommodation in the Iranian capital at 2am on Wednesday. It came just hours after Israel targeted and killed

top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukri in a retaliatory strike on the Lebanese capital Beirut, sending fears of a wider regional conflict soaring in the fallout from the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza. Israel has declined to comment on the Tehran strike.

Iran's state TV showed the coffins of Haniyeh and his bodyguards covered in Palestinian flags during the ceremony attended by senior Iranian officials. President Masoud Pezeshkian and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps chief, General Hossein Salami, were present.

Haniyeh had been visiting Tehran for Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony on Tuesday.

Senior Hamas figure Khalil al-Hayya, the movement's foreign relations chief, vowed during the funeral ceremony that "Ismail Haniyeh's slogan, 'We will not recognise Israel', will remain an immor-

tal slogan" and "we will pursue Israel until it is uprooted from the land of Palestine".

Iran's conservative parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran "will certainly carry out the supreme leader's order [to avenge Haniyeh]". "It is our duty to respond at the right time and in the right place," he said in a speech with crowds chanting "Death to Israel, Death to America!"

The caskets, with a black-and-white pattern resembling a Palestinian keffiyeh scarf, were borne on a flower-bedecked truck through leafy streets where cooling water mists sprayed the flag-waving crowds.

Khamenei, who has the final say in Iran's political affairs, said after Haniyeh's death that it was "our duty to seek revenge for his blood as he was martyred in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran".



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei performs prayer at the funeral of assassinated Hamas chief, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran, Iran.

South Korea offers humanitarian aid to flood-hit North Korea

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korea on Thursday offered to send aid supplies to North Korea to help the country recover from heavy rains and floods that submerged thousands of homes and huge swaths of farmland.

It's unclear whether North Korea would accept South Korea's proposal for help. Antipathy between the war-divided rivals is at its highest in years over the North's growing nuclear ambitions and the South's expansion of combined military exercises with the

Israeli strike kills two Al Jazeera journalists

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Two Al Jazeera journalists were killed on Wednesday in an Israeli strike in Gaza, the Qatar-based channel reported as the crisis rages in the Palestinian territory.

"Al Jazeera Arabic journalist Ismail Al Ghoul and his cameraman Rami Al Refee have been killed in an Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip," the network reported adding the strike "targeted a car near the Aidia area, west of Gaza City".

Khaled Meshaal, who survived Israeli assassination attempt, tipped to succeed Haniyeh

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Khaled Meshaal, tipped to be the new Hamas leader, became known around the world in 1997 after Israeli agents injected him with poison in a botched assassination attempt on a street outside his office in Amman, the Jordanian capital. The hit against a senior figure of the Palestinian group, ordered by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, so enraged Jordan's then-King Hussein that he spoke of

UN gravely concerned over Israeli attack on Beirut

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: The UN expressed "grave concern" on Tuesday over an Israeli strike on a densely populated suburb of the Lebanese capital Beirut that killed at least three people and injured 74 others. "As we await further clarity on the circumstances, we again urge the parties to exercise maximum restraint and call on all concerned to avoid any further escalation," Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, said in a statement. "All parties must comply with their obligations under international law.

Trump attacks Harris' racial identity, says she opted to 'turn Black'

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump suggested on Wednesday that Vice President Kamala Harris had decided to "turn Black" for political gain, as he attacked his Democratic White House rival during a combative interaction with African American journalists in Chicago.

The Republican former president's inflammatory comments marked an escalation of the 78-year-old's vitriol against Harris, whom he falsely accused of having identified as Indian but then, "all of a sudden, she made a turn, and she became a Black person".

Harris, 59, has long identified as Black and graduated from a historically Black university.

"So I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black?" asked Trump during a heated interview at the Na-

Palestinians detained by Israel subjected to 'torture', says UN

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: Palestinians detained by Israel during the Gaza conflict have largely been held in secret and in some cases subjected to treatment that may amount to torture, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

Since the October 7 Hamas attacks, thousands of Palestinians — including medics, patients, residents and captured fighters — have been taken from Gaza to Israel, "usually shackled and blindfolded", the OHCHR UN human rights office said in a report. Thousands more have been detained in the West Bank and Israel, it added.

"They have generally been held in secret, without being given a reason for their detention, access to a lawyer or effective judicial review," OHCHR said.

The report was released the day after Israel's military police questioned

Protesters in Nigeria demonstrate over high cost of living

Monitoring Desk
ABUJA: Police fired tear gas to disperse crowds of protesters in Nigeria's capital city Abuja on Thursday, as thousands rallied against escalating cost of living and governance issues in Africa's most populous nation, according to eyewitness accounts.

Protesters demonstrated in Abuja, the commercial capital Lagos and several other cities to show discontent with economic reforms that have led to rampant inflation and inflicted increasing hardship on ordinary Nigerians. President Bola Tinubu has vowed to pursue the changes that he says are needed to keep the country afloat.

Authorities deployed armed security personnel in an effort to preempt potential violence.

Ukraine receives first F-16 fighter jets to bolster defenses against Russia, officials tell AP

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Ukraine has received the first F-16 fighter jets that it has sought for months to fight back against an onslaught of Russian missile strikes, a U.S. official confirmed to The Associated Press.

A Ukrainian lawmaker also confirmed Ukraine had received a small number of F-16 fighter jets. The two officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to speak on the subject publicly. Ukraine has been pushing its Western allies for F-16s for Ukraine for months, saying they were critically needed to fight back against the onslaught of missiles Russia has fired against it. The F-16 is specialized in suppressing enemy air defenses.

Reforms must make EFF last IMF program

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Thursday reiterated the need for structural reforms to ensure the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with International Monetary Fund (IMF) is the country's last programme, highlighting the importance of privatization, export-led growth, and foreign direct investment to sustainable macroeconomic stability.

Addressing the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Head Office Building of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), the minister said, the Staff Level Agreement (SLA) has been signed with IMF and it would go to fund's board for final approval.

"So under the fund umbrella, it is not only getting the fund but making sure that this time we do the structural reforms," he remarked. "If we have to make it last programme of the fund then whether it is on taxation side, energy side, or SOE reforms and the privatization side, we have to move forward because we do not have the space and room any more to

dither on this agenda," the minister remarked.

He said upgrade in Pakistan's rating by Fitch, an international credit rating agency, and the policy rate reduction by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) were direct manifestations of macroeconomic stability that the government has been following under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif. He said, the economic team would continue to move forward with this agenda. However, he added there was need to bring permanence into it. "Stabilization would lead to growth, so we have to bring permanence," he said.

Talking about the role of private sector, the minister said, it has been decided in the cabinet committee on State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) that all insurance companies under the public sector will be handed over to the private sector.

He said, there was no reason whatsoever the government holds on to those entities or their functions. Even the strategic functions would be done by private sector he said adding the government would be there to provide policy framework and policy continuity.



RAWALPINDI: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman addressing a press conference in Liaquat Bagh sit-in in the city.

Al-Hijra Education System delegation meets: Education is cornerstone of development, says Rubaba

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, met a delegation from Al Hijra Education system.

During the meeting, members of delegation provided a comprehensive briefing on the initiatives and educational programs offered by Al Hijra.

They extended an invitation to Dr. Rubaba Buledi to visit their residential school in Ziarat.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi expressed her appreciation for the efforts

made by Al Hijra in the field of education, particularly in providing quality residential schooling. She emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting education in the region.

"Education is the cornerstone of development, and institutions like Al Hijra play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our youth," said Dr. Buledi. Dr. Rubaba Buledi expressed her support for the Al Hijra Education System's endeavors and her commitment to advancing educational opportunities for the youth of Balochistan.



QUETTA: A delegation from Al Hijra Educational System meeting with Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi.

Special status of IIOJK; 5 August to be marked at the parliament

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday called on Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam and discussed matters of mutual interest including Kashmir Day on August 5. During the meeting, the minister apprised the Speaker Ayaz Sadiq about the solidarity walk from Radio Pakistan to D-Chowk and other initiatives regarding Kashmir Exploitation Day on August 5, said a press release.

They decided, in the meeting, to bring a resolution in the House on the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day on August 5.

Ayaz Sadiq said that

on August 5, 2019, a heinous conspiracy was hatched by India to end the special status of India Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

He said that Pakistan had always highlighted the Kashmir issue in every regional and international forum, adding that peace in the South Asia region was not possible without resolving the Kashmir dispute. The speaker said the resolution of Kashmir issue according to the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and UN resolutions is inevitable. He concluded that Pakistan would continue its parliamentary, diplomatic, moral and political support to the Kashmiri brothers and sisters to achieve their legitimate rights.



A high level delegation of Chinese experts calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

PM Sharif vows to revamp Pakistan's economy by emulating Chinese model

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday pledged to revamp Pakistan's economy by emulating China's model, with the objective of achieving similar economic success on a smaller scale.

Speaking to a 12-member Chinese delegation led by Wang Fukang, the prime minister said that during his recent visit to China, he requested President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang to send experts to Pakistan. "The goal is to model Pakistan's economy after China's. Today, these experts are here, and we're confident that progress will follow soon."

Welcoming the delegation by emphasizing that China and Pakistan were eternal friends, with a friendship that knew no bounds, he emphasized that industrial cooperation was crucial at this time and expressed hope that it could be shifted to Pakistan. He believes that joint ventures

and cooperation would create a win-win situation. He said the delegation's visit was highly reassuring, and expressed hope that it would be both useful and productive for Pakistan.

He anticipated that it would enhance bilateral arrangements in areas such as industry, agriculture, economic zones, and help increase Pakistan's capacity to produce agricultural items in high demand in China. He noted that Pakistan could meet Chinese requirements by exporting high-quality goods and exploring opportunities in mining and minerals, IT, and export zones. He also suggested relocating certain industries to Pakistan due to China's shift towards more advanced and sophisticated industrial ventures.

He stated that the federal cabinet has decided to offer free visas to Chinese citizens starting August 14, demonstrating Pakistan's commitment. He emphasized that Sino-Pak relations were higher than the

Himalayas and deeper than the oceans.

The delegation, comprising representatives from 10 different Chinese ministries, was visiting Pakistan to enhance cooperation across various sectors. They will provide input on Chinese investment, the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and boosting Pakistani exports. Additionally, they will review and offer recommendations on IT, agriculture, industry, investment, energy, minerals, special economic zones, and communication.

He stated that Pakistan has implemented robust measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens, with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal overseeing these efforts. The government was committed to maintaining stringent security and preventing any breaches. Those responsible for any harmful acts

will be held accountable.

Additionally, he conveyed deep sorrow on behalf of his government and people for the loss of Chinese citizens in Bisham a few months ago. The Prime Minister stated that those responsible for the killings of Chinese citizens have been arrested and will get exemplary punishment.

He mentioned that he has held several meetings with law enforcement agencies, the Interior Secretary, and NECTA.

Speaking on the occasion, delegation head, Wang Fukang stated that technical cooperation would further strengthen Pak-China strategic relations and expressed gratitude to Pakistan for its hospitality.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance

PR announces fare reduction for passenger trains

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Railways on Thursday notified to reduce fares for all classes of passenger trains across the country with effect from August 3, Saturday.

According to the notification, Rs 100 to 150 have been reduced for AC class ticket while Rs 50 cut for economy class.

DC Lasbela visits rain-affected areas, directs safety measures

HUB (APP): Deputy Commissioner Lasbela, Humira Baloch along with the Irrigation SDO, Malik Ashraf here on Thursday visited various areas in the district that have been affected by the recent rains.

According to DC Office, the Deputy Commissioner inspected areas near the Mithi River including the water levels near the Main RCD Abu Hotel bridge.

She also observed places where water leakage had occurred due to the rainfall or the opening of dam spillways.

The DC instructed the Highway and Motorway Police to install cones and signboards at such locations to guide the travelers.

Former Info Secretary Ismail Patel passes away

KARACHI (APP): Ismail Patel, a former Information Secretary who served in senior government positions, passed away in Karachi on Thursday after prolonged illness. He was 74. Patel was buried in a graveyard of the Defence Housing Society.

He leaves behind his wife, Anjum and a brother, Ibrahim, to mourn.

Patel, who was from the first CSS batch of the Information Service, had a distinguished career.

Resolution against attack at Pak consulate in Germany adopted: BA pays homage to Ismail Haniyeh; approves condemnation resolution against killing of Hamas's chief

QUETTA: The

Balochistan Assembly unanimously paid homage to the central leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh and adopted a joint resolution against his killing on Thursday.

The House adopted joint resolution condemning the brutal killing of Hamas's chief and paying him rich tributes, who was killed in an Israeli missile attack in Iran on Wednesday last.

The Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola was in

the chair.

Earlier, the Member Provincial Assembly, Ms. Shahida Rauf tabled the resolution against his killing and for paying tributes to Ismail Haniyeh.

The Provincial Minister for Revenue, Mir Asim Kurd proposed to declare the resolution about Ismail Haniyeh as joint one from the whole House.

On this, the chair gave ruling to declare the resolution as joint one from the House. Meanwhile, the condemnation resolution

against attack at the Pakistani consulate in Germany and desecration of the national flag there.

The joint resolution was tabled by the MPA, Ms. Farah Azeem Shah.

Earlier, fatcha was for offered the personnel of law enforcement agencies in Gwadar and Pishin. The question hour regarding questions of the Livestock department were deferred due to absence of the concerned Provincial Minister.

Ceasefire agreement reached b/w warring tribes of Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): A ceasefire agreement has been reached between the tribes in Kurram and the traffic routes in the district have been opened. In the six-day clashes, 50 people have been killed and 226 injured.

According to the Deputy Commissioner District Kurram Javedullah Mehsud, the six-day clashes between the rival tribes in the district Kurram have been stopped and the main Parachinar-Peshawar highway has also been opened for traffic after the peace agreement. Vehicular traffic has been resumed on the road formally while bazaars have also been opened. The clashes that started over a property dispute in the Boshera locality turned into a riot and fifty people from both sides were killed and 226 injured in the clashes remained continue for six days. MPA Ali Hadi Irfani has said that a minor property dispute played havoc with peace and widows and orphans have increased in 50 families. Former Federal Minister Sajid Turi said that there are frequent bloody clashes between the tribes.



QUETTA: MPA Farah Azeem Shah presenting joint condemning resolution during Balochistan Assembly session.

Ahsan Iqbal says:

PTI should shun politics of vandalism, apologize to nation if wants to join mainstream

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal said on Thursday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) must abandon its politics of instability and apologize to the nation for the vandalism of state institutions and sensitive installations of the armed forces if it wanted to integrate into the national mainstream. In an interview with Voice of America (VOA), he said no democracy in the

world could support a party that engaged in destructive politics and undermined national interests for political gain. When asked about the possibility of banning PTI, the minister mentioned that recent information suggested PTI's social media had connections with anti-state elements abroad. The 'surfaced information,' he said, was currently being thoroughly examined by the relevant departments to determine the appropriate legal and constitutional actions.

Ban on protests in D Chowk IHC issues notices to DC Islamabad, Interior Ministry

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) issued a notice to the DC Islamabad and the Ministry of Interior on the request to ban the protest in D Chowk and Red Zone and called for a comprehensive plan.

Chief Justice Amir Farooq remarked that every citizen has the right to protest, but entry into the red zone is limited, everyone protests outside the Supreme Court and Parliament.

Lahore's red zone is Mall Road, there are also daily protests. He made these remarks on Thursday.

Chief Justice Islamabad High Court Justice Aamir Farooq heard the case on the writ petition of Federal Welfare Association.

Federal Welfare Association's lawyer Waseem Bahadur appeared in the court. The petitioner's lawyer said that whenever there is a dharna or protest in D Chowk, businesses are closed.

It is requested that the protest be banned. Advocate General Islamabad said that not all businesses are closed, some places are closed.

SOS Village sets great example regarding saving bright future of orphan children: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the SOS Village has set great example regarding saving bright future of the orphan children.

In this regard, it would be an injustice not to mention the former Senator Roshan Khursheed Bharucha and her whom team.

He said that selection of a student from the SOS Village is an honour for all of us.

The Governor was speaking to the former Senator and renowned social worker Mrs Roshan Khursheed Bharucha who called on him here at the

Governor House on Thursday.

He appreciated the social services of Mrs Roshan Khursheed Bharucha and said that it is a matter of pride that SOS Village has set a great example for saving the bright future of the children who are deprived of the motherhood of mothers and kindness of the fathers.

He urged the philanthropists to take wholehearted part in the support of deserving children.

Meanwhile, he highly recommended the girl Sakina who has been selected for the American scholarship.

He also gave her the gift of books.



QUETTA: Chairperson SOS Village and Former Senator Roshan Khursheed Barucha meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail at Governor House. Sakina Khan, a student from SOS Village, selected for USAID scholarship for the first time are also present.

Pakistan condemns Israel's adventurism; calls for holding Haniyeh's killers to account

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned Israel's continuing adventurism in the region and its aggression against Lebanon with its strikes of July 30, calling for holding to account the killers of Ismail Haniyeh, the Chief of the Political Bureau of Hamas in Tehran.

"Targeting individuals inside sovereign states is a violation of international law and global norms. Such acts carry the seeds of further escalation. It is yet another demonstration of indiscriminate and disproportionate Israeli aggression that has continued unabated to the detriment of regional and global peace and security."

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing. Calling Israel's military aggression in Beirut a "grievous infringement" on Lebanon's sovereignty and the blatant violation of international law and the United Nations Charter, she said that Pakistan stood

in solidarity with the people of Lebanon and reaffirmed its support for their right to live in peace and security and to enjoy their sovereignty.

"Israel must be held accountable for its transgressions and actions. Israel's extraterritorial acts have endangered regional security. The backers of Israel should prevail on Israel to end its unlawful military operations in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries in the region," she said.

The spokesperson said the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on Wednesday was an act of dangerous escalation in an already volatile region and undermined efforts for peace.

"We express our condolences to his family and the Palestinian people. His killers must be held to account," she added.

She said that since October 2023, Israel had unleashed a campaign of terror against the Palestinian people.

Govt negotiators have no answer to our questions: Hafiz

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Naem has said that the government negotiators have no answer to our questions. Talking to media Hafiz Naem ur Rehman said the government should receive the price of the electricity not additional taxes.

"The people are paying price of the contracts made by the government." "We have asked them to show us the agreements with the IPPs," he said. "We will not lift the burden of the incompetence of the government," JI leader said. "The rulers should surrender their luxuries, free petrol and free electricity," JI chief demanded. "If anyone want to drive car, run his own private car. The nation will not pay for carrying your children to school and shopping of your wife," he said.

Hafiz Naem said, they have hiked their administrative expenses by 25 percent while the salaried class being overburdened, which has already paid billions in taxes. "Taxes not being imposed over the feudal. They don't pay sugarcane price to farmer and mint money by creating sugar crisis.

They have hiked their administrative expenses by 25 percent while the salaried class being overburdened, which has already paid billions in taxes.

"Taxes not being imposed over the feudal. They don't pay sugarcane price to farmer and mint money by creating sugar crisis.



QUETTA: Container has been placed since 4 days in red zone area while commuters are facing inconvenience due to blocked of road in Quetta.

UAE to take action against Pakistanis spreading propaganda against politicians, institutions

KARACHI (INP): The United Arab Emirates has warned that Pakistanis in the Gulf state that if they are found to be involved in spreading propaganda against their country, institutions, or politicians, they would net get visas for the oil-rich countries.

Bakheet Ateeq al-Remeithi, the consul general of the UAE in Karachi, has asked the Pakistanis to refrain from spreading propaganda, saying that those living or visiting the Gulf nation were noticed on social media for which many were arrested and sentenced to 14 to 15 years in jail.

More than five Pakistanis were sentenced to life imprisonment while most of them were deported, said the consul general.

"They should avoid sharing or forwarding any such matter on the social media," he said, adding: "Strict action will be taken against them as per law if they do so."

Bakheet said citizens of some 200 countries hav-

ing different religions and nationalities live in peace in the UAE. The number of Pakistanis in the UAE has exceeded 1.8 million, he said.

The envoy appealed to Pakistanis not to bring their political differences to Dubai. He said citizens involved in such propaganda in Pakistan are being questioned for obtaining Emirates visa.

In response to a question, Bakheet said there was no restriction regarding the UAE visas.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Nahdlatul Ulama Ulil Abshar Abdalla from Indonesia addressing during a seminar titled "Nation-State Islam and Democracy Perspective from Pakistan and Indonesia, at National Library.