

Independent

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Quetta

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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 reso-

lution 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.

Continued on page 2



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



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 financial management and education discipline provide the base on which the foundation of sustainable success is laid. He said that the educational institutions can achieve the targets and objectives of long term success and quality education

by allocating the resources in effective manner and following the rules and regulations.

He Governor was presiding over the 10th Senate's meeting here on Thursday.

Those who were present in the meeting were included all the members of Senate of the University including Judge of Balochistan High Court, Mr Justice Abdullah Baloch, Vice Chancellor of BUITEMS, Professor Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Secretary Education, Hafeez Tahir, senior bureaucrat Abdul Saboor Kakar, Principal Secretary to Governor,

Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Dr. Hafeez Jamali, Finance Department's, Habibur Rehman Jamote, Justice (Retd) Kailash Nath Kohli.

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.

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 of potential of co-operation between Armed Forces for enhancement of existing cooperation.



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

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.

Secretaries of all departments including Additional Chief Secretary Development Hafiz Abdul Basit, Senior MBR Qamber Dashti participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary said that Chief Minister Balochistan is all set to introduce attendance system through facial recognition to ensure attendance of employees in provincial departments.

Rain forecast in various areas of Balochistan from today

QUETTA (APP): Regional Meteorological Center Balochistan has issued alert that heavy rains are expected in the most part of the province from Friday to Tuesday that may cause land sliding in mountainous areas and flooding in rivers.

According to the Regional Meteorological Center of Balochistan, heavy rains spell may affect various areas including Kalat, Khuzdar, Barkhan, Lasbela, Zhoib, Loralai, Sibi, Harnai, Ziarat, Awaran, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Jhal Magsi, Naseerabad, Musakhail and Jaffarabad districts.

QESCO extends electricity bills payment date for 10 days

QUETTA (APP): In the light of the orders of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Energy (Power Division), Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) has extended the date of payment of electricity bills by 10 days.

In this regard, QESCO has extended the due dates of July and August 2024 bills by up to 10 days for the convenience of consumers, the penalty for late submission of July and August electricity bills has been waived. According to QESCO, customers can submit their electricity bills without late payment surcharge by 10 days after the due date.

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

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, Turkey, 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: 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.

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

PTI vows to form 'grand opposition alliance' against PML-N govt

ISLAMABAD: As the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is all set to hold a power show next week, the party's senior leader Asad Qaiser said Thursday that incarcerated party founder Imran Khan gave the nod for forming a "grand opposition alliance" by expanding the existing platform — Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Ayim-e-Pakistan (TTAP).

"PTI decides to expand the opposition alliance in meeting with Imran Khan," said former National Assembly speaker while addressing the media alongside the party's Secretary-General Omar Ayub Khan and others outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail today. He announced that the

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

Point of order on non-availability of water in canals of Naseerabad Division; call attention notice by MPA Malik Naem Bazai on electricity load shedding in Kuchlak

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 Jatak said that talks are continued with the participants of dharna.

He said that the MPA elected from Gwadar, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch has also gone to Gwadar.

He expressed the hope that the issue would be resolved on Wednesday.

Continued on page 2

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 re-

ported in Hangu, Haripur, Manshera, Lower Dir, Charsadda, Mohmand, Bajaur, and Abbottabad. The report added that landslides were also reported in Abbottabad.

The PDMA, district administrations and rescue teams are continuing relief activities in the affected areas.

People can contact helpline 1700 to report any natural calamity.

Meanwhile at least

Continued on page 2

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 Information respectively.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Ali Madad Jattak, Mir Asim Kurd Gailu, Parliamentary Secretaries Mir Liaqat 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 condemning resolution during Balochistan Assembly session.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary-General Commonwealth Patricia Scotland calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

District admin cracks down on overpricing at Hub Bypass

HUB (APP): District Administration Hub has taken action on the main RCD highway from Karachi to Gwadar and Quetta at the Grand Porshi area, on Thursday.

According to Commissioner Officer, on the special instructions of Qalat Division Commissioner Muhammad Naem Bazai, under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Hub, Muhammad Ali Durrani, a number of shopkeepers were arrested for selling edible items to passengers at inflated prices at the Hub Maghribi Bypass Bhawani.

PM reaffirms Govt's desire to work with Commonwealth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland, leading a five-member delegation, met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House on Thursday.

The prime minister welcomed Secretary-General Scotland on her first official visit to Pakistan. Appreciating the Commonwealth's support for Pakistan's socio-economic and democratic institutions, the prime minister reaffirmed the government's desire to work with the Commonwealth on issues of common interest, particularly on youth empowerment, good governance and climate change.

Noting that young people below the age of 30 accounted for two-thirds of Pakistan's population, the prime minister said that providing modern education and technical training to the youth was one of the government's highest priorities. He highlighted the various initiatives taken by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and reiterated the government's commitment to working with the Commonwealth to help Pakistan's youth by enhancing access and opportunities for them in today's high-tech global economy.

Secretary-General Scotland appreciated the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and said that the prime minister's leadership and direct supervision of this Programme was reflective of his personal interest and commitment to youth empowerment initiatives.

In order to further improve the performance of government departments and know progress in real time, Ms Patricia offered the Commonwealth's Performance Management System. She also invited Pakistan to join the Commonwealth Artificial Intelligence Consortium (CAIC). The prime minister expressed keen desire to evaluate the Commonwealth Performance Management System for further improving governance and transparency in Pakistan's public sector. He also welcomed the invitation to join CAIC where Pakistan's youth will have opportunities for training and could benefit from global innovations such as cloud computing and generative AI and shall be more empowered to play their role in sustainable economic development.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also described combating climate change as a common priority for both Pakistan and the Commonwealth. He appreciated the Secretary-General's climate advocacy for Pakistan, following the devastating 2022 floods. The prime minister said Pakistan wanted to work with the Commonwealth in helping mobilize more international support for climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan at the forthcoming COP29 in Baku.

Secretary-General Scotland appreciated the Government's efforts for post-flood reconstruction and hoped that the international community would provide more support in building Pakistan's climate resilience.

UNSC members slam Israel's assassination of Hamas leader; fear wider Mideast conflict

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Security Council members on Wednesday condemned the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, and called for stepped-up diplomatic efforts to avert a wider Middle East conflict as tensions sharply escalated across the region.

The 15-member Council convened for an emergency session on the killing of Haniyeh at the request of Iran, which was supported by Russia, Algeria and China.

The Hamas chief's assassination occurred less than 24 hours after Hezbollah's most senior military commander was killed in an Israeli strike on the Lebanese capital Beirut in retaliation for a rocket attack in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

"The Security Council should take immediate steps to hold Israel accountable for this act of aggression," Iranian Ambassador Amir Sa'eed Iravani told the Security Council.

"This includes considering the imposition of sanctions and other measures that are necessary to prevent further violations and to signal that Israeli malevolent activities will not be tolerated by the international community," Iravani said.

Iran and Hamas blame Israel for the airstrike that killed the Hamas leader, who was in Iran attending the inauguration of President Masoud Pezeshkian. Israel has not claimed the attack but is widely presumed to have carried it out.

Israeli officials, however, were quick to take responsibility for an airstrike on Tuesday in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, that killed the Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur.

In his remarks, the Iranian ambassador denounced the "cowardly assassination... by Israel" of Haniyeh, saying, "This act of terror is another manifestation of Israel's decades-long pattern of terrorism and sabotage targeting Palestinians and other supporters of the Palestinian cause across the region and beyond."

In addition to its terrorist objective, Israel was also pursuing political goals, aiming to disrupt the first day of the new Government of Iran that has prioritized peace and stability in the region, he alleged.

He strongly condemned the "horrible act" as the most serious violation of international law and the UN Charter, urging "immediate and effective action" by the Security Council.

Feda Abdelhady, Deputy Permanent Observer of Palestine to the UN, said that it had been nearly 300 days since the start of Israel's war in Gaza, which has "gravely breached all tenets of international law" and flagrantly violated the UN Charter.

"A war that threatens international peace and security. Yet, Israel is being permitted to wage this war in broad daylight, with no restraints and no consequences," she said, adding that "every day brings more horrors, losses and suffering for our people as Israeli occupying forces murder Palestinian children, women and men."

Ms. Abdelhady "unequivocally condemned" the breach of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iran as well as of Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, by Israel.

PTI allowed to hold power show in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): The district administration has allowed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold power show in Islamabad on August 22.

As per details, the state counsel informed Islamabad High Court regarding the permission of a public gathering in the federal capital.

The development came after a contempt plea was filed in Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the suspension of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Islamabad power show.

The plea was filed by the Coordinator of Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Aein Khanzaada Hussain against the suspension of the NOC for Tarnol Jalsa.

The petition urged the court to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the officials as the NOC was cancelled despite the court order.

According to the petition, the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad on July 4 had informed the court that an NOC was issued to PTI.

Later when the PTI leader Amir Mughal was taking the officials to the power show site, he was arrested by police outside the DC Office, the petitioner added.

The petition further stated that PTI came to know about the development after the Islamabad Police tweeted regarding the cancellation for Islamabad power show NOC.

After the tweet, the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad sent a letter to the petitioner, informing him of the cancellation of the NOC.



QUETTA: Pakistan Ambassador in Sudan Mir Behorz Reki, former Caretaker Minister Amjad Rasheed and others meeting with MD BTVTA Tariq Javed Mengal.

28 die as rains batter...

Continued from page 1

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 metropolis 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.

A youth was electrocuted near an electricity pole in Nishat Colony, whereas, a 14-year-old boy was drowned in rainwater in Kot Lakhpat area, rescue officials told Geo News. Moreover, another man was killed by electrocution due to an exposed wire in Defence Phase VII.

A girl was killed and five others sustained injuries in a roof collapse incident at a house in Nishat Colony. In another incident, a wooden roof collapsed near Shaukat Khanum Chowk, leaving two citizens wounded.

According to the rescue workers, seven goats were killed after being buried under the debris of a collapsed wall in Kahna — a suburban town in Lahore — following heavy showers.

Govt, allied parties urge...

Continued from page 1

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 unarmed 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.

They asked the international community to adopt a clear stand against the Israeli brutalities, as otherwise it would be a question mark against viability of international laws and institutions for future generations.

The meeting also urged the international community, including the United Nations to break their silence and immediately get stopped the ongoing genocide of the oppressed Palestinians by the Zionist forces and bring Israel to justice for war crimes.

Leaders and senior representatives of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM), Pakistan Muslim League-Q, Pakistan Muslim League Zia and National Party attended the meeting.

Farouk Naek elected as Vice Chairman PBC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Lawyer Farouk H. Naek on Thursday has been elected as Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council (PBC).

However, Riazat Ali Advocate is elected as Chairman Executive.

The elections of PBC were held in office of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) under supervision of Chairman PBC Usman Awan.

Speaking to media, he said that the constitution had mentioned the limits of the institutions.

BA voices...

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile, on another point of order, the MPA Hadia Nawaz pointed out that the agriculture is badly affected due to the non-availability of water in the canals of Naseerabad division.

In the meantime, the leader of Opposition Younas Zehri complained about the behaviour of Secretary Balochistan Assembly. He said that he has the authority to get information by writing a letter to any officer.

While the Secretary assembly says that we have no such authority, he pointed out.

Earlier, the MPA belonging to National Party, Ummeh Kalsoom pointed out that the Secretary S&GAD insulted her when she went to meet him on Thursday.

She regretted that the bureaucracy had gone out of control seeing attitude of the Secretary S&GAD. The women and Opposition members of assembly staged walk out of the House. However, they joined the session after the treasury members convinced them for the same.

CPEC is bigger than Marshall Plan: Expert

ISLAMABAD (INP): Responding to a question asked by anchor Mr. Abdul Ghani, Dr Jaspal who is expert in Pak-China Relations, said that there have been various concerns about security risks, but it's important to note that the Chinese government has expressed a strong commitment to ensuring the safety and security of CPEC projects. Pakistan, too, is actively involved in protecting these investments.

Both countries are working together closely to manage and mitigate any potential threats. The collaborative efforts between China and Pakistan underscore the strategic importance both nations place on CPEC.

Dr. Jaspal further explained that Pakistan has been working diligently on multiple fronts. The government is focusing on creating a conducive environment for investment, improving infrastructure, and addressing regulatory challenges.

There are also ongoing efforts to enhance the efficiency of key projects within CPEC, such as the development of Gwadar Port.

These steps are crucial for maximizing the economic benefits of CPEC and ensuring its long-term success.



QUETTA: Security personals patrolling in city during procession on shaadat of Hazrat Imam Zain Ul Abidin.

As part of reform agenda...

Continued from page 2

Attallah Tarar said that the matter of electricity tariff was the issue of the entire nation and a collective approach was needed to overcome this issue. "When the PML-N government came to power in 2013, it ended 18-hour load shedding," the minister said, adding that at that time Punjab and Federal Governments had installed the cheapest power plants.

Through this amendment, he added, the process of privatization of discos has started.

He said that electricity consumers using 200 units were given a Rs 50 billion subsidy for three months and this amount was taken from PSDP budget to provide relief to the electricity consumers in summer, adding that steps were also afoot regarding the cases of over-billing, controlling power theft in collaboration with the provincial governments.

The minister said that the deadline for payment of electricity bills had been extended by 10 days to facilitate the consumers.

The minister maintained that IPPs were not a political issue and discussions were going on over the issue of IPPs.

Everyone wants electricity to be cheap, Information Minister Attallah Tarar said and added that the economic reforms agenda was aimed to create fiscal space to make electricity cheaper, as everyone wanted to reduce power tariff.

Thanking the MQM leaders for highlighting this issue of national nature, the minister said that it was the collective duty of all the government allies to give their suggestions and input. Some people wanted to use this issue for political point scoring though they themselves were in power in the past, he expressed.

Replying to the questions of the media, the information minister said that action had been taken against those involved in the wheat import issue. He said that the digitization process of the Federal Bureau of Revenue was going on with the cooperation of Melinda Gates Foundation, for which the government of Pakistan had not spent a single rupee. He said that due to the government's efforts, the number of filers was increasing continuously.

"As part of reduction in the government expenditures, the Pakistan Works Department, a hotbed of corruption, had been closed by the government and this step would save hundreds of billions of rupees annually. No one had laid hands on the PWD mafia till date, but it was Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who boldly closed the PWD department as part of the economic reform agenda. Matters regarding rightsizing and downsizing are progressing at fast speed and their results will become clear soon," the minister said.

He said that an important Chinese delegation was on visit to Pakistan.

The minister said that the government was trying to implement a reform agenda as early as possible.

To a question, he said that in 2018, when PML-N left power, the inflation rate was only four percent whereas the growth rate was at 6 percent. He said after four years of what he called, "Pinky, Gogi and Kaptan" misrule the country faced destruction and inflation reached 23 percent, growth rate fell from 6 percent reduced to only 1 percent. He said that hatred and violence were fostered in the country during the four-year of PTI rule.

The minister opined that if the country had defaulted, there would have been a civil war in the country.

He said that the PML-N and its allies saved the country from default after coming into power following a no confidence motion in the National Assembly against the then Prime Minister.

He said that last night, the prices of petroleum products had been reduced to provide relief to consumers and despite provision, Petroleum Development Levy was not implemented.

During the PTI's tenure, he said that the value of the rupee was so unstable that exporters could not understand at what rate to export their goods, but due to prudent policies of the present government, the rupee was stable today and the inflation rate had decreased considerably.

To a question, he said that IPPs issue was not a political issue and could not be resolved through sit-ins and agitation. He asked the leadership of Jamaat-e-Islami to end the protest and sit with the government. Answering a query, he said that a "spoilt child" who had been inciting the party supporters on violence and subversion was now pleading for holding talks. However he said the talks offer was part of a conspiracy of his mind and he could not give up his subversive agenda.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Urban Planning & Development Department Makran Division at Kech invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023, G.O.B. amended up-to-date from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below: Earnest Money 2%, and Time limit 30-06-2025 for each work. Tender Fee Rs.1500/- for S.No.1 and Rs.1000/- for S.No.2

S.No	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF MULTI PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT BALICHA TUMP TSE-242508512193	39,618,998/-
2	REH: OF SOCIAL WELFARE CLUB PASNI TSE-2425085121213	9,899,784/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed Serial No.1,1500 PKR, and Serial No. 02, 1000 PKR. **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 19 August, 2024 during office hours on working days. **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 19 August, 2024 till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM. Address: Executive Engineer Urban Planning & Development Department Makran Division At Kech Phone no: 08524414060 Fax no: 08524414060 Email: xenurbanmakran@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Urban Planning & Development
Department Makran Division at Kech

PRQ No.440/01-08-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pishin invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.2000/- for S.No.1 and Rs.1500/- for S.No.2&3 and Bid Security 2% for each work.

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF SANZALA MULOOK KARAZ, MANZARI KARAZ, TEHSIL HURAMZAI DISTRICT PISHIN (PSDP 3328 2024-25) TSE-242507509223	49,500,000
2	CONST OF PCC FLOOD WATER CHANNEL AND FLOOD PROTECTION TSE-242507508803	25,000,000
3	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL IN KILI SANZALA TEHSIL HURAMZAI DISTRICT PISHIN (PSDP 3094 2024-25) TSE-242507508763	10,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work showing financial capacity of the firm. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 20 August, 2024 during office hours on working days. **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 20 August, 2024 till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM. Address: Office of the Executive Engineer irrigation division pishin Phone no: 0331802784 Fax no: 0826420533 Email: irrigationdivisionpishin@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION PISHIN

PRQ No.440/01-08-2024

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Pakistani youth with innovation key to brighten future, climate resilience: Patricia Scotland

ISLAMABAD (Online): Secretary General, Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland on Thursday said the Pakistani youth full of rich potential in creativity and innovation are the key to brighten future and embrace climate resilience.

She was addressing as special guest at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) jointly held symposium, titled "Driving the Change: The Dynamic Role of Pakistan's Youth and Civil Society in Climate Resilience", in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination here at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Studies (PIPS).

Secretary General Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland said the courage and equity of the youth would drive the future of the world amid climate crises.

She said it's the first generation to face the worst impacts of climate change and the last to take action against climate change risks.

She mentioned that the passion, energy, equity and knowledge at the symposium gives great hope. Commenting on her visit to Islamabad, she said that she had witnessed innovation, creativity and solutions that gave her joy, help and hope to fight climate crisis with the possibility of a bright future.

"This youth bulge is the richest gold reserve in this part of the country. The Commonwealth nations represent one-third of the world whereas that demographic diversity give us a chance to grapple with the problems of tomorrow. AI will add \$15.7 trillion to the global economy, and we should ensure our youth take benefit of it," she mentioned.

The Commonwealth had developed a consortium with the Silicon Valley to develop an AI Academy to train the youth as mankind amid AI revolution have the chance to be master or mastered by it.

Chairman, PMYP, Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan in his keynote address commended the Commonwealth Secretary General, Patricia Scotland for forging alliances among the member nations.

He also commended the donors and partners for their support. "Youth empowerment is the way forward and the Prime Minister Youth Programme is running Green Youth Movement under which green clubs have been established in 137 varsities out of the total 268 universities which will be further rolled out at all educational levels," he said.

He made four hours long visit of the three different development projects during the night. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa briefed the Interior Minister regarding these projects. He reviewed the progress of work on Islamabad Expressway and Park Road projects. He also reviewed the upgrade work at Jinnah Convention Center.

Mohsin Naqvi inspected the 7 km long Expressway route and the ongoing construction work on Bhinder Bridge.

Minister directed 100 percent completion of the Expressway project from PWD Chowk to T-Chowk within two months and also sought a plan to make the Expressway a controlled corridor.

The FWO officials briefed the Interior Minister on the progress of the development work. Interior Minister planted a sapling in the lawn of FWO's camp office.

Later, the Interior Minister also reviewed the 7.2 km long Park Road widening project and directed its completion before September this year.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Rana Mahmood UI Hassan, chairman senate standing committee on cabinet secretariat presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Mohsin Naqvi visits development projects in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi conducted a detailed and sudden visit of ongoing development projects in Islamabad here on Thursday.

He made four hours long visit of the three different development projects during the night. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa briefed the Interior Minister regarding these projects. He reviewed the progress of work on Islamabad Expressway and Park Road projects. He also reviewed the upgrade work at Jinnah Convention Center.

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Pakistan, Indonesia share brotherly ties and mutual Sufi traditions; Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting Ambassador of Indonesia, Rahmat K on Thursday said that Pakistan and Indonesia shared brotherly relations and mutual Sufi traditions based on deep relations between our founding fathers.

The Acting Ambassador was addressing a seminar on "Nation-State, Islam and Democracy: Perspectives from Pakistan and Indonesia", organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, said a press release. Chairman Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia, Ulil Abshar Abdalla was chief guest on the occasion.

The speakers emphasized that debates on nation-state and democracy were common in academia and should be discussed. "Islamic teachings prioritize a welfare state over a specific governance form, with the rightly guided Caliphs selected through diverse methods suited to deep relations between our founding fathers.

The Ambassador of Indonesia remarked that Pakistan and Indonesia were two largest Muslim countries having one of the largest democracy. There are deep relations between our founding fathers. Indonesia always tries to take part in creating a peaceful world for all.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner and others cuts the cake during 733rd National Day of Switzerland, at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

CDA Chairman Danish Envoy discuss Islamabad's development, environmental initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting was held between Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jakob Linulf on Thursday to discuss various projects aimed at making Islamabad a modern city.

Chairman Randhawa highlighted the launch of new projects and initiatives taken to make CDA a dynamic institution.

He emphasized the efforts to transform Islamabad upon solid waste management, with Chairman Randhawa expressing interest in utilizing Denmark's expertise in this area.

Furthermore, Chairman Randhawa extended an invitation to Ambassador Linulf to participate in the Margalla Hills plantation drive, which the ambassador gladly accepted.

The drive is expected to receive overwhelming participation.

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Court grants post-arrest bail to Rauf Hassan in PECA case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A lower court on Thursday granted Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI)'s Secretary Information Rauf Hassan and others post-arrest bail in case registered under Prevention of Electronic Crime Act (PECA). The court accepted the bail against surety bonds worth Rs50,000 each.

Duty Magistrate Abbas Shah heard the post-arrest bail petitions of the accused. Petitioner's Lawyer Ali Bokhari Advocate argued that on the statement of Ahmed Waqas Janjua an FIR is registered against Rauf Hassan. He said that eight accused were named in the case who have no connection with his client. The accused include pion, desk operator and receptionist etc, he said. The lawyer said that it is alleged that the Rauf Hassan has made a separate social media cell and anti-state campaign was run on his instruction. He said that baseless allegations were leveled against Rauf Hassan.

The lawyer said that nothing is mentioned in FIR regarding section 9 of PECA. FIA's prosecutor Aamer Sheikh said that 12 accused out of 14 are under arrest while two women are on bail. There are four technical reports in the case according to which more than 100 WhatsApp groups were running through which provoking material.

Two killed, 2 injured in Bike-Tractor collision in Nankana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two children were killed, while a man and a girl sustained serious injuries on Thursday when a motorcycle collided with a tractor in Nankana Sahib.

According to private news channel, a high-speed motorcycle collided with a tractor in the dark on Shahkot Road, as a result of the accident, six-year-old Abira and his four-year-old brother Ahmed died.

7-year-old Arha and her 45-year-old father Zulfiqar were seriously injured in the accident.

According to rescue officials, the injured were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital.



ISLAMABAD: Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECO Science Foundation called on the Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Sahibzad Khan says: High flood situation can occur in Chenab River, if rainfall continues at same pace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Mahr Sahibzad Khan Thursday revealed that the high flood situation can occur in Chenab River during this monsoon season, if the rain continues with the same pace. "The PMD is closely monitoring the water levels in the reservoirs and sending timely information to all the concerned authorities to take precautionary measures for avoiding any untoward situation", the Director General said during a press conference held here.

Briefing about the current situation of reservoirs, Sahibzad Khan said that the current level of water in Tarbela is 1526.89 ft while the maximum conservation level is 1550.00 ft.

The current water level in Mangla is 1202.15

ft out of the total conservation level of 1242.00 while in Rawal Dam, the current water level is 1739.00 ft and the maximum conservation level is 1752.00 ft.

In Simly Dam, the current water level is 2277.5 ft out of the total conservation level of 2315.00 ft while in Khanpur Dam, the water level is 1942.4 ft and the maximum conservation level is 1982.00 ft.

The Director General indicated fewer chances of floods considering the overall rainfall situation so far however, he said, the high flood situation can be developed in Chenab river, if rain continues with same intensity.

He said that after the rain spell of Aug 01-06, there are chances of another rain spell August 07-15 about which the PMD will issue an advisory.

FGEHA, SCBAP, and DHA signs MoU for Park Road Housing Project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and Defense Housing Authority (DHA) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the development of Park Road Housing Project.

Federal Ministers Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar (Law and Justice), Riaz Hussain Pirzada (Housing and Works), and Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi (Interior) attended the MoU signing ceremony.

This initiative underscores the government's commitment to the welfare of employees, said a press release. During the event, the secretary and president of SCBA praised the Law and Interior Ministers for their supportive roles.

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi assured full cooperation from the government.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Housing and Works and DHA authorities for their support.

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan while addressing climate change symposium at PIPS.

Rubina emphasizes zero tolerance against misbehavior with women beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid during her visit to the Peshawar Tehsil Office on Thursday emphasized that there will be zero tolerance against any misbehavior with the women beneficiaries.

The purpose of the visit was to monitor the arrangements at the office and review the facilities provided for the deserving women receiving Kafalat and educational stipends. Rubina Khalid engaged with the beneficiaries, listened to their issues, and provided guidance, particularly to the needy and elderly women in the program.

In her conversation with the media, Senator Rubina Khalid reflected on the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for the welfare of poor women in Pakistan, which led to the establishment of BISP.

"The program was founded by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto while she was in exile in Dubai and was implemented by President Asif Ali Zardari in 2008," she recounted.

Highlighting the transparency measures in place, she noted that BISP payment centers were set up following instructions from President Asif Ali Zardari.

Rubina Khalid also announced that President Asif Ali Zardari directed the opening of bank accounts for deserving women to streamline their access to stipends.

Stressing the importance of skill development and technical education, she stated, "Empowering women with skills and technical education is crucial for their economic independence and the overall development of our society."

She called upon the media to play a proactive role in creating awareness among beneficiaries about the program's benefits and guidelines.

Rubina Khalid issued a stern warning to beneficiaries to ignore any communication from numbers other than the official 8171 and cautioned against handing over their National Identity Cards to anyone to prevent fraud.

Deadline extended for admissions at IIUI

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) has announced an extension to the application deadline for its fall semester admissions till Monday, 12th August 2024.

According to the IIUI, the extension covers all MS and PhD programs, while BS programs in the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, BS English, BS Psychology, LLB and BS International Relations are not included in the extended date. The applicants of the rest of the BS programs may apply for admission till Monday, 12th August 2024.

Prospective students can find details on the offered programs, eligibility criteria, and fee structure on the university's website, cms.iiu.edu.pk. For queries, male applicants can contact on WhatsApp number 0319-5213192, while female applicants can contact on 0319-5213193.



ISLAMABAD Ayub Jamali Director General of PNCA visiting an exhibition was recently held under the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) to mark the completion of a six-month calligraphy course.

IRSA releases 412,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 412,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 523,400 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1530.00 feet and was 132.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 318,000 cusecs and 236,900 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1203.05 feet, which was 155.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 39,700 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded.

FOSPAAH striving for gender equality, human dignity: Fauzia Viqar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection against Harassment (FOSPAAH) Fauzia Viqar on Thursday underlined efforts to create a Pakistan, built on the ideals of gender equality and human dignity.

Ms. Fauzia Viqar held an interactive meeting with mediapersons covering the Islamabad High Court at the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection against Harassment (FOSPAAH), said a press release.

The meeting was also attended by Rehman Shehbaz, Registrar FOSPAAH and Ms. Meher Jamy, Law Officer FOSPAAH.

During the meeting Ms. Viqar elaborated upon the need for an institution like FOSPAAH in the country where only 23% of women were in the workplace and therefore required increased protection.

Additionally, Ms. Jamy explained the mandate of FOSPAAH, namely, eliminating workplace harassment and securing the property rights of women while Shehbaz informed the attendees about the implementation powers of FOSPAAH.

The media participants raised many pertinent questions about the workings of FOSPAAH such as inquiring about the number of complaints received so far by transgendered persons, the availability of a mobile application to facilitate parties and the level of cooperation between FOSPAAH and other women-centric bodies.



ISLAMABAD: People gathered around loading pickup van after a road accident at Islamabad Highway in the Federal Capital.

Forging Global Partnerships: Strategic Deliberations from the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Foreign Affairs convened today at the Parliament House in Islamabad, engaging in a comprehensive session to discuss and strategize Pakistan's foreign relations. The meeting provided an extensive overview by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Pakistan's current diplomatic standing and future outlook with several key regions, including Russia and Europe, the Middle

East, Turkey, and the Central Asian countries.

The committee delved into the evolving geopolitical landscape with emphasis on enhancing trade relations and people-to-people contact in the said regions. Discussions highlighted Pakistan's strategic and economic interests in the Middle East, particularly with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The session also emphasized exploring the

potential for enhancing trade cooperation with Turkey and the Central Asian Republics. While the briefing on Africa and South America was deferred, the committee acknowledged the need for a focused diplomatic strategy for these growing regions.

Key recommendations from the committee included increasing Pakistani scholarships in European countries, addressing internal processes to curb illegal emigration.



ISLAMABAD: CDA staffer busy in caught dog during an operating against stray dogs.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Friday August 02, 2024

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.

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

Why do governments fail to do what they say they want to do? Any student of public policy will testify that policy is not what they say they will do but what they actually do.

It would hardly be an exaggeration to argue that most social sector policies are aspirational or declaratory; there's little serious intent to implement them.

Hiding behind a tight fiscal space has become very convenient for successive governments. Demands to reduce the bloated size of government and expenditures are deflected by tying the issue to governance and institutional reforms — for which little or no appetite is visible.

For many governance gurus, reform means renaming ministries, moving them from one to the other administrative division, occasionally merging them, or relegating them to the provinces. The absence of political stability and financial resources is typically invoked to delay and scuttle institutional reforms. These are indeed 'good' reasons, but perhaps

not the 'real' reasons, or at least not the primary ones for the failure to implement declared policies.

Pakistan's policies can easily be divided into two groups: one, declaratory policies to please the public or international community, and second, a group of policies for which budgetary allocations are made — and released — to systematically remove barriers to their implementation. Social progress or human security have for decades remained on our declaratory policy list, and seldom on our priority implementation list.

Most social sector policies in Pakistan will have long, unprioritised wish-lists, and lack in action plans, timelines, and costing. We can add to this the weak ownership of key stakeholders and its linkages with other sectors and different tiers of governance. Climate-related policies in the country are no exception to this general rule.

Climate-resilient and low-carbon development is proclaimed policy, awaiting mainstreaming in the policy landscape. My recent research gave me the opportunity to look at 60 policies governing sectors critical to

climate adaptation and mitigation. I have learned that Pakistan has a rich inventory of sectoral policies, but that they are rarely aligned with national and international climate commitments. Sectoral policies set national objectives and determine the direction for investments. They often recommend specific projects and programmes. With some variations, provincial policies are typically aligned with national policies or priorities.

Some national policies have not been revised since the 18th Amendment was approved in 2010. Likewise, on subjects that are now firmly in the provincial realm, not all provinces have developed their sectoral policies. Countless draft policies are languishing on departmental websites, waiting for a push that does not always come from the federal government.

In fact, sometimes the federal government itself has hindered the development or approval of provincial policies, arguing that in the presence of national policies, the provinces only need action or implementation plans. Now with the provinces being ruled by different po-

litical parties, the response to federal policy asks are not uniform.

Of the 60 policies reviewed, only one — the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy (2023) and its action plan (2023-30) — is clearly aligned with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), a commitment Pakistan has communicated to the climate change secretariat. Additionally, only three federal policies have referred to the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP): the national water, forest, and food security policies (2018, 2012, 2015). Ironically, all these policies are dated as they were developed before the revised NCCP and NDC were approved in 2021.

Hence, the national policy ecosystem offers a barren landscape of alignment with high-profile climate targets. These are central to Pakistan's global adaptation and carbon emissions reduction commitments. This is not a good omen for a country that seeks to access international climate finance and investments.

In Pakistan, climate-proofing across policies var-

ies by sector. Of the 15 policies highlighted in the latest version of the Pakistan Economic Survey (2023-2024), six deal with energy issues, but most of them were approved before the NCCP and NDC were released in 2021.

These include the LNG Policy 2011, the National Power Policy 2015, the Power Generation Policy 2015, the Alternative & Renewable Energy Policy 2019, and the National Electric Vehicle Policy 2019. Ironically, another four policies that were approved subsequently have no reference to Pakistan's carbon emission targets: the National Electricity Policy 2021, the National Hazardous Waste Management Policy (2022), the Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan 2021-30 (2023), and the National Clean Air Policy (2023). A closer review shows that although some of these policies have acknowledged Pakistan's climate vulnerabilities, almost all have failed to address direct and indirect sector-specific climate risks and threats.

My handpicked policies from various sectors such as energy, transport,

agriculture, and industry, that were released after the approval of the updated NDC in 2021, ironically lacked specific sections on climate adaptation or mitigation measures as outlined in the NDC. Furthermore, these policies did not explore potential sources for innovative financing, unlike their counterparts in other countries. This reflection should not be construed to imply a comment on the quality of the country's sectoral policies, but only to underline the lacuna on how the policy environment in Pakistan is fragmented.

We have all seen how weak institutional frameworks hinder the formulation and effective implementation of policies. The main obstacles to effective public policy development in Pakistan include lack of viable policymaking mechanisms, governance deficits, elite capture, and the absence of public input and oversight. This has led to challenges in coordination and consistency across different levels of government. These elements contribute to a dismal track record in public policy formulation and implementation. -- Courtesy Dawn

Policy games we play**Re-profiling Chinese debt**

Khurram Husain

There was one line in Finance Minister Aurangzeb's remarks last Sunday that caught my eye. In his press conference on that day, he announced that Islamabad is seeking the re-profiling of \$27 billion worth of debt owed to China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, as per a news report.

He did not bring up the subject of debt re-profiling himself, preferring to focus his remarks on less sensitive matters such as how the tax burden should and will have to be borne. But in the question and answer session, multiple reporters asked pointed questions about his visit to China, and he slowly divulged the contents of his discussions there.

He landed in China one week ago, and on the day he arrived Reuters ran a report saying he was there to seek debt relief. The only official comment at the time was a finance ministry statement asserting that the minister would inform the

Chinese side about Pakistan's reform agenda, the tax- and energy-related steps it was going to take under the IMF programme whose staff-level agreement was signed a few weeks ago.

But on his return, it was confirmed that the matter was raised, and a few details trickled out. When he was asked specifically about the amount of debt he is asking to be re-profiled, he demurred at first, but then, when pressed, said "it is a manageable amount" and "let me tell you who the partners are; they are Saudi Arabia, UAE and China".

In time, we learned the amount is \$27bn; the figure was carried in the headlines the next day. This comes more than a month after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited China and met President Xi Jinping himself, along with a large number of other officials. They had disguised that visit as seeking some sort of revival of CPEC, but yours truly had written back then that its real purpose seemed to be to seek debt

relief of some sort under the IMF requirement. That was one month ago.

Now comes the key part. In his Sunday presser, Aurangzeb stated that the Chinese side said that discussions need to take place between the government of Pakistan and the project sponsors of the Chinese power producers. He added that the real problem for the Chinese side is not so much the debt whose repayments are either being made or being rolled over. The real problem is the return on equity guaranteed under the contractual terms to the sponsors of the power projects, which "because of our FX situation, right now we are behind schedule".

He said the government will now start talks with the project sponsors, as well as financial market players, especially the People's Bank of China, and they will hire a local adviser to help structure their approach. He also talked about a Panda bond, and confirmed that a local adviser for floating a Panda bond

had already been retained. An obvious question arises, and let's acknowledge it tangentially before getting to the real point: why would anyone want to own a Pakistani Panda bond when the government is, at the same time, acknowledging that it is struck with FX shortages and needs to reschedule existing liabilities?

However, for now just note the following. More than a month after the prime minister's visit, they are only at the beginning of the process. I was under the impression that by now they would either have sealed some agreements, or at least made enough headway to be able to announce something concrete upon their return. But no, he returned to announce that now they are ready to begin the process. They will now begin to hire the advisers. They will now begin to approach the project sponsors. And they will now begin to structure some sort of proposal around which to build their approach and pur-

sue an agreement. Yes, they have, after all this time, reached the beginning.

Make no mistake, this is being done at the behest of the IMF, even though the Fund will officially deny that it is forcing the government to undertake these re-profiling actions. Money given by the IMF cannot flow to China in the form of dividend payouts for Chinese project sponsors. It is now quite clear that this has been communicated to the government by the IMF; they would not take this step on their own.

So now we have a bit of a problem, and hopefully they will be able to solve it quickly. It seems they have to reach an understanding with the Chinese project sponsors, as well as the central banks of China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE on re-profiling the maturities that will be falling due during the programme period (three years from Board approval). They should be able to manage the central banks, but talks with the project sponsors to

re-profile the return on equity can take longer.

Meanwhile the clock is ticking. Some sort of agreement must be reached before the staff-level agreement can be forwarded for Board approval at the Fund. If the talks with the project sponsors drag out too long, the projections around which the agreement is built could become outdated.

We can only hope that from here on the matter will progress smoothly and an agreement with the Chinese project sponsors will be reached within this month. If the matter lingers, and let me be clear that I am not saying it is inevitable that it will drag out, the risks to economic stability will be great.

I am not sure how much room the Fund has to show leniency here. My understanding is room for such leniency has shrunk since the spring meetings in April this year, when the Fund was specifically instructed by the US Treasury to "be willing to walk away if a country will not take the needed steps".

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 na-

tional 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 Faiqa Riaz (24); sharpshooters G.M. Bashir (37), Gulfaam Joseph (24), and Kishmal Ta-lat (22); and two minnow swimmers Jeha-nara Nabi (20) and Ahmed Durrani (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-confidence 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 PTI 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 un-

dermine 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



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 has not taken these issues seriously. They criticized the current provincial administration for failing to include any projects for the province in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). They pledged that in the future, all political parties in the province would collaborate to prepare and present projects for the PSDP, ensuring their approval by the federal government.

Governor Sindh calls for non-political resolution of IPP issues, launches plantation drive

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori announced on Thursday that the issues surrounding Independent Power Producers (IPPs) should not be politicized, as the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is actively working towards a resolution. He made these remarks while speaking to the media at the Governor House during the "First Sindh Plantation Day," an initiative led by the Governor. Addressing a question about the Jamat-e-Islami (JI)'s sit-in outside the Governor House, Kamran Tessori invited them to protest within the Governor House premises rather than blocking the roads, which he noted causes inconvenience to the public. "The doors of the Governor House are open for them. I would request Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman not to block roads and create difficulties for citizens," Tessori stated. The Governor also revealed plans for grand Independence Day celebrations at the Governor House, which will be open to the public. The event will feature a cake-cutting ceremony, fireworks, and a musical night with performances by renowned singers. Additionally, 100,000 flags and around 50,000 badges will be distributed. Regarding the plantation drive, Kamran Tessori emphasized its importance, announcing a large-scale initiative to plant trees across the province. He noted that the Consul General of the UAE has pledged to donate 1,000 trees to the Sindh Governor House. Kamran Tessori highlighted the importance of not only planting saplings but also ensuring their growth and care. Some saplings will be distributed to educational institutions, hospitals, and other organizations, with a request that they are nurtured responsibly.

Maryam orders MPAs to inspect rainwater drainage

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed members of the provincial assembly (MPAs) to oversee the rainwater drainage operation. The CM directed them to visit the field immediately and undertake the water drainage monitoring process. She directed all MPAs to visit the small and big cities along with other affected areas to take stock of the latest situation. She said, "Swift drainage of rainwater should be ensured in every city, street and mohallah for facilitation of the people across Punjab."

P&D Minister warns of action for non-completion of development schemes

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Sindh Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Thursday said that strict departmental action will be taken against the concerned officers who do not complete all the ongoing development schemes in the province as per the target. He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting of P&D at his office to review the development schemes. Chairman P&D Najam Ahmad Shah, Special Secretary P&D Zubair Ahmed Chana and other senior officers also attended the meeting. Nasir Shah expressed his displeasure at the non-completion of the development schemes on time and reprimanded the concerned officers and said all the ongoing development schemes in the province must be completed within the given time frame with quality work otherwise action would be initiated against responsible officials. "I am not in favor of revising the development schemes, delaying tactics not only increase estimates and the cost but also cause people to face difficulties along with loss of wealth," Shah added. He said as per the vision and instructions of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, all possible steps be taken to provide relief to the common people. Nasir Shah said 'he will soon visit the schemes which have been completed along with Chairman P&D and review quality of work carried out there.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health in a group photo with delegation of World Health Organization after meeting at PKLI.

CM orders Education Dept to distribute textbooks before end of vacation

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the school education department must enhance enrollment by bringing out-of-school children to school and introduce a school inspection system by checking teaching and learning methods. Chairing a meeting of the Education Department here Thursday, he instructed the department to ensure the distribution of 4,453,686 textbooks by Aug 14 and enhance education standards. The chief minister said that schools would reopen on August 15. Therefore, the school education department made necessary preparations to ensure the proper functioning of the schools, distribution of textbooks, and running of classes. He emphasized the need for a complete plan for the academic year, including a work plan and preliminary/mock examinations. During a presentation to the CM, Education Minister Sardar Shah mentioned that there were 40,991 schools in the province, including 36,203 primary schools, 15,575 middle schools, 1,051 elementary schools, 1,670 secondary schools, and 492 higher secondary schools. He also stated that the province had 160,473 teachers, out of which 107,550 were male and 53,051 were female. The total enrollment in schools was reported as 5,236,307, comprising 3,081,696 boys and 2,154,611 girls. The CM noted that the teacher-student ratio stood at 1:32 and emphasized the need for quality teaching and engagement of students in curriculum activities. An issue was discussed regarding the lack of communication and teaching skills among most of the teachers. It was proposed that teachers should be required to pass a teaching test every five years in order to continue their teaching careers.



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.

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.

ANF recovers 52 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a series of five operations, the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) successfully recovered 52 kilograms of drugs and apprehended six individuals, according to a spokesperson from ANF Headquarters on Thursday. The spokesperson detailed the operations, starting with the seizure of 472 grams of heroin from a passenger bound for Jeddah at Karachi Airport. In another operation, 680 grams of crystals.

He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting of P&D at his office to review the development schemes. Chairman P&D Najam Ahmad Shah, Special Secretary P&D Zubair Ahmed Chana and other senior officers also attended the meeting. Nasir Shah expressed his displeasure at the non-completion of the development schemes on time and reprimanded the concerned officers and said all the ongoing development schemes in the province must be completed within the given time frame with quality work otherwise action would be initiated against responsible officials. "I am not in favor of revising the development schemes, delaying tactics not only increase estimates and the cost but also cause people to face difficulties along with loss of wealth," Shah added. He said as per the vision and instructions of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, all possible steps be taken to provide relief to the common people. Nasir Shah said 'he will soon visit the schemes which have been completed along with Chairman P&D and review quality of work carried out there.

Kundi expresses condolence over demise of people due to rains

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by recent rains in the province. The Governor conveyed profound grief over the loss of 24 precious lives due to the rains and floods. He extended heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of the deceased. Governor Kundi prayed for the departed souls, patience and strength for the affected families.

Bukhari directs for full preparations for 281st Urs of Hazrat Shah Latif Bhitai

HYDERABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Culture and Tourism Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah Bukhari on Thursday directed the officials to make complete arrangements for the 281st annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai. He said that all possible facilities should be provided to the devotees during Urs days. The minister issued these directives while chairing a meeting regarding the arrangements for the 281st annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai at Bhit Shah rest house. According to a handout, the minister directed the HESCO administration to avoid load shedding during the Urs days so that the devotees do not face any difficulties. The meeting also discussed security, facilities and other issues related to the annual Urs. Talking to the media, the provincial minister said that all relevant departments were put on alert to provide better facilities to the devotees during the Urs.

Consortium signs agreement with Ignite for NIC Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lucky Landmark, part of YBG, in partnership with LMKT and Orbit Startups, has been awarded the prestigious project of managing the National Incubation Center (NIC) Karachi for the next five years by Ignite, Ministry of IT & Telecom. This significant achievement marks a new era of innovation and entrepreneurship in Pakistan. LMKT is a leading technology company offering innovative solutions in smart cities, smart buildings, integrated security, e-governance, clean technology, agri-tech solutions, and more. With a strong commitment to supporting Pakistan's growth, LMKT operates National Incubation Centers in Peshawar, Karachi, and Hyderabad. These centres foster a vibrant nationwide startup ecosystem. As part of Ignite's new strategic focus, NIC Karachi will emphasize Industrial Automation, FinTech, Cyber Security, and the induction of women-led startups. Over the past five years, under LMKT's management, NIC Karachi has become Pakistan's largest tech incubator and startup accelerator. The centre has supported 299 startups, who have created 1 million jobs and raised Rs. 9.1 billion.



HYDERABAD: View of consultative meeting of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) is underway against prolong electricity load shedding in city, in Hyderabad.

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. One of the injured was taken to Jinnah Hospital for treatment.

Deputy Speaker KP Assembly visits flood affected areas in Chitral

CHITRAL (APP): Deputy Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Suraya Bibi Thursday made an emergency visit to the flood-affected area of Upper Chitral district, where the flood has wiped out houses, crops, gardens and roads. Before the visit, the Deputy Speaker met with the officials of the district administration, rescue and security agencies and issued instructions to take concrete steps to deal with the current situation and provide immediate relief to the people. She personally supervised the departure of machinery and medical teams towards the flood-affected areas. She was told that the roads have been restored up to Brep, while work is going on to restore Yarkhun Road, which will be opened by Friday. She issued instructions to the administration to ensure water supply in the affected areas and speed up the power restoration work. Deputy Speaker Suraya Bibi visited Bonni Medical Center on this occasion and visited a citizen belonging to different areas who was swept away in the flood yesterday.



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

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 various parts of the city and inspected the water disposal operations. He issued instructions to the officers of C & W to visit all hospitals of the province specifically of Lahore and check their rooftop, emergencies and wards to estimate the affected portions of the buildings. Moreover, the minister directed the staff to ensure the timely repair of affected portions of roads. He also directed officers to submit their detailed reports in regard with effects of rain to the public buildings. He further said that all the field formation would remain in action during the whole monsoon season. Later, taking notice of the closure of a road due to land sliding in Murree, he issued instructions for timely response.

Police arrest 4 dacoits, recover stolen goods in Mirpurkhas

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Mirpurkhas police on Thursday arrested four members of an inter-district dacoits gang, including two main suspects, and recovered stolen goods and weapons, in a breakthrough in the double murder case that shook Deh 333 village. According to SSP Mirpurkhas Captain @ Asad Ali Chaudhry, the accused were arrested in a joint operation conducted on his instructions. The police recovered a black Revo car, a Cultus car, three pistols.

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.



PESHAWAR: Members of Pakhtunkhwa Qaumi Jirga are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside High Court building in Peshawar.

President for viable solution to rising energy costs

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for finding a win-win solution to address the issue of rising energy costs in the country. He proposed that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) should form a committee and work with the Government, the President's office to develop a viable solution to the issue of paying capacity charges to Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

The President gave these remarks while talking to a delegation of FPCCI comprising of businessmen and office-bearers of 40 regional business

associations, led by Dr Gohar Ejaz, at Aiwan-e-Sadr today.

Talking to the delegation, the President announced that the President's office would collaborate with a smaller committee from the business community to find a win-win solution for the Government, the people, the business community and IPPs. He urged the for evolving a consensus solution so that none of stakeholders lose out. He said that he was aware of the problems being faced by Pakistani businesses, that were in a "triple-whammy" due to high input, energy, and fuel costs.

Dr Gohar Ejaz highlighted that rising energy costs were overburdening the people, industry, agriculture and exports sector. He emphasised the need for reforming the energy sector to bring down energy prices.

Dr Gohar Ejaz requested the President to intervene in the matter and play his role in resolving the issues faced by Pakistan's industries and businesses due to high electricity prices. The President assured the delegation of his support in coming up with a solution to their problems and taking up the matter with relevant quarters.



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.

SAB recommends exporting 40,000MT sugar to Tajikistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday chaired a joint meeting of Sugar Advisory Board (SAB) and the Cabinet Committee on Monitoring Sugar Export which recommended exporting 40,000 metric tons of sugar to Tajikistan. Following this recommendation, the ministry would present updates on the sugar industry to the Cabinet's Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) for a

decision regarding the sugar export, a news release said.

The minister also noted that the SAB recommended increasing the export period from 45 to 60 days. During the meeting, representatives of the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association stated that there had been no increase in the ex-mills price of sugar and it had nothing to do with the retail price of the commodity.

They urged the government to take steps to maintain the retail price.

PQEPCC 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 (PQEPCC) 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 PQEPCC China and other Chinese companies in the power sector of Pakistan.

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. Aimed at harnessing 30% renewable energy solutions in its fleet by 2030, KE initiated a competitive bidding process for multiple

renewable energy projects earlier this year following a successful round 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 as well as for Pakistan. It represents local,



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.

PSX stays bearish, loses 146 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Thursday, losing 146.68 points, a negative change of 0.19 percent, closing at 77,740.31 points against 77,886.99 points on the last working day.

A total of 278,986,985 shares were traded during the day as compared to 382,597,400 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 13,094 billion against Rs 14,638 billion on the last trading day. As many as 433 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 172 of them recorded gains and 198 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 63 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 26,705,549 shares at Rs 6.45 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 21,817,890 shares at Rs 1.25 per share and Waves home Applications with 13,525,876 shares at Rs 8.04 per share.

Punjab to reduce public transport fares by 5pc

LAHORE (APP): As per instructions of Provincial Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan, the Transport Department officials are in the field to implement a five per cent reduction in public transport fares in view of recent decrease in petrol and diesel prices.

The minister ordered the officers to take all possible measures and form special teams to bring relief to the people due to reduction in Pol prices. He said that people were facing inflation and they were trying to make it easier for them as much as possible. Another 5 per cent reduction in transport fares should be considered as a breath of fresh air, he added.

During the meeting, the secretary transport instructed all the relevant officers to make it possible to reduce public transport fares by staying in the field and to take strict action against those who collect excessive fares. No one would ever be allowed to charge more than the fixed fare from the public.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari speaking to a delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry, comprising of businessmen and office-bearers of 40 regional business associations, led by Gohar Ejaz, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

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.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar said this while addressing the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Head

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

Pak total liquid foreign reserves \$14.39b

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan increased to US\$ 14,391.7 million as of July 26, 2024 while the reserves held by the central bank were recorded as \$ 9,102.2 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that its liquid foreign reserves increased by \$ 75 million during the week ended on July 26, 2024.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$ 5,289.5 million during the week under review, it added.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb called on by the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula.

CPI inflation decelerates further to 11.1% in July

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation decelerated to 11.1 percent during the month of July 2024 as compared to 12.6 percent recorded during June 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Thursday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year (July 2023) was recorded at 28.3%.

On month-on-month basis, it increased to 2.1% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.5% in the previous month and an increase of 3.5% in July 2023.

According to data, CPI inflation Urban, increased to 13.2% on year-on-year basis in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 14.9% in the previous month and 26.3% in July 2023. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 2.0% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.6% in the previous month and an increase of 3.6% in July 2023.

CPI inflation Rural, increased to 8.1% on year-on-year basis in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 9.3% in the previous month and 31.3% in July 2023. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 2.2%.

Fly Jinnah, partnered with T3 Aviation Academy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fly Jinnah, partnered with T3 Aviation Academy on Thursday to induct its first batch of future Pakistani pilots. According to a press release, this milestone marks the beginning of an ambitious journey to cultivate and develop local aviation talent in the country. The initial training phase for these CPL holders commenced on June 20, at the T3 Academy facility in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

After completing this foundational training, the group will advance to

aircraft-based training and line training with Fly Jinnah. This comprehensive program will equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the highest international standards. This collaboration was made possible with the invaluable support of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority and reflects the commitment to fostering local talent. The initiative aims to develop a new generation of pilots who will contribute significantly to the growth.

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 Rs.2,900 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.

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 Beker Abdula on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

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

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.

On the occasion, the ambassador appreciated Pakistan's macroeconomic stability and shared insights on Ethiopia's similar approach to home-grown economic reforms.

He detailed Ethiopia's initiatives inspired by Pakistan's experience, particularly in stabilizing its currency and fostering economic resilience.

The discussion also encompassed the potential for enhanced bilateral trade and financial collaborations to foster mutual prosperity.

Ambassador Abdula proposed the exploration of educational cooperation, specifically the promotion of student exchange and scholarship programs. This initiative aims at providing Ethiopian students with opportunities to study in Pakistan, fostering educational and cultural ties between the two nations.



BAHAWALPUR: Laborers diligently pack mangoes into cartons for upcoming market sales.

Pakistan's exports to China increase by 33.67%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 33.67 percent during the twelve months of the fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$2,707 billion during July-June (2023-24) against exports of US \$2,025 billion during July-June (2022-23), SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 12.59 percent from US \$136.546 million in June 2023, against the exports of \$153.745 million in June 2024.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China decreased by 27.61 percent during June 2024 as compared to the exports of \$212.392 million in May 2024, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of

11.53 percent in FY 2023-24, from US \$27.875 billion to US \$31.090 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the period under review were recorded at US \$13,506 billion against US \$9,662 billion last year, showing an increase of 39.78 percent in July-June (2023-24).

On a year-on-year basis, the imports for China witnessed an increase of 117.54 percent from US \$623.832 million in June 2023, against the imports of US \$1357.098 million in June 2024.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from China into the country witnessed a decrease of 9.58 percent during June 2024, as compared to the imports of US \$1501.005 million during May 2024, according to the data.

The overall imports into the country witnessed an increase of 0.89 percent, from \$52.695 billion to US \$53.167 billion, according to the data.



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.

Huang Pei says: Interested in enhancing Pak agricultural potential through Chinese investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commercial Head of LITEC, International Agriculture Development Company of China, Huang Pei said the Republic of China was interested in enhancing Pakistan's agriculture potential through investment.

The Commercial Head of the LITEC, International Agriculture Development of China participated as a guest speaker and talked on the role of China enterprises in Pakistan at the Institute of Regional Studies on Thursday jointly organized with Asian Institute of Eco-civilization, Research and Development (AIERD). The event was moderated by AIERD CEO, Shakeel

Ahmed Ramay and attended by researchers, scholars, and students, a news release said.

Huang Pei outlined the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral business ventures and socio-economic cooperation, with active branches in Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore.

The Chamber supports projects across energy, infrastructure, textiles, telecommunications, and green production, nurturing local talent and also informed about the role of these enterprises in disaster response such as a \$17 million donation.

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 Zam on Wednesday. It came just hours after Israel targeted and killed

top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur 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 immortal 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. Animosity 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

United States and Japan to counter the North's threats.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said the South was willing to swiftly provide supplies to address the "humanitarian difficulties" facing North Korean residents following the recent storms. The ministry in a statement urged North Korea's Red Cross to promptly respond to its calls for discussions to determine the types and amounts of South Korean supplies and how to deliver them.

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 Refe 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".

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.

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 Hussein that he spoke of hanging the would-be killers and scrapping Jordan's

peace treaty with Israel unless the antidote was handed over.

Israel did so, and also agreed to free Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, only to assassinate him seven years later in Gaza.

Meshaal, 68, became Hamas's political leader in exile the year before Israel tried to eliminate him, a position that enabled him to represent the Palestinian group at meetings with governments around the world, unhindered by tight Israeli travel restrictions that affected other Hamas officials.

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-

tional Association of Black Journalists conference.

Harris later denounced the attacks as "the same old show" of "the divisiveness and the disrespect" from Trump.

The combative remarks by Trump, who has been eager to improve his performance with Black voters, are likely to send shockwaves through the 2024 White House contest.

They come as the former president, convicted two months ago of felony fraud related to hush money payments to a porn star, struggles to formulate a new strategy less than 100 days before the election.

Later on Wednesday, he held a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, a battleground state where he narrowly survived an assassination attempt earlier this month, and continued the verbal assault on his rival.

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 soldiers arrested on suspi-

cion of sexually abusing a Palestinian detainee. At least 53 detainees from Gaza and the West Bank have died in Israeli detention since the Gaza conflict began, the report found.

Testimonies for the report suggested that Israel had subjected prisoners to "a range of appalling acts, such as waterboarding and the release of dogs on detainees", UN rights chief Volker Turk said.

The report covers October 7 to the June 30. It relies primarily on information gathered through interviews with released Palestinian detainees and other victims and witnesses of violations, OHCHR said. The report said there were "reasonable grounds to believe" that since October 7, Israel and Palestinian armed groups had "committed gross violations and abuses... of the rights to life, liberty and freedom from torture and other ill-treatment."

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.

In Lagos, armed police watched as protesters marched towards the government house and then proceeded to two locations that were authorised for the protest.

Some shopping malls in the city were shut and guarded by a heavy police presence.

Inspired by protests in Kenya in June that led to the government there scrapping some planned tax increases, Nigerians are mobilising online to demand the reinstatement of subsidies for petrol and electricity, free primary and secondary education and measures to combat insecurity, among other demands.

In Abuja, the military mounted roadblocks along the highway leading into town, while some protesters gathered at a stadium.

UK govt vows clampdown after clashes outside mosque over deadly Southport stabbing

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said those responsible for violence that left police officers injured in protests outside a mosque after a mass stabbing that left three children dead in Southport would "face the full force of the law".

Southport, a small seaside town near Liverpool in northwestern England, was reeling on Wednesday after clashes targeting a local mosque "insulted the community as it grieves", Starmer said.

Some 39 officers were injured, at least eight seriously, after a large group — believed to be supporters of the far-right English Defence League — threw bricks at a local mosque and set cars on fire late on Tuesday, the local police and ambulance service said.

Around 100 people battled police in riot gear and lit fires, according to an AFP reporter at the scene.

The violence broke out shortly after a vigil was held in the town centre, where hundreds fell silent in tribute to the victims of the mass stabbing at a Tay-

lor Swift-themed event that also left five children and two adults critically injured.

Police have said they are not treating Monday's knife attack as terror-related, but have not released any details of the suspected attacker other than that he is 17 years old and born in the Welsh capital Cardiff. His parents were from Rwanda, according to the BBC.

"There has been much speculation and hypothesis around the status of a 17-year-old male... and some individuals are using this to bring violence and disorder to our streets," Assistant Police Chief Alex Goss said after the clashes.

He said the violence had involved "many people who do not live in the Merseyside area or care about the people of Merseyside". Hours after Monday's attack, social media was filled with posts spreading unverified information about the suspect's background. Far-right influencer Andrew Tate had posted a video on social media, viewed by nearly 15 million people, blaming the stabbing on an "illegal migrant".



Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump speaks on a panel of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) convention in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.

Qatar and Egypt say assassinations damage Gaza truce chances

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Qatar and Egypt, which have acted as mediators in ceasefire negotiations between Israel and Hamas, suggested on Wednesday that the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh could jeopardise efforts to secure a truce in Gaza.

"Political assassinations and continued targeting of civilians in Gaza, while talks continue, leads us to ask, how can mediation succeed when one party assassinates the negotiator on the other side?"

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani wrote on X. "Peace needs serious partners & a global stance against the disregard for human life." Egypt's foreign ministry said in a statement that a "dangerous Israeli escalation policy" over

the past two days had undermined efforts to broker an end to the fighting in Gaza.

"The coincidence of this regional escalation with the lack of progress in the ceasefire negotiations in Gaza increases the complexity of the situation and the absence of Israeli political will to calm it down," the statement said.

"It undercuts the strenuous efforts made by Egypt and its partners to stop the war in the Gaza Strip and put an end to the human suffering of the Palestinian people," it added.

Qatar, Egypt, and the United States have repeatedly tried to clinch a ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas in Gaza, where Israeli forces have killed more than 39,000 Palestinians since Hamas-led militants attacked Israel in October.

Turkiye condemns assassination of Haniyeh

Monitoring Desk

ISTANBUL: The Turkish Foreign Ministry on Wednesday condemned the "heinous" assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh.

"We extend our condolences to the Palestinian people who have sacrificed hundreds of thousands of martyrs like Haniyeh in order to live in peace in their homeland under the roof of their own state," the statement said.

Haniyeh's assassination once again demonstrates that the Israeli government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has no intention of achieving peace, the statement said.

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 specialised in suppressing enemy air defenses.



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro looks on outside the Supreme Court of Justice, in Caracas, Venezuela.

Another plot to assassinate Sikh activist unearthed

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Canadian authorities have uncovered a previously unknown plot to assassinate a Sikh activist on North American soil, according to reports from US media on Wednesday.

Recent reports from various US and Canadian media outlets highlighted a Nov 3, 2023, police raid in Brampton, Ontario, which resulted in the arrest of five men on firearms charges.

The arrests occurred just a day before the son of a prominent member of the Sikh independence movement was to be married in the Toronto-area city. Several well-known activists, including New York-based lawyer Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, were expected to attend the wedding.

The accused include Swaranpreet Singh, 21; Jwanpreet Singh, 21; Maninder Singh, 22; and Ramanpreet Singh, 30.

Large fire breaks out in Rome near public TV station and court of justice

Monitoring Desk

ROME: A large fire broke out in Rome on a hill near the Italian capital's court of justice and a public TV broadcasting centre, forcing the evacuation of several buildings and offices, firefighters said.

The fire in the Monte Mario area was under control, with 10 crews on the case, the national fire department said on X, posting a video showing helicopters and fire engines, and a few burnt out parked cars.

"As things stand, I think we still have a lot of work to do," to put out the fire, the head of Rome's firefighters, Adriano De Acutis, told RAI public

television. RAI's broadcasting centre was evacuated, as well as a space observatory and six residential buildings, officials said. There were no reported injuries. RAI was also forced to cancel an afternoon live show. "We are evacuating the studio," one of the show's presenters, Nunzia De Girolamo, said in an Instagram video. "The fire in Monte Mario is serious, we will see you tomorrow," she added.

In a daily bulletin published earlier on Wednesday, the regional office of the civil protection had warned of high risk of fires in Rome due to extreme temperatures, which in the afternoon were higher than 35 degrees Celsius (95°F).



Nigerian security detain a demonstrator, during a protest against bad governance and economic hardship in Abuja, Nigeria.

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.



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

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.



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

Govt negotiators have no answer to our questions: Hafiz

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Nacem has said that the government negotiators have no answer to our questions. Talking to media Hafiz Nacem 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 wants 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 Nacem 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."

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.

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.



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

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

Independent Report 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 con-

demnation 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, fataha 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 died 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: A delegation from Al-Hijra Education System meeting with Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi.

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

Independent Report 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.

Special status of IOJK; 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 (IOJK).

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.



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

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 Amir 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.