

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing concluding ceremony of horse riding gala held in connection Jashn-e-Azadi

Independence Day celebrations continue all over Balochistan: We would get rid of elements conspiring to weaken country, create differences between youth & state, Sarfraz Bugti

Chief Minister says social media is good thing, but it's negative use being made; emphasizes upon ensuring correct use of social media to prevent conspiracies

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that his government would eliminate the conspiracies being made to weaken the state. We would also get rid of the elements conspiring to create differences among the state and youth of province. The social media is a good thing, but it's negative use is being made.

The world adopted social media tool by putting the moral values on strong lines. But the social media tool was used badly in per-

spective of Balochistan. These views were expressed by the Chief Minister while addressing the closing ceremony of All Balochistan Shooting Championship here on Monday.

The Chief Minister maintained that the celebrations of Independence Day are being held wholeheartedly all over the province.

He said that Balochistan is hit by the enemy forces, which want to weaken the country.

He regretfully pointed out that a particular group is trying to weaken the state through propaganda

and violence. He expressed the need to ensure correct use of social media to prevent the conspiracies.

The Chief Minister expressed the resolve that the provincial government would eliminate all such elements and conspiracies which are trying to weaken the state.

Besides, we would also eliminate such elements which are creating differences between the state and youth through social media or while sitting on the mountains.

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Welfare of Balochistan's people top priority of govt, says PM

Shehbaz Sharif pledges support for youth to transform Pakistan into a developed nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday held a meeting with a delegation led by President National Party Dr Abdul Malik Baloch and discussed the overall political situation in Balochistan province.

Senator Jan Muhammad Jamali and member National Assembly Pullain Baloch were part of the delegation.

During the meeting, the prime minister said welfare

and well being of the people of Balochistan was the top priority of the government, adding steps were being taken to provide equal opportunities of employment to youth of Balochistan.

Dr Abdul Malik Baloch thanked the prime minister for solarization of agriculture tubewells in Balochistan.

He said the solarization of agriculture tubewells ful-

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Only solution to resolve public issues at their doorstep lies in empowering LB institutions, states Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the solution to the public issues at their doorstep and decreasing the dependence of people of remote and backward areas on the federal and provincial governments lies in making the local bodies institutions empowered.

The Governor said that the local bodies representatives are well aware of the daily hardships facing the general public and they are in the best position to understand their needs.

He also stressed the need to strengthen the third tier of the government i.e., local government.

The Governor was speaking to the former

Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Dr. Ishrat Hussain who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the matters were discussed about concept of the shared government, constitutional protection of the local governments, quick results of the governance and sustainable development. Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that it is necessary to strengthen the third tier of government for promotion of comprehensive planning and shared government.

He said that it is decided that the local government plays an important role in providing solution to the issues at the doorstep of citizens.

Ex-ISI chief Faiz Hamid taken into custody by military: ISPR

Process of "Field General Court Martial" initiated against former spy master, says military's media wing; Arrest made on allegations levelled by housing society CEO; Detailed court of inquiry undertaken by army to probe allegations

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): In an unprecedented move, the country's former spymaster, Lt-Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed, was detained by military authorities and court martial proceedings have been initiated against him on charges of corruption, misuse of authority and violating the Pakistan Army Act.

"Complying with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain correctness of complaints in Top City case made



against Lt-Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed. Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Hameed, under provisions of Pakistan Army Act," read a statement issued by military's media

wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday.

"In addition, multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post retirement have also been established. The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Gen Faiz has been taken into military custody," the statement added.

Given the powerful position of head of ISI, it is seen as unusual that the former spymaster was not only arrested but court mar-

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance Secretariat, at the International Youth Day ceremony.

Preparations in full swing to celebrate I. Day

ISLAMABAD (Online): As the Independence Day is approaching closer, a large number of stalls displaying national flags, bunting, flag-coloured dresses and other accessories have been set up at markets and streets to attract buyers across the country.

Meanwhile, a country-wide tree plantation drive "Plant for Pakistan Campaign" is also under way to promote plantation to reduce pollution. Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television are broadcasting special transmission to highlight the services and sacrifices of heroes of Pakistan Movement.

CM assures to provide protection to foreign investors in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated Balochistan is the suitable province for investment and assured that complete protection would be provided to the foreign investors in the province.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the representative delegation of Shanghai ADM International Development Trading Company Limited who called on him here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, matters about private Chinese investors were discussed.

The members of delegation briefed about the suggestions regarding investment in the province. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Chief Minister said that the completion of CPEC projects would cast positive impacts on the national economy.

He also said that the trade and business activities would also be flourished with the foreign investment.

He said that the opportunities of livelihood and industrial development would also be made available with the CPEC investment in the province.

While the process of social development would also be expedited with completion of the CPEC projects.

He assured full cooperation to the foreign investors in the province.

In this regard, the Balochistan Board of Investment would provide every assistance, he added.

Another hand grenade blast leaves seven injured in Pashtoonabad Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: At least seven persons were injured in a hand grenade explosion occurred near Pashtoonabad area on Monday afternoon.

The police sources said that the hand grenade blast occurred near Chalo bawri chowk that left seven persons injured.

The injured were shifted to the Trauma Center of Provincial Sandeman Hospital for treatment. The reports suggested that unknown persons riding on a motorbike hurled the hand grenade which went

off with the big bang. As a result of which, seven passers-by sustained injuries.

The assailants fled from the scene. No arrest could be made till our going to the press. However, investigations are continued, the police said.

It may be mentioned here that at least five persons including three personnel of law enforcement agencies were injured in two different blasts occurred on Sariab road and in Gwalmandi police station on Saturday night.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Department of Social Welfare, Haji Wali Mohammad Noorzai addresses to media persons during press conference, in Quetta.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing a ceremony in connection with Minorities' Day in Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan committed to protection of minorities' rights, ensure equal opportunities: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reiterated that Pakistan was committed to protection of the rights of minorities and provision of equal opportunities to them to excel in every walk of life as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

Addressing a ceremony to mark the celebrations of Minorities' Day at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said, "Under the Constitution and under the onus of oath my office, I have the duty to protect all rights of the minorities and provide all kind of facilitation".

He said that the objective behind the observance of Minorities' Day at the official level was to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by the members of different communities living in Pakistan.

The president further stressed upon enhancement of jobs opportunities for the minorities in different government's departments on merit basis besides, increasing the existing jobs quota.

Lauding the role of the minorities in the national progress and prosperity, he said that they were the equal citizens of Pakistan

and future builders of the nation.

Stressing upon the significance of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision, the president said they were required to fully emulate his message aimed at fostering unity, brotherhood and religious tolerance in society.

The event arranged by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was attended by members of parliament, ulema, religious leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, media and representa-

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Imran Khan warns of protests if attempts made to extend CJP Isa's term

RAWALPINDI (INP): Founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, has warned of potential protests if the government disregards decisions concerning reserved seats and attempts to extend the Chief Justice's term.

During an informal discussion with journalists in Adiala Jail, Khan expressed his discontent with the current political climate, comparing Pakistan's situation to that of Bangladesh under Sheikh Hasina.

"Our conditions are worse than Bangladesh's," Khan claimed.

Describing the conditions, the PTI's supreme noted that Hasina Wajid had appointed her own Army Chief, Chief Justice, and police chiefs while sidelining opposition parties.

He drew parallels between these events and Pakistan, stating "These events have occurred and are occurring in Pakistan as well."

In a critique of the government's handling of the 9 May incidents, Khan accused the authorities of orchestrating a crackdown on PTI under false pretenses.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari exchanges views with US Ambassador, Donald Blome during meeting held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Defence Minister visits Naval Headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday visited Naval Headquarters (NHQ) here and called-on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf. During the meeting, matters about the Regional Maritime Security milieu and operational readiness of the Pakistan Navy were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The naval chief apprised the minister on maritime challenges and the Pakistan Navy's preparedness to meet them. The minister was also briefed on the Pakistan Navy's future capability enhancement and modernization plans.

The minister took keen interest in details of recent acquisitions of state-of-the-art platforms and equipment which will further strengthen the seaward defence of the country. The minister also acknowledged the importance of the Pakistan Navy in safeguarding the maritime interests of the country.

He assured that his ministry would make all efforts to meet the requirements of the Pakistan Navy despite the prevailing economic constraints.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Chief Executive Officer Shanghai International Trading Yasin Bhambhani meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

LHC decision annulled: SC declares 3 PML-N candidates successful in NA constituencies

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while nullifying Lahore High Court (LHC) decision pertaining to National Assembly (NA) constituencies including NA-79, NA-81 and NA-154 has declared PML-N candidates successful.

SC while accepting appeal pleas of PML-N leaders restored Election Commission (EC) decision.

SC announced decision with 2-1 majority on Monday.

It has been said in majority decision EC is a constitutional institution which deserves respect. Judges of LHC gave unnecessary remarks about head of EC and its members. LHC decision cannot be maintained.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Chief

Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa had reserved decision on appeal pleas.

Justice Aqeel Abbasi differed with the decision.

It is pertinent to mention here that Abdul Rehman Kanju, Azhar Qayyum Nehra and Zulfikar Ahmed from PML-N had resorted to SC against LHC decision.

Objections were raised in NA 154 Lodhran, NA 81 Gujranwala and NA 79 Gujranwala in February election.

EC had accepted pleas of PML-N candidates. EC had issued notification regarding success of 3 candidates of PML-N.

Mountaineer Murad Sadpara passes away

ISLAMABAD (INP): One of the top climbers of the country, Murad Sadpara, who went missing after being wounded in the Broad Peak a day ago, passed away on Monday.

The vice president of Alpine club, Ayaz Shigri confirmed the news of Sadpara's death.

Sadpara was injured in his way back from the summit of Broad Peak which is 8,047 metres in height.

The Pakistan Army helicopter helped four climbers reach the base camp where they were also trying to retrieve Sadpara's dead body.

It must be noted that Sadpara had climbed four peaks including the K-2. He was spearheading the 'K-2 Clean-up Expedition' and was involved in retrieving Hassan Shigri's dead body last year.

Arshad Nadeem pledges to keep shinning, thanks nation for unwavering support

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's gold medal winner Arshad Nadeem, fresh from his triumphant return from the Paris Olympics Monday has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the nation, his family, and his fans for their unwavering support and love where he reiterated his commitment to continue working hard and making country proud.

In his exclusive Interview with a private news channel, Arshad acknowledged that his success has brought a sense of responsibility, saying, "I feel a deep sense of responsibility to continue making Pakistan proud. I want to inspire the next generation of athletes to work hard and chase their dreams."

When asked about his future plans, Arshad revealed that he is already setting his sights on the next Olympics. "I am focused on continuing my training and improving my performance. I want to win more medals for Pakistan and make my country proud again and again."

Responding a query, Nadeem said that he sets a new Olympic record of 92.97m to win the men's

javelin throw gold at the Paris Olympics, adding, India's Neeraj Chopra won silver whereas Grenada's Anderson Peters won bronze.

"Neeraj and I are good friends, but when we stepped onto the javelin throw field, our friendship took a backseat," Arshad Nadeem said with a smile. "We were no longer just friends, but rivals representing our respective countries. We both knew that was at stake our country's respect and pride," he said.

"Our friendship remains strong, but when it comes to representing our countries, we give it our all," he added.

To another question, Arshad Nadeem also took the opportunity to express his gratitude to WAPDA (Water and Power Development Authority) for their unwavering support.

"I am not just thankful to WAPDA for providing me with a job and facilities, but also for supporting other national heroes like me," he said. "WAPDA has been a constant source of encouragement and support, allowing us to focus on our training and compe-

ditions without worrying about our livelihood. Their contribution to the development of sports in Pakistan is immense, and I am proud to be associated with them," he mentioned.

Arshad Nadeem's eyes also lit up with gratitude as he spoke about his mother's encouragement and family support.

"My mother has been my biggest inspiration and strength," he said, adding, she always encouraged me to pursue my passion for javelin throw, even when I faced setbacks and injuries. Her unwavering belief in me and my abilities kept me going, and I am forever grateful to her."

Arshad also praised his family's support, saying, "My family has been my rock throughout my journey. They have made countless sacrifices to help me achieve my dreams, and I am thankful to each and every one of them, he added.

Arshad Nadeem, basking in the glory of his historic gold medal win, also used the opportunity to urge the government to promote athletes' talent and provide more facilities.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti giving away prizes among students participated in horse riding gala held in connection Jashn-e-Azadi

Reports about removing Governor Tessori in Sindh baseless: Dar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday ruled out the reports regarding removal of Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori.

Talking to a private TV channel here, he termed the reports about replacing Tessori as baseless and out of context.

Ishaq Dar was of the view that Bashir Memon was not being appointed as the new governor of the province.

Final decision over Sindh's governor will be

taken in next few days, he added.

Earlier, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), a key ally of PML-N at the Centre, threatened to quit the ruling coalition if the PML-N failed to fulfill its 'promises' made during the power sharing agreement.

Senior MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar talking to media had warned ruling PML-N of severe consequences if Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori was removed from his office.

WAPDA all set for river diversion in a few days

LAHORE (APP): WAPDA is all set for diversion of Swat River at Mohmand Dam Hydro-power Project, as the diversion tunnels have been completed. The project team is likely to divert River Swat after completion of the river-closure-dyke in a few days. Despite high flow season full effort is being made to achieve this significant milestone.

With this significant development in the offing coupled with other multiple construction activities going on at the project, Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani visited Mohmand Dam Hydropower Project and reviewed construction progress on the project.

He had a detailed visit of the various work fronts which included diversion

tunnels' outlets and inlets, powerhouse, spillway and power intake to inspect the construction activities, the WAPDA spokesman told media here Monday.

GM/PD Mohmand Dam Project with his team and representatives of the Consultants and Contractors briefed the Chairman on progress of each work front.

The Chairman was briefed that concrete lining of diversion tunnel 3/1 has been completed; its inlet structure is also ready for river diversion, while excavation and rock support of the powerhouse and power intake, and concreting at the spillway are also progressing at a faster pace. He was further briefed that the dam fill material has also been sent to China as per the schedule for large scale tri-axial testing.

The Chairman also presided over a progress review meeting at the project office with team WAPDA, the Consultants and the Contractors. The river diversion plan, quarries development plan and construction schedule of the main dam were discussed in detail during the meeting. The Chairman directed the Consultants and the Contractors to ensure that quality of work is in accordance with the specifications.



ISLAMABAD: H.E Henny Fokel De Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands called on Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

Welfare of Balochistan's...

Continued from page 1

He expressed his vision of equipping talented youth with modern education, Information Technology, and Artificial Intelligence to spark a revolution in the country, similar to the progress seen in China. He highlighted his previous efforts in providing modern facilities to students at Danish Schools.

Shehbaz Sharif also lamented that, despite having abundant resources and 77 years of independence, the country remains heavily burdened by debt. He noted that extreme poverty prevents many from affording basic needs, such as arranging marriages for their daughters, while the country's elite class enjoys significant privileges.

At the beginning of the event, the prime minister officially launched several key initiatives, including the Commonwealth Youth Alliance Secretariat in Islamabad, the Digital Learning Portal, the PM Green Youth Movement, and the AI for Youth Programme, which offers Intel-certified skills to young people. Other initiatives included Smart Youth, Smart Pakistan, and the distribution of one million tablets and mobile phones to high-achieving intermediate students.

He also announced the registration of the National Volunteer Corps. After, the Prime Minister presented awards to successful young entrepreneurs.

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He said that he would not hesitate from shedding our blood while sticking to what decision had been made by our elders about joining Pakistan.

Earlier, while referring the Shooting Championship, Chief Minister said that the shooting has been part of the Pashtun, Baloch and local tribes of the province, so the need was felt to revive the game.

About the Independence Day, the Chief Minister said that the lively nations celebrate their national Independence Day with enthusiasm. So, the celebrations are continued all over the province.

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Ex-ISI chief Faiz Hamid...

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proceedings have been initiated against him.

The charges against Gen Faiz date back to May 2017 when he was DG-C in the ISI. In April, the army constituted a high-level inquiry committee headed by a major general to look into the allegations against Gen Faiz.

The inquiry was ordered in pursuant to the orders of the Supreme Court and in the light of the directives of the Ministry of Defence. This was the first formal inquiry ordered against Gen Faiz, who resigned in November 2022 four months before his retirement date. Gen Faiz served as DG C in the ISI and later headed the spy agency. His name surfaced in many controversies including the Faizabad Dharna case. Three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif named him and Gen Bajwa as main characters behind his removal through a Supreme Court decision.

Charges against Faiz On November 8, 2023, Moez Ahmed Khan, the owner of Top City, filed a petition in the Supreme Court in which he accused Gen Faiz for misusing his authority.

The petition stated that on May 12, 2017, on the behest of Gen Faiz, ISI officials raided the Top City office and his house. During the raid, valuables, including gold, diamonds and money, were seized from the house by ISI officials, the petitioner alleged.

The petition also stated that Sardar Najaf, the brother of Gen Faiz, also contacted him to resolve the issue later.

The petition also claimed that Gen Faiz later personally met him to resolve the issue, in which he assured that some of the items which had been taken away by the ISI officials during the raid would be returned. However, 400 tolas of gold and cash will not be returned to him.

The petition also alleged that the ISI officials extorted Rs4 crore cash from them.

Considering the sensitivity of the matter and in view of these serious allegations, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, which included Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faiz Isa, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Aminuddin, heard the case.

The Supreme Court observed this was a very serious matter and the serious nature of allegations may damage the image of the entire institution, therefore the matter cannot be ignored. The Supreme Court asked the attorney general to look into the matter and discuss with the relevant authorities.

The Attorney General for Pakistan assured the Supreme Judiciary that full cooperation will be given to the matter and action will be taken according to law.

Following the direction, the army constituted the inquiry committee to look into the matter.

Pakistan committed

Continued from page 1

tatives from different minorities.

Comparing the current situation in India, the president said "Modi's India is not a safe haven for the minorities," and lauded Quaid's farsightedness and leadership who had realized the future fate of minorities in India.

President Zardari said the people of Pakistan always felt the pains of sufferings of humanity and for those living lowly in society and accorded due respect and space to all the minorities living here because such a message of human consideration had been embedded in their religion and culture.

He also recited a verse of famous Sindh poet, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, in this regard to emphasize his point of view.

While recollecting the events of Pakistan Movement, he said that his father in his youth took active part for the creation of Pakistan.

President Zardari referring to the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza, said that atrocious and indiscriminate strikes were targeting all Palestinians and people from different faiths.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema is presenting souvenir to United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Mohammad Yahya.

TENDER NOTICE

Administrator Municipal Committee Buleda invited sealed percentage rates to tender based on Composite Schedule Rates 2023 GoB ended up to date from PEC approved interested contractors/firms. Earnest Money 2%, Tender Fee 2000/- for each work below. The mentioned below schemes are allocated in grants in aid for Local Councils.

S.No	Name of scheme	Cost
1	Purchase and Supply of Spray machine for MC Buleda TSE-242507506731	1,659,000
2	Purchase and Supply of Dustbin Container for MC Buleda TSE-242507506771	4,305,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: No Prior Experience required. No requirement of Turnover. Presence in Active Tax Payer list. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of a Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned 2,000 PKR Account Title Municipal Committee Buleda 4044847467 Main Branch NBP Turbat Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 26 August, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 26 August, 2024 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on the same day at the office of the undersigned at 12:00 PM Address: Office of the Municipal Committee Buleda District Kech

Mobile no: 03238101602
Email: mohammadiqbalsachief@gmail.com

CHIEF OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BULEDA

AB No.170/12-08-2024

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 Road C&W PP&H Department District Mastung invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and Bid Security 2% for each work.

S.No	Name of Work's	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BLACK TOP ROAD AT KILLI MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN DASHT LENGTH 1.20 KM (PSDP No.1268/22024.0471) TSE-242508516613	34,663,000
2	Rehabilitation of Road at Main Bazar Shengi Road, Al-Falah Road, Masjid Road to Major Chowk, Quetta Road and Tehsil Roads District Mastung PSDP No.1634/Z2023.0371 TSE-242508516543	20,280,000
3	RECARPETING OF ROAD & CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINS AT KILLI KAREZ NOOR MUHAMMAD PRINGABAD DISTRICT MASTUNG LENGTH 1.40 KM PSDP No. 1633. Z2023.0370 TSE-242508516483	19,808,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents Bidding Procedure: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding (TSE-242508516613, TSE-242508516543, TSE-242508516483) Tender Documents: The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.gob.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of prescribed tender fee signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee. Last Date and Time of Bid Submission 28 August, 2024 at 10:00 AM and will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM Address: Office of the Executive Engineer Roads District Mastung, CW PP&H Department Phone no: 0819202374 Email: hammatg2005@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROADS) C&W PP&H DEPTT. DISTRICT CHAMAN.

PRQ No.526/12-08-2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer-Roads, C&W, District Chaman, intends to carry out the following Development Works for the year 2024-25 and invites sealed tenders on composite schedule of rates 2023 GoB for the PEC Registered Government Contractors. Earnest Money 2% and completion period 24 Months for each work

S.No	Name of work.	E/Cost	T/fee
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BLACK TOP ROAD 3 KM KILLI GULARDOZAI DISTRICT CHAMAN. PSDP No. 926 (2024-25) TSE-242508516153	28575698	1000
2	CONSTRUCTION OF BLACK TOP ROAD AND DRAINS AT BY PASS CHAMAN. PSDP No. 924 (2024-25) TSE-242508516283	35242067	1000
3	CONSTRUCTION OF 2 No BOX CULVERTS KILLI HAJI HABIB KHAN & KILLI HAJI MASOOM KHAN CHAMAN. PSDP No. 711 (2024-25) TSE-242508516233	19048493	1000
4	CONSTRUCTION OF BLACK TOP ROAD AT KILLI HAJI ZAINUDDIN GULDAR BAGHICHA CHAMAN (4.00 KM). PSDP No. 282 (2024-25) TSE-242508516333	80977572	1500

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with the BPPRA rules 2014 and Amended 2019. ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACTORS: (i) Valid registration certificate of PEC in the relevant category and having following Specialization Codes: (ii) CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), CE01-(i) (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure), (iii) Valid registration certificates from Income Tax Authority (NTN) and Baluchistan Revenue Authority (BRA), (iv) The firm/ Contractor either blacklisted nor involved in any Litigation/ Arbitration (Attach all certificates and the affidavit (on non-judicial stamp paper) of not blacklisting) nor involved in any litigation/ arbitration) (v) Authorized Representative's will only be allowed, having a specific Authorization letter for the Scheme mentioned above. (The Authorization letter/ deed must be provided on Non- Judicial Stamp Paper Valuing Rs. 100, duly attested by first class Magistrate). (vi) Rate analysis of offered rates. (vii) Detailed Technical Evaluation Criteria is mentioned in the Bidding Documents. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Bids are invited on Single stage two envelop procedure (Technical & Financial Proposals). Financial Proposals of bids found Non-responsive by the procurement committee shall be returned un-opened to the respective bidders. The interested Contractors /Firms are required to provide Technical Proposal comprising information regarding Experience, Personnel Capabilities, Financial Status, Equipment Capabilities and other relevant information as explained in the Bid Soliciting Documents (one original + one copy) in sealed envelope & the Financial Proposal in separate envelope, clearly labeled each accordingly. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS ISSUANCE: The tender documents shall be obtained till 18th July 2024, from the office of the undersigned on production of green challan (as bidding documents fee) to be deposited in the head of account C-02716 in the National Bank of Pakistan. The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.gob.pk. SUBMISSION OF BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: The last date & time for submission of tender documents will be 27/08/2024 at 11.00 A.M. Only the Bid (Technical Proposals) will be opened on the same date 27/08/2024 in the office of undersigned at 12.00PM, before procurement committee and in the presence of Contractors/ Firms or their authorized representatives. Date and time for opening of (Financial) Bids will be communicated to only the shortlisted contractors after evaluation of the technical bids accordingly. BID SECURITY: Bid Security of 2% of estimated cost in the shape of call deposit from any scheduled bank as mentioned against the contract shall be enclosed with the bid (Technical Proposal). The Competent Authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids at any time prior to acceptance of a bid, due to cogent reason. Any further information regarding the bid can be obtained from Office of the Undersigned on any working day. The office of the Executive Engineer Roads C&W PP&H Department, District Chaman. Tel#03336196102

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROADS) C&W PP&H DEPTT. DISTRICT CHAMAN.

PRQ No.522/12-08-2024

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 Quetta invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and Bid Security 2% for each work.

S.No	Name of Work's	E/Cost
1	REHABILITATION OF WORK PROTECTION WALL ARBAB TOWN TOR NASAR AIRPORT ROAD QUETTA. TSE-242508517433	48,000,000
2	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL AT KILLI KHANE ZAIAGHBERG QUETTA. TSE-242508517453	40,000,000

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 Turn over of at least 33,600,000 PKR Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(ii) (Irrigation & Flood Control Systems). 2 No's Projects of similar nature (i.e Protection wall/Bund) Completed in Last 5 Years Minimum value of each project is 25.00 Million. 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. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 28 August, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 28 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 Quetta

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION QUETTA

PRQ No.515/12-08-2024

Shehbaz Sharif provided various opportunities to empower Youth: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Program (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan said on Monday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has provided youth with many opportunities, resources, and support.

Talking to the media at the Youth Festival organised to celebrate International Youth Day at Pak China Friendship Center, he said the government under the dynamic leadership of the prime minister was taking various initiatives to highlight the potential and provide more employment and other opportunities to the youth.

He stated, "On this International Youth Day, we stand with the global community in celebrating the notable achievements of

our youth." Mashhood affirmed PMYP's commitment to creating an environment where youth can thrive, innovate, and lead.

The Chairman highlighted several existing and upcoming initiatives under the PMYP including, PM Skill Development Programs (NAVTTTC), PM Youth Laptop Scheme, Pakistan Education Endowment Fund, Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme, PM Youth Internship Program, National Innovation Award, setting up of the PM National Youth Council, PM National Volunteer Corps, PM Digital Youth Hub, PM Talent Hunt, Youth Sports League, PM Sports Academies, Green Energy Solarization and PM Green Youth Movement to empower the

future generations. He said that PMYP core components were structured around the "4E's": Education, Employment, Engagement, and Environment and these four pillars were the focus of the ongoing youth-focused initiatives across the country.

"Let us work together to ensure that the digital pathways they pursue today lead to a more prosperous and sustainable future for all", he added.

Rana Mashhood affirmed his commitment that PMYP through various programs, initiatives, and capacity-building trainings was equipping the younger generation with the tools and knowledge required to overcome contemporary challenges and contribute to the development goals.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing the inaugural session of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development on "Gender Empowerment and Green Economy".

NA speaker, Belarusian envoy discuss bilateral ties, parliamentary cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly (NA) Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday said Pakistan and Belarus enjoy cordial relationship based on a shared commitment to global peace and sustainable development.

It is crucial to enhance political, cultural, economic, and people-to-people connections between the two countries for the mutual benefit of the people on both sides, he remarked, during a meeting with the Belarusian Envoy

to Pakistan, Andrei Metelitsa, who called on him here at the Parliament.

The two sides discussed a wide range of regional and global developments. They underscored the significance of continuous collaboration to maintain a positive trajectory in bilateral relations and explore new areas of engagement.

Discussing parliamentary cooperation, the speaker emphasized regular interaction between parliaments, mainly through

parliamentary friendship groups and the exchange of parliamentary delegations, in order to share and learn from each other's experiences.

The ambassador expressed gratitude to the speaker for his kind remarks and reiterated that Belarus views Pakistan as an important regional stakeholder. He expressed his desire to further strengthen linkages in all areas of mutual interest, in addition to fostering parliamentary and cultural exchanges.

President, PM vow to foster supportive environment for youth

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have vowed to foster supportive environment for youth.

In their messages on International Youth Day, they said the youth of Pakistan are the most valuable asset as they are the dreamers and leaders of tomorrow. The President said it is Government's duty to provide them with the opportunities and resources they need to fulfill their potential and build a prosperous and progressive Pakistan.

Asif Ali Zardari said the Prime Minister's Youth Programme stands as a testament to government's commitment to empowering youth.

He said as President, he is proud of the accom-

plishments of our young people. He urged every young Pakistani to seize the opportunities available to them, to dream big, and to work tirelessly for the betterment of the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his message, said Pakistan's over sixty percent of population is under the age of thirty. Shehbaz Sharif said young people can become agent for positive change in their communities through education, entrepreneurship and social activism.

The Prime Minister said the Youth Loan and Agricultural Scheme, which was introduced in 2013, is yielding significant results and approximately one hundred eighty-six billion rupees have been distributed to over two hundred and eighty thousand young entrepreneurs.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Belarus Mr. Andrei Metelitsa called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Anjuman Hilal e Ahmar Pakistan, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari along with others cutting cake on occasion of International Youth Day.

BISP, PSDF discuss progress on skill training programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Punjab Skill Development Fund (PSDF) held an important meeting at BISP Headquarters to discuss the progress of the BISP Skill Training Programme.

The meeting was attended by Chairperson of BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid, Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad and CEO of PSDF, Ahmed Khan.

The meeting focused on the progress of the Skill Training Programme, which aims to provide skill development opportunities to BISP beneficiaries and their family members across vari-

ous trades. Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of offering top-quality training courses that are recognized internationally.

She pointed out that such training could help beneficiaries find jobs abroad, improving their economic situation and allowing them to contribute to the country's economy.

She also mentioned the increasing need for skilled workers in areas like hospitality management, home care, and receptionist roles. She stressed that trainees should learn basic work ethics and hygiene practices.

Ayaz expresses sorrow over tragic death Murad Sadpara

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic death of renowned mountaineer Muhammad Murad Sadpara.

In his message of condolence, the Speaker paid tribute to Muhammad Murad Sadpara's remarkable achievements in mountaineering, highlighting that he had successfully scaled several of the world's highest peaks, including K2, during his illustrious career.

"The services and contributions of Muhammad Murad Sadpara will always be remembered," said Ayaz Sadiq, acknowledging the late mountaineer's dedication and bravery.

The speaker also extended heartfelt condolences to the family of Muhammad Murad Sadpara, expressing solidarity with them in their time of grief. "I share the sorrow and pain of Muhammad Murad Sadpara's family," he said.

AIOU sets August 20 deadline for MS, MPhil, PhD admissions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has set August 20 as the deadline for admissions in MS, MPhil, and PhD programs.

The forms, prospectuses, and other details are available on the university's website at www.aiou.edu.pk however, applications can only be submitted online, said a press release on Monday.

The entrance tests will be held from August 22 to 24.

According to the schedule, the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies will conduct its entrance test on August 22, the Faculty of Sciences on August 23, and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on August 24.

The candidates who apply by August 20 are advised to arrive at the university on the specified dates and times for the entrance test, with participation granted based on eligibility.

It is also noted that admissions for Matric, FA, and I.Com programs will continue until September 5.

Gilani calls upon youth to equip themselves with skills, knowledge

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousef Raza Gilani Monday called upon the youth to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge necessary to create a sustainable future.

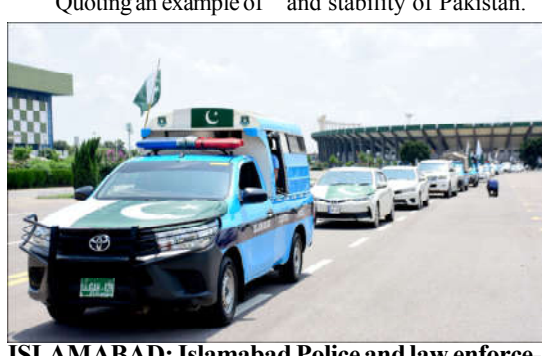
In his message on International Youth Day, he extended heartfelt greetings to the vibrant and dynamic youth of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan is a country blessed with talent and potential.

Quoting an example of

the recent record-breaking success Arshad Nadeem brought to the country, he said, "Young blood with its valour and determination can achieve great things and make the nation proud."

He added that youth are the real agents of change, and their role is crucial for the country's progress and prosperity.

The chairman said that youth participation in the democratic process is vital for the continued growth and stability of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police and law enforcement agencies conducting a flag march in connection with Independence Day security. Flag march started from the sports complex and passed through different areas of the city and ended back at the sports complex in the Federal Capital.

NDMA's Hydrological Outlook low to medium level floods in AJK Punjab & KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Monday issued its Hydrological Outlook of rivers and water reservoirs citing low to medium level floods in vulnerable districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab province.

According to Hydrological outlook of rivers and water reservoirs, low Level flows were expected in catchment of Mangla Dam (Azad Jammu & Kashmir Rivers). Low to Medium

level floods expected in River Chenab at Marala, Khanki and Qadirabad along with Nullahs and Streams of Pir Panjal Range (North-eastern Punjab) Medium Level expected in River Kabul and its tributaries (Attock, Khairabad, Nowshera, Adezai Bridge). Medium Level flows are expected in River Indus at Kalabagh and Chashma along with Taunsa and Guddu Barrages. Low to Medium Flows are expected in Hill torrents of DG Khan division as well as Zhob, Sibi and Kalat divisions.

CDA Chairman discusses master plan for Jinnah Medical Complex

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Monday presided over a meeting to discuss the construction of the Jinnah Medical Complex, a state-of-the-art healthcare facility. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of National Health Services and other relevant officials.

The Jinnah Medical Complex, spread over 600 kanals, will be a self-sustaining project, with a commercial center nearby to cover expenses. The complex will also incorporate eco-friendly features, including tree plantation on vacant land, to earn carbon credits.

During the meeting, the design and master plan of the complex were discussed in detail, with a focus on obtaining financial and technical advisory services. The chairman announced plans to engage national and international consultants to ensure the project's success.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan talking to media during the Youth Festival organized to celebrate International Youth Day 2024 at Pak China Friendship Center.

Bushra Bibi petition against her mistreatment in jail sent to Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sent to superintendent Adiala jail, the petition from Bushra Bibi against her mistreatment in jail.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked the objection raised by the office is based on mala fide intent. The accused is arrested from Islamabad in NAB case. Adiala jail is jail of Islamabad only to the extent of prisoners of Islamabad. Office is warned not to raise such objections in future.

The second objection is petition cannot be filed in IHC for initiating any proceedings against Adiala jail authorities.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked the objection raised by the office is based on mala fide intent. The accused is arrested from Islamabad in NAB case. Adiala jail is jail of Islamabad only to the extent of prisoners of Islamabad. Office is warned not to raise such objections in future.

Justice Miangul Hassan of IHC took up the case for hearing Monday.

The counsel for the petitioner said registrar office raised objections over the petition of Bushra Bibi. First objection was Superintendent Adiala jail is subordinate to Punjab government.

Independence Day celebrations: Art exhibition "Hues of Pakistan" opens at PNCA

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Art exhibition "Hues of Pakistan" featuring a vibrant showcase of creativity in connection with the celebrations of Pakistan's Independence Day, opened at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Monday. This exhibition highlighted the rich cultural heritage and artistic talents of our nation's youth. The event was inaugurated by Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division, Hasan Nasir Jamy.

In his remarks, Jamy stated, "It is with great honor that I inaugurate the

exhibition, "Hues of Pakistan; Art Competition and Exhibition for the Youth," organized in connection with the Independence Day of Pakistan by PNCA".

This significant occasion offers us a unique opportunity to recognize and celebrate our youth's remarkable creativity, while also honoring our beloved nation's rich cultural and historical heritage.

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the young participants for their successful contributions to this exhibition. It is my sincere hope that this event

serves as a memorable milestone in their artistic journey," he said.

Director of Visual Arts Division (VAD) at PNCA, Ms. Mariam Ahmed also shared her thoughts, "We had an overwhelming response for this art competition this year, and we received more than 200 artworks from all over Pakistan that are included in this exhibition. The top ten winners of the art competition were selected by a panel of jury members, and the Chief Guest distributed shields and certificates among the winners."

Naqvi extends heartfelt message on Intl Youth Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi, extended heartfelt tributes to Pakistan's youth, highlighting their immense potential and contributions to the nation, on the occasion of International Youth Day.

He paid special homage to Arshad Nadeem, the Olympic champion in the javelin throw competition, who has become a symbol of hope and inspiration for the country's younger generation.

"Arshad Nadeem, by winning the gold medal, has proven that Pakistani youth are not only hardworking but also fully

capable of achieving greatness," stated Naqvi.

He emphasized that Nadeem's extraordinary performance at the Paris Olympics has infused new energy and enthusiasm among the youth, encouraging them to strive for excellence in all spheres of life.

Naqvi underlined the crucial role of youth in shaping the future of Pakistan. "Youth are the greatest strength of Pakistan, and they possess the full potential to change the destiny of our nation. The talents bestowed upon our youth by God have brightened the name of Pakistan across every field," he remarked.

Pak Institute of Fashion Design to establish sub-campus in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design (PIFD) announced to establish its sub-campus in Karachi, as directed by the Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

This new sub-campus will provide students with access to world-class education in fashion design, technology, and management, said a press release on Monday. The campus will offer a range of associate and undergraduate degrees designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the fashion industry. The establishment of the sub-campus is a significant milestone in PIFD's expansion plans after GB and demonstrates the government's commitment to promoting education.



ISLAMABAD: An illuminated view of the OGDCL building decorated with colorful lights in connection with the Independence Day celebration.

National Minorities Day event held at NUML

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), in collaboration with the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Monday held an event to commemorate National Minorities Day 2024.

The event focused on promoting inclusion for religious minorities in Pakistan's education system, bringing together key stakeholders for dialogue and awareness.

Maham Afridi, Programme Officer at NCRC, opened the event by underscoring the importance of National Minorities Day, reflecting on Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah's 1947 address advocating equal rights for all Pakistani.

Khalid Naeem, Member ICT at NCRC, welcomed the guests, setting the stage for a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Riaz Ahmed Saeed.

The panel featured insights from Prof. Dr. M. Akram, Mr. Pirbhu Lal Satyani, Prof. Dr. A. H. Nayar, Ms. Romana Bashir, and Prof. Dr. Alvi. Key topics included disparities in educational access for minority students and the need for legislative reforms to foster interfaith harmony.

NUML student Kashish Satyani shared her experiences as a representative of the Hindu community, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for religious minorities in education.

NUML student Kashish Satyani shared her experiences as a representative of the Hindu community, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for religious minorities in education.



Senator Abdul Qudus Bizenjo, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Aviation presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Tuesday August 13, 2024

The court's power

The rumbling within the Supreme Court grows louder. In an order pertaining to held-up pension payments by the National Bank of Pakistan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has underlined that implementing the apex court's verdicts is not 'optional'.

"To disregard or delay the implementation of [the Supreme Court's] verdicts is to challenge the very framework of our legal system," he has remarked in the order, noting that when the apex court issues a verdict, it does so as the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution. He has warned that non-compliance sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to executive overreach.

Justice Shah's observations, also reflected in his remarks a day later at a conference, have stirred speculation over how proceedings in the reserved seats case may unfold. It may be recalled that the government recently enacted legislation designed to frustrate the Supreme Court's order in the case, while its representatives and allies have taken turns to attack both the judgement and the eight judges behind it.

"The power to hold individuals or entities in contempt for failing to comply with a court order is fundamental to the judiciary's ability to function effectively," Justice Shah observes in his order. "Without this power, the judiciary would be rendered toothless, unable to enforce its decisions, thereby jeopardising the administration of justice."

If the sword of contempt is unsheathed, the ECP could be its first casualty. Having acted on multiple occasions as if it is under no compulsion to obey the laws or court orders, the ECP has, in this instance too, refused to respect the Supreme Court as the final arbiter of the Constitution. It should have allotted whatever reserved seats accrued to the PTI by now in line with court directives, but has chosen, instead, to play tag-team with the government in subverting the verdict.

Still, it must be acknowledged that part of the blame falls on the court itself. Due to certain past actions and decisions, the apex court earned the distrust of the political class, lending itself to controversy. Such actions include the endorsement of military takeovers, and its role in dislodging at least two prime ministers. It must be noted, however, that even in these cases, its verdicts were implemented.

Secondly, the court must also acknowledge that the absence of the detailed verdict in the reserved seats case continues to foster controversy. While it should take adequate measures to enforce its writ and uphold the constitutional order, it must also realise that it needs to announce the detailed verdict soon for the objections against it to be addressed with finality.

The reserved seats case has turned into a charged political issue. Wisdom and restraint are needed in abundance to see the matter through.

Maleeha Lodhi

Israel's criminal actions have again pushed the Middle East to the edge of the precipice, unleashing fears of a wider conflict. Ten months of Israel's brutal war on Gaza have already claimed 40,000 Palestinian lives, displaced two million people, and brought untold suffering to Gazans.

Its assassination in quick succession of top Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran, and senior Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur in Lebanon, further raised the stakes in a dangerous escalation of regional tensions. The audacious targeted killing of Haniyeh, a former prime minister of Palestine, who was in Tehran to attend the inauguration of the newly elected Iranian president sent shockwaves throughout the Middle East. This came a day after an Israeli strike assassinated Shukur in Beirut.

Just a week earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu undertook a high-profile trip to Washington, where he received enthusiastic bipartisan support. He met Presi-

dent Joe Biden, former president Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris, all of whom reiterated their unflinching commitment to Israel's security. He received rapturous applause during his address to the joint session of Congress.

This emboldened Netanyahu to up his deadly game and order the two assassinations on his return, even if they were planned before. He also took advantage of a lame-duck Biden administration, which urged a ceasefire but did little to pressure Israel. Instead, the deployment of additional US warships and fighter aircraft to the Middle East on the heels of the killings indicated the 'cover' Washington sought to provide Israel and 'legitimise' rather than censure Israel's brazen violations of international law. Ostensibly aimed at mitigating the risk of a broader conflict, it only exacerbated tensions in the Middle East.

These developments have driven the region to the brink of a wider conflagration, with Iran under mounting pressure to retaliate for Haniyeh's assassi-

nation and violation of its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Its leaders have vowed to avenge the killing, with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warning of a harsh, punishing response. Iran's newly elected President Masoud Pezeshkian has made it clear that Tehran does not wish to broaden the war and contribute to a bigger crisis, but Israel "will definitely receive a response for its crimes and insolence". Meanwhile, Hassan Nasrallah, head of Hezbollah, declared that its conflict with Israel had entered a new phase and warned of a major retaliation in response to the assassination.

Tehran, however, is faced with a dilemma as it mulls an appropriate response to Israel. It knows further escalation and a widening of the war is exactly what Netanyahu wants, having tried — unsuccessfully — for years to goad Washington into joining Israel in an attack on Iran. It also has to consider that any significant military reprisal would rule out the possibility of détente with the West that Pezeshkian had pledged to pursue to secure sanc-

tions relief.

But it cannot let Tel Aviv's criminal action go unanswered and has to do more than just save face to re-establish deterrence. Its carefully calculated, limited military response to Israel's bombing of the Iranian consulate in Damascus in April did not deter the Israelis from carrying out the Hamas leader's assassination on Iranian soil.

For now, Iran's focus is on diplomatic efforts to build a consensus at the regional and global level against Israel's aggressive actions. Attempts by some Arab countries at Washington's behest to dissuade Tehran to hold off a military response have not gone anywhere. Concerned about an "imminent" Iranian attack on Israel, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington was urging all parties to refrain from escalation and "take steps to ease tensions". Although the US called for a ceasefire, the Biden administration had nothing to say about the fact that the Israelis killed the man who was negotiating with them for a ceasefire and hostage and detainees release deal.

This dealt a heavy

blow to the talks brokered by the US, Qatar and Egypt. It again exposed Netanyahu's lack of interest in a peace deal and intent to prolong the war. Washington's own actions and failure to rein in Netanyahu contributed to the increasingly explosive situation. The head of US Central Command, Gen Michael Kurilla, arrived in Israel in the wake of the assassinations to discuss "joint preparations in the region, as part of the response to threats in the Middle East" — a reference to 'threats' from Iran and its regional allies dubbed as the 'axis of resistance'.

In fact, the US has continued to back and arm the Israeli government throughout the 10 months of its genocidal war that has wreaked so much death and destruction in Gaza. As the war enters the eleventh month, the situation across the Strip has become even more dire and desperate. Relentless Israeli air strikes continue to target schools, refugee camps and residential buildings, laying waste to much of Gaza. There is no safe shelter for displaced Palestinians. A humanitarian disaster continues to unfold.

In the West Bank, casualties are rising as violent Israeli crackdowns intensify. Israel has also stepped up air strikes across southern Lebanon and assassinated a Hamas official in Sidon.

Jordan's foreign minister has warned that "Israel is pushing the entire region into the abyss of a regional war by continuing its aggression on Gaza, violating international law and attacking the sovereignty of states". But the question is, what is the international community, especially Arab states, doing to stop this?

An extraordinary OIC ministerial meeting last week issued a statement holding "Israel, the illegal occupying power, fully responsible for this heinous attack" (on Haniyeh), which it described as "a serious infringement of Israel's sovereignty". But that was it. In fact, the conduct of Arab states has been more than disappointing, to put it mildly, and has hardly matched the expectation of Muslims across the world. Nevertheless, if Israel believes military aggression and its assassination strategy will weaken the Palestinian armed resistance and annihilate Hamas, it is utterly mistaken. — Courtesy Dawn

Raising the stakes

Vanity, insanity

people's trust, working tirelessly to create conditions for their success.

Instead, what we often witness is a grotesque inversion of this ideal, where leaders, surrounded by sycophants, begin to see themselves as monarchs. Their egos, inflated by the constant praise of those who seek to curry favour, appear to be almost addicted to the flattery that blinds them to the true needs of the people they are meant to serve.

If you've ever had the opportunity of visiting a Pakistani political leader, especially one in power, you might be forgiven for thinking you've accidentally stumbled into a royal court rather than the office of a public representative. The experience is nothing short of a modern-day re-enactment of a Mughal durbar. As you enter the room, you're greeted by a sea of obsequious followers, all vying for the leader's attention, each more eager than the last to prove their devotion and loyalty. The leader sits at the centre of it all, basking in the glow of adoration, every bit the king without a crown. And

should you find yourself identified by the leader as someone of importance, a torrent of sycophancy cascades upon you as well.

In this world, proximity to power transforms even the most indifferent observer into an object of reverence. You start to wonder — was there a recent constitutional amendment that turned politicians into royalty? The scene is so absurd that it's almost comical — until you remember that these are the people running the country.

This vanity on display is not just an amusing quirk; it's a symptom of a much deeper problem. When a leader begins to believe in their own infallibility, bolstered by a chorus of adulators, they lose sight of their true purpose: to serve the public.

Contrast this with leadership in the world's most influential countries. While politicians in Pakistan wield significant power within their own context, it pales in comparison with the global impact and authority of officeholders in these developed nations. Yet, in these countries, there is no pomp, no retinue of yes-

people fawning over every word. Instead, leadership is recognised as a responsibility, rooted in accountability to those who have entrusted their hopes and dreams to them. The trappings of authority are often set aside in favour of humility and accessibility, with a conscious effort to demystify the office and remind the public that these leaders are merely their servants.

The self-adulation and pretentiousness that often characterise Pakistan's political class are not just confined to the corridors of power; they have, regrettably, evolved into a national mindset. Across all fields — whether in politics, business, media, or any domain wielding significance or power — there seems to be a constant need for reaffirmation through public displays of importance. This culture of vanity pervades society, creating a vicious cycle where the appearance of success is valued more than the substance of achievement.

Arshad Nadeem's Olympic victory serves as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through determination and

hard work. As a nation, there is much to be learned from his example. Greatness is not about the adulation of others; it is about perseverance, humility, and an unwavering commitment to one's goals.

The world does not need to be told to recognise greatness — it instinctively knows when it has witnessed something extraordinary. In the purity of true achievement, there is no need for orchestrated praise. It stands tall, unassisted and unadorned, for all the world to see.

Nadeem's remarkable achievement is a lesson in the power of authentic greatness to inspire, uplift and unite.

Perhaps, in celebrating this moment of triumph, we can begin to move away from the culture of pretentiousness that has long held us back and embrace a future where leadership is defined not by vanity, but by service — where the focus shifts from superficial exhibitionism to genuine service. It is in the quiet strength of sincere purpose, rather than in the clamour of self-promotion, that leaders find their greatest impact.

Shaukat Ahmed

In a country where opportunities are scarce and the dreams of many crushed by adversity and obstacles, Arshad Nadeem's Olympic triumph reverberates with a message far more profound than the accolade itself.

It is a clarion call to the nation, urging it to dream beyond limitations and believe in the possibility of greatness, no matter how distant it may seem. Nadeem's triumph offers a rare moment of collective national pride, validating the aspirations of an entire country through the extraordinary achievement of one man.

Yet, in the wake of such a monumental victory, a curious and somewhat disheartening spectacle unfolded on social media. A day after Nadeem's gold medal win, a widely circulated video captured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif watching the event on television. In the video, a member of his political party could be heard repeatedly attributing Nadeem's success to the PM's vision — a statement as perplexing as it was disingenuous.

Here was a man, Arshad Nadeem, who had clawed his way to the top through sheer talent and hard work, achieving the seemingly impossible against all odds and entirely on his own. And yet, in the corridors of power, there was an attempt to co-opt his victory, to somehow claim it as a product of strategic vision and foresight. It was a moment that laid bare the vanity and self-importance that so often taint the higher echelons of power and which perfectly encapsulated the disconnect between Pakistan's political leadership and the realities of its people.

This disconnect is not merely an isolated incident; it is a pervasive issue that runs deep within the fabric of Pakistan's political landscape. While there can be no doubt that the PM, like all Pakistanis, was genuinely elated by Nadeem's victory, the fact that his subordinates felt the need to make it about his vision speaks volumes about the state of leadership in the country. The role of a political leader should be that of a custodian of the

The best-laid plans

Zarrar Khuhro

Recently, Benjamin Netanyahu entered the US Congress like a conquering hero, garnering over 50 standing ovations in a 60-minute speech from fawning Congressmen and women clapping for their AIPAC dollars like trained circus seals. While several Congress people boycotted the proceedings and Rashida Tlaib staged a lonely, one-woman protest in the hall, the overwhelming impression was that this is America's genocide as much as it is Israel's. In Pakistani parlance, they are absolutely on the same page.

Around the same time, half a world away, Hamas and Fatah — bitter rivals at the best of times — met in Beijing to sign a national unity agreement under the auspices of the Chinese government. Hamas, Fatah and 12 other Palestinian groups agreed to lay the groundwork for an "interim national reconciliation government" that would govern post-war Gaza.

While this does not mean that the problems between Hamas and the Fatah-run Palestinian Authority (PA) — widely viewed by Hamas and its allies as Israel's accomplices — have ended, it does put a crimp in one of the proposed US-Israeli plans for a post-war Gaza.

Although Netanyahu claims that he wants all of Gaza under direct Israeli control, while holding out the option of a 'deradicalised' Palestinian governmental presence, there have been several other proposals that offer insight into what America and Israel envisage happening.

For example, anonymous Israeli officials have let it be known that they were "open in principle to Palestinians securing areas of the Gaza Strip cleared

of Hamas". This statement tallies with US discussing ways to 'revitalise' and reform the PA with an aim of having it at least participate in the governing of a post-Hamas Gaza. This proposal was formally rejected by Hamas and also Israel, but Israeli media reported that Netanyahu "unofficially" expressed interest in the plan, though that could have been just to string the US along. The Beijing agreement now makes that an impossibility; even before that, the PA had begun to realise that obsequiousness to Tel Aviv will not stop the killings of Palestinians in the West Bank nor the illegal seizure of their land, all of which has increased manifold since Oct 7.

In addition to this, support for Hamas in the PA-controlled West Bank has increased manifold, with 82 per cent Palestinians polled there expressing understanding for why Hamas launched the attacks and 88pc calling for PA President Mahmoud Abbas to resign. All this means that the PA is in no physical or political shape to take over Gaza, even if it wanted to.

Before this, another option considered by Israel had come to a premature close. This was to hand over control of Gaza to local clans, who would 'govern' the area while also keeping what was left of Hamas suppressed with Israeli aid, and acting as intermediaries for Tel Aviv. Gaza is home to many clans and large family groups of varying influence and power. And while most tend to be law-abiding and benign, some, like the infamous Doghmush clan, formed gangs that engages in murder, kidnapping and racketeering, especially in the chaos preceding and immediately after the Hamas takeover.

Realising that credibil-

ity would come from establishing control, Hamas quickly cracked down on such groups and publicly executed those accused of criminal activities, attacks on Hamas leaders and collaboration with Israel. In 2017, one such condemned man, Hisham al-Aloul, accused Israeli intelligence of betraying him before he was executed.

With Hamas under fire and Gaza being decimated, some in Israel decided to give this plan another go earlier this year by once again looking to members of the Doghmush clan as accomplices. Once again, we saw an embattled Hamas take swift action by executing a major clan leader of the tribe in March this year. This was followed by a joint statement from the heads of Palestinian tribes, clans and families rejecting any notion of being used as a governing political body.

Soon after, Basem Naim, a top member of Hamas' political bureau in Gaza, announced that all Palestinian tribes "have rejected this 'Zionist offer' and know that these offers and plans are malicious and aim at dividing the Palestinians".

Words were followed by action and we saw Fatah, along with numerous clans, civil society groups and factions, stepping in to help provide security for the aid convoys that Israel had relentlessly targeted with the excuse that these transported Hamas members.

This leaves the fantasy of a 'multinational' or 'Arab/Muslim-led' security force that would magically appear and take over control of whatever is left of Gaza.

But given that the only country to even reportedly express interest in this is the UAE, an Arab ally of Israel, this option can be viewed as dead on the ground, much like the children of Palestine. — Courtesy Dawn

Skills and success

Neda Mulji

Some weeks ago, the Federal Directorate of Education and Professional Training organised a wonderful summer fiesta for schoolchildren, with a wide range of skill-based workshops, seminars, lectures and activities. This kind of immersive experience with creative writing, financial literacy, digital technology and so forth, is the urgent need for students who haven't got much exposure to global skills.

Sadly, these children will go back to teacher-led classrooms and traditional teaching after the summer break. Many precious steps forward, but some unfortunate leaps backwards too. It may be time to revisit what they are learning in classrooms and whether the curriculum and teaching methods support the skill development we must envision for a progressive, holistic application of knowledge.

Skill development starts in early years with knowledge of the world around us, roles and responsibilities, creative and critical thought, and strong foundations in numeracy and literacy. If we begin to benchmark the skills taught in our classrooms to global standards, we may hope to target the aims of the SDGs for education.

This includes reflective teaching practices that only equip teachers with books, and accompanying pedagogy focusing on real-life skills. We also need to integrate technological experiences for our early years' students. Digital reading programmes, for example, are more efficient at teaching pronunciation, decoding and comprehension. Such programmes lead children through evidence-based reading strategies that start with

prompts and clues to help the child think creatively, absorb the text, and develop the ability to give personal responses using their critical thinking capability.

Such programmes are not as competitive as a noisy classroom environment that has over 50 students and one teacher. In fact, technology affords the time and patience for students to learn at their own pace, and matches their comprehension ability. The programmes are user-friendly, structured to lead students through reading levels, and monitor their progress with timely reports showing reading hours, books covered and scores achieved on comprehension quizzes.

Literacy in the early years is not only about being able to read, but also acquiring the ability to express opinions, draw conclusions and gradually using language independently. A strong early years literacy programme will give students many opportunities to play with words, come up with unique perspectives, and delve into the possibilities of structuring sentences in multiple ways. Sadly, students are mostly preoccupied with the need to produce the 'right' answers, and in that vein, we end up encouraging mimicry where the teacher becomes the crutch that students come to depend on.

A strong math curriculum would enable students to learn in different ways. If one strategy isn't working, a teacher's challenge is to be able to offer different ways to help the student navigate concepts. Rather than 'learning' numeracy concepts, they can be taught to use manipulatives to visualise, analyse and draw conclusions.

Simple and easy ways to support chil-

dren in accessing learning outcomes can lead to massive benefits as they progress through school levels. And the better their grip on learning, the faster they will develop confidence in their ability to excel in academics. Often, in our society, we equate confidence with being able to speak in public; we couldn't be further from the truth. Confidence stems from one's belief in their ability to learn, understand and apply what they know. The application of skills is the yardstick of confidence that we should be focusing on, especially in the early years. Instead, much of our focus remains on memorisation and reproduction in assessments and tests. Even the melodious tune used to learn the tables hasn't changed in more than a century.

It's time to look closely at what we are producing and how far we've changed our teaching and learning methods to evolve with the times. Teachers are no longer the only source of information, and students will inevitably turn to digital resources; but are we equipping them to understand, navigate and use the digital resources to their advantage and in responsible ways?

When children sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, do we ask them if they know what a star is made of? Do we ask them how far the stars might be from us? Do we ask enough questions to pique their curiosity about the world and their place in it? Do we give them the confidence in their own ability to find answers?

It's not always what we teach, but how we teach it that determines the trajectory of success for our students. — Courtesy Dawn

Maryam Nawaz says: After Qur'an & Sunnah, we take guidance from Imam of Kaaba & Imam of the Masjid-e-Nabawi

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif accorded a warm welcome to the Imam Masjid-e-Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair on his arrival at the Chief Minister's Office here on Monday.

The CM said, "On behalf of people of Punjab, I welcome your highness, Pakistan is your home." She also prayed for the health and long life of the Saudi King, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

The CM said the friendship of the Saudi royal family with her father Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is enviable. She added, "I follow Hazrat Umar Farooq's (RA) governance model. Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA) was a beacon of light for the rulers. Our powerhouse is in Madinah. I don't know much about

Lahore, but I know about every street in Madinah." CM Maryam Nawaz noted that the meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman along with Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif was great. She added, "Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman wants to serve his people which is my mission as well. Prince Muhammad bin Salman is serving the people of Saudi Arabia with sincerity," she said.

The CM said, "After the Qur'an and Sunnah, we take guidance from Imam of Kaaba and Imam of the Prophet's Mosque in Saudi Arabia." She added listening to the recitation of Imam Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair, one's grief fades away and one's faith is revitalised. She underscored visiting Imam of Masjid-e-Nabawi

is a great honour for every Pakistani.

Imam Masjid-e-Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair expressed good wishes for the people of Punjab from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the people of Madinah. He thanked Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the warm welcome, and said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are like two pole stars shining together in the sky. He added Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are strategic friends, they were in the past and will be in the future. He highlighted Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is a friend of Pakistan, his leadership is a source of improvement and prosperity for Pakistan. "Maryam Nawaz Sharif is following in his footsteps.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with US Ambassador, Donald Blome during meeting held at the UNICEF Warehouse Port Qasim in Karachi.

Governor Kundi thanks center to allocate funds for Lift Canal

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday paid thanks to federal government for allocating funds for the long-standing demand of the Chashma project Dera Ismail Khan that will not only resolve the water problem but to increase in agriculture sector.

He said this during a meeting with a delegation of senior journalists from Dera Ismail Khan led by senior journalist Muhammad Saleem Qureshi and the Chief Editor of a local daily, Chaudhry Asghar at the

Governor's House Peshawar.

The governor said that he always raised the issue of the lift bank canal at every forum. He said that the Chashma Lift Canal is a crucial irrigation project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, designed to enhance agricultural productivity by diverting water from the arid lands of Dera Ismail Khan. This ambitious project involves lifting water from the barrage through a series of pumps and canals, providing a reliable water source to areas previously affected

by water scarcity, he remarked.

Governor Kundi emphasized that the development and prosperity of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are among his top priorities.

He highlighted the need for collective efforts to ensure peace and stressed the importance of the media's role in promoting messages of peace, unity and tolerance.

He acknowledged the public's concerns about the state of education and healthcare in the province, admitting that there has been insufficient progress in these sectors.

Saudi Arabia has always supported Pakistan in difficult times: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan accorded a warm welcome to Imam Masjid Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair here today at Governor House Lahore. Saudi ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed al-Maliki was also present. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said his presence is a matter of joy and honor for him. He said Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoy long standing fraternal relations. Governor Punjab said that Saudi Arabia has always supported Pakistan in difficult times. Imam

Masjid Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair also led the Zuhr prayer in Jamia Masjid of Governor House.

A large number of Governor House staff and public offered prayer led by Imam Masjid Nabawi, Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair also offered a special prayer for the prosperity, peace and unity of Muslim Ummah.

The distinguished guest also visited the Governor's House. Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan informed the Imam of Masjid Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Badeer about the historical importance of the Governor's House.



LAHORE: Imam Masjid Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair meeting with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Youth of Sindh showcase remarkable talent: Murad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that August 12 is celebrated as International Youth Day worldwide.

In connection with International Youth Day, he said that the youth of our country especially Sindh were talented. CM Murad said that the Pakistan People's Party under the leadership of our young chairman Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari would bring prosperity to the whole country. He said that the country could achieve progress with the talents and effective role of the youth. He said that the Sindh government had taken many steps for the development and capacity building of the youth.

Sindh gov't announces free training program for youth

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government has launched an extensive free training program aimed at empowering the youth across the province.

The initiative will provide specialized training in freelancing, computer skills, driving, vocational development, and the arts at the district level, said a communique on Monday.

Sindh Minister for Agriculture and Sports Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar has announced that the program is expected to benefit thousands of young people throughout the year. This follows a successful effort by the Youth Department last year, which trained 25,000

individuals in various skills.

On International Youth Day, the Minister emphasized the vision of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to ensure that every young person in Sindh acquires the skills necessary for economic independence.

"The Sindh government is committed to overcoming the challenges faced by our youth and views them as a critical asset to our society," Mehar stated.

The provincial government is also focused on generating new employment opportunities for young individuals across different sectors each year.



PESHAWAR: Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi addressing during his visit to Khyber Eye Foundation.

Punjab cabinet to approve LG law draft soon: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has said that the legislative process is underway to conduct local bodies elections in Punjab. There is ambiguity in the law made by the former government.

He was addressing a round table conference on the topic of local democratic governments. Civil society representatives, senior journalists and others also participated in the conference. The participants emphasized the need for early holding of local body elections in Punjab.

Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that the Local Government Act 2019 called for the abolition of the Union Council, the basic unit of local bodies. He regretted that elected local bodies were not allowed to flourish in the past decades, but Muslim League-N has a track record of conducting local bodies

elections during its tenure. Zeeshan Rafiq reminded that Muhammad Nawaz Sharif strengthened the local bodies during his prime ministership, but the government that came after him sent the local bodies of the Muslim League-N government home. He said that under the supervision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the preparation for holding local body elections in Punjab is proceeding ahead. "Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has set up a high-level committee within a month of assuming power, which has studied various systems and sent the recommendations of the new bill to the cabinet," he said.

The Minister expressed the hope that the provincial cabinet will soon approve the draft law after which the matter will go to the Punjab Assembly. He termed the Local Government Act of the previous government.

Security plan released for Youm-e-Azadi

FAISALABAD (APP): The Police department has released security plan here on Monday for the celebration of 77th Youm-e-Azadi (Independence Day 2024).

During a meeting, City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil said that more than 4293 police officials including 54 Sub Inspectors (SIs), 634 Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASIs), 232 head constables and 3355 constables/lady constables would perform security duties across the district while 5 Superintendents Police (SPs) and 13 Deputy Superintendent Police (DSPs) were deputed to monitor the security duty.

He said that one-wheeling, rash driving, underage driving, aerial firing and display of weapons had been banned and all the Station House Officers (SHOs) were directed to ensure thorough patrolling in their respective areas for implementation of this ban on Independence Day.

Committee met to address teachers' issues in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister for Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Khan Tarakai on Monday chaired a meeting of the committee formed to address the demands and issues of teachers.

The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary of Education Faiz Alam, Additional Director Dr. Muhammad Iqbal and other senior officials.

During the meeting, the education minister was briefed on the issues and demands presented by various teachers' unions.

The minister reiterated the government's commitment to resolving

the teachers' issues and stated that various committees have been formed to find appropriate solutions. He said the purpose of the meeting was to review the actions taken by these committees.

He directed that a secretary-level meeting be convened within a week to resolve the issues related to the teachers' CP Fund.

This meeting will include the Secretary of Finance, Secretary of Law, Secretary of Establishment, and Secretary of Education, and the Education Minister will chair it.

The minister instructed the officials to fully prepare for the

Police nab eight during crackdown against illegal arms

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested eight illegal arm holders and recovered arms, ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Monday. According to police spokesman, Chakri police held Akhlaq and recovered 7mm rifle from his possession and a 12-bore rifle was found from Faizan while 01 pistol 30 bore was recovered from Usama. Similarly, Mandra police apprehended two illegal arm holders Shan and Haider and recovered 02 pistols 30-bore from their custody.



HYDERABAD: Members of Civil Society are holding rally in favor of Pakistan Armed Forces, at Hyderabad press club.

Wafaqi Mohtasib resolves 118,012 complaints during current year

LAHORE (APP): The Federal Ombudsman (Wafaqi Mohtasib) has resolved 118,012 complaints out of total 120,158 filed during 2024 against various departments. This was stated by Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi while addressing a meeting of regional officers and press conference here at the Provincial Secretariat on Monday. He said the ratio of filing complaints in the Mohtasib office was increased 13% as compared to the last year while resolution percentage also

improved upto 8% this year. The ombudsman stated that compliance by the government departments upon the orders stood at 90 per cent which was a positive sign.

Ejaz Qureshi said that the department provided relief more than 2.2 million families since 1983 through resolving their issues. He said the business community would be involved with an aim to resolve their problems regarding the government departments and a seminar would be organized in this regard at the Lahore.

Woman killed, one hurt as roof collapsed

LODHRAN (APP): A woman was killed while another person sustained serious injuries as roof of a house caved in due to rain near Pacea Khoh Lodhran.

According to Rescue officials, the roof of a house was suddenly caved in due to heavy rain in Pacea Khoh Lodhran.

As a result, a woman was killed while another person sustained serious injuries.

Rescue team shifted the injured to the hospital after providing first aid.

ANF seizes 157.8 kg drugs; arrests six accused

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations managed to recover 157.8 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 194 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain from Faisalabad Airport. In second operation, 86.4 kg hashish and 34.8 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle intercepted on Lahore-Sargodha road. 30 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects arrested near Rahman Garden Lahore. 5 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Hyderabad.



LAHORE: Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi addressing to media persons.

US delivers lifesaving nutrition assistance to combat malnutrition

KARACHI (APP): The United States (US) Ambassador Donald Blome on Monday delivered a significant shipment of lifesaving nutrition assistance to Pakistan to combat acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations. Addressing the event at Maersk Warehouse in Port Qasim, he said the shipment, which includes over 486 metric tons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), is expected to benefit approximately 29,000 Pakistani children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Ambassador Blome said the delivery represents a considerable contribution, equivalent in weight to a fully loaded Boeing 747 jumbo jet. More than half of the assistance will be distributed in Sindh province, with the remainder allocated to

Balochistan, both of which were heavily impacted by the catastrophic floods of 2022, he added.

Since 2022, he said the US has provided nearly \$100 million in assistance to address acute malnutrition in Pakistan, with \$15 million specifically allocated for treating severely malnourished children. He said this support also includes emergency food and health care services, benefiting over 317,000 Pakistani mothers and children. He said the US assistance has further bolstered Pakistan's health infrastructure, enhancing screening and treatment for malnourished children under five, and providing support to women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Ambassador Blome said the US has also trained more than 779,000 frontline health workers.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan giving away cheque under CM Youth Loan Scheme during launch the GB Youth Policy 2024 to mark International Youth Day 2024.

Meeting reviews preparations for I-Day celebrations

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting held here on Monday with Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary reviewed preparations for the 77th Independence Day celebrations.

Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Abid Majeed, relevant administrative secretaries, and other officials were present at the meeting, while commissioners and deputy commissioners participated via video link.

The meeting was given a detailed briefing from Secretary Administration, Muhammad Israr, about the activities planned for Independence Day, including awareness speeches and sports competitions.

the meeting about the programs planned in their respective districts.

On this occasion, the Chief Secretary stated that, as like previous years, this year's Independence Day would be celebrated with great enthusiasm and zeal.

He instructed that national flags be hoisted on all government buildings and that they be illuminated with decorative lights. Flag hoisting ceremonies, rallies, and special walks should be organized at divisional headquarters and districts. Similarly, educational institutions should organize events in connection with Independence Day, including awareness speeches and sports competitions.



KARACHI: Hectic street full of garbage, sewerage water, causing unhygienic atmosphere and creating problems for commuters and residents, due to poor sewerage system, showing negligence of concerned authorities, located on Shershah area in Karachi

Pakistan restarts tractor export to Africa: Rana Tanveer

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain cut the ribbon at a ceremony arranged on the occasion of restart of the tractors export to Africa here at Millat Tractor Company on Monday.

The company's Chief Executive Raheel Asghar and other top management of the company as well as the foreign guests were also present.

Addressing the ceremony, the Federal

Minister said, "The process of exporting Pakistani tractors to different African countries has started again. I hope it will revive the sinking tractor manufacturing industry." He said that the decision to export tractors to African countries would expedite the process of the tractor manufacturing industry and also ensure speedy agricultural development, thus setting the country's economy on strong footing.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that everyone knows that the biggest challenge facing Pakistan is the economy, however, the country's economy will recover soon only through agricultural development. The present government has managed to save the country from default and "our goal is to revive the economy," he said, citing that from 2013 to 2017, Pakistan had been developing fast and afterwards, every sector

had started declining due to the incompetent government that took over in 2018. The Federal Minister mentioned that though the present government has taken difficult decisions, these would prove beneficial for the nation and the country, and everything will be fine in a year. "Agriculture will play an important role in the recovery of the economy and the government has given many incentives.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with PepsiCo's CEO for Africa, ME & SA Mr. Eugene Willemssen accompanied by CEO Pakistan and Afghanistan Mr. Muhammad Khosa.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah visits the production plant during his visit to Indus Motors, in Karachi.

OGDCL announces Commencement of production from Pak first-ever tight gas project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Monday announced the successful commencement of early commercial production of Tight Gas from Pakistan's first-ever Tight Gas project, Nur West Well-1 at the Nur Development & Production Lease (D&PL), located in the Sujawal district of Sindh.

According to press release, the Nur West Well-1 is currently producing 1.5 million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) of gas with a wellhead flowing pressure of 1050 PSI.

The gas is sourced from the Lower Guru formation ('A' Sand) and has been seamlessly integrated into the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) network.

This integration will strengthen the national gas supply infrastructure and contribute to the stability

of Pakistan's energy supply.

During drilling, initial conventional testing methods did not provide favorable results, consequently, the hydraulic fracturing technique was employed to achieve production viability.

This innovative approach underscores OGDCL's commitment to exploring and developing advanced techniques to maximize resource potential.

OGDCL has formulated a comprehensive Tight Gas exploration and development roadmap, which is currently under implementation.

This roadmap reaffirms the company's commitment to expanding energy resources, securing national energy requirements, and promoting sustainable development across Pakistan.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 589 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 589.30 points, a negative change of 0.75 percent, closing at 77,980.29 points against 78,569.59 points on the last working day.

A total of 415,170,050 shares were traded during the day as compared to 420,405,980 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 22.242 billion against Rs 20.720 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 444 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 122 of them recorded gains and 278 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 44 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Yousuf Weaving with 38,066,194 shares at Rs 5.34 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 19,215,805 shares at Rs 1.17 per share and Kohinoor Spinning with 13,346,390 shares at Rs 7.64 per share.

Mari Petroleum Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 122.16 per share price, closing at Rs 3,266.80, whereas the runner-up was Services Industries Limited with a Rs 48.95 rise in its per share price to Rs 967.30.

Finance Minister meets PepsiCo's CEO for Africa

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday held a meeting with PepsiCo's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Africa, Middle East (ME) and South Asia (SA) Eugene Willemssen to discuss Pakistan's economic progress and potential collaboration opportunities.

He also spoke about ongoing reforms in the energy sector, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and taxation, emphasizing the government's initiative to incorporate under-taxed and untaxed entities into the tax net.

He also highlighted recent improvements, including increased foreign

exchange reserves, decreased inflation, and stable currency.

The minister attributed these positive indicators to the successful completion of the nine-month stand-by arrangement (SBA) with the IMF and mentioned that a staff-level agreement (SLA) has been reached to ensure continued economic stability.

Willemssen expressed appreciation for Pakistan's positive economic indicators and noted the growth in the financial sector.

The meeting underscored the commitment of both parties to foster continued economic development and explore collaborative opportunities in Pakistan.

initiative and its impact in driving agricultural and overall economic growth.

Talking about the digitization in Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Minister discussed the integrating RAAST (the digital payment system) and NADRA (the national database and registration authority) to further improve efficiency.

Willemssen expressed appreciation for Pakistan's positive economic indicators and noted the growth in the financial sector.

The meeting underscored the commitment of both parties to foster continued economic development and explore collaborative opportunities in Pakistan.

Ahsan Iqbal chairs review meeting on public-private partnership projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The participants reviewed the implementation report of the ongoing projects and discussed decisions made during the previous meeting.

Presiding over the meeting, the minister emphasized the importance of creating a favorable investment environment, stating that investors sought profit and the government must balance its interests with investment opportunities.

He stressed that the government should clearly define its goals and interests while creating investment opportunities in any sector, stressing the need for thorough preparation before inviting investors.

The participants reviewed the implementation report of the ongoing projects and discussed decisions made during the previous meeting.

Presiding over the meeting, the minister emphasized the importance of creating a favorable investment environment, stating that investors sought profit and the government must balance its interests with investment opportunities.

He stressed that the government should clearly define its goals and interests while creating investment opportunities in any sector, stressing the need for thorough preparation before inviting investors.

Cars' sale increase 58% in July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sale of cars during the first month of the current financial year 2024-25 has increased by 58.21 percent as compared to the same month of last year, a recent data released by Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) said.

According to the data, as many as 5,857 cars were sold during the month under review as opposed to 3,702 units in the same month of last year.

The breakup figures showed that 790 units of Honda Civic and City were sold during the corresponding month of the year 2024-25 as compared to the sale of 208 units last year.

Toyota Corolla and

Yaris cars sales also increased by 3.65 percent as it went up to 1,106 units from 1,067 units in July of the previous year.

Suzuki Swift's sales also surged by 101.60 percent as its sale increased to 502 units from 249 units last year.

Sale of Suzuki Cultus decreased to 96 units during the first month of the current year, whereas during the same month last year, the sale was recorded at 177 units while the sale of Suzuki WagonR also decreased to 139 units from 245 units last year.

Suzuki Alto's sales also witnessed an increase of 99.23 percent from 1,440 units to 2,869 units during the current year.



MULTAN: Women along with children are purchasing toys from a roadside vendor.

China Mobile leads global telecom industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): China Mobile International Limited, [China Mobile Communication Corporation (CMCC)] continues to lead the telecom industry, ranking 55th on the Fortune 500 list—a notable rise of seven positions from last year.

Specifically, within the telecom sector, China Mobile, which ascended to the top of the industry last year, maintains its leadership on the industry list this year, said a news release issued here on Monday. The Fortune Global 500 list was released with a total of 133 Chinese companies, including those from Taiwan, making it to the list. Among them, the three major Chinese telecom operators have collectively secured their positions once again. Over the past year, despite facing a complex and challenging external environment,

China Mobile seized the opportunity presented by the accelerating digital transformation of the economy and society.

The company remained steadfast in its development goal of becoming a "world-class information service and technology innovation company."

By continuously enhancing innovation-driven growth, boosting its core competitiveness, and striving for high-quality sustainable development, the company achieved new milestones in its operational performance—surpassing the trillion-yuan revenue mark and reaching a new high in profits. China Mobile's strategic transformation and innovation efforts have reached new heights, paving the way for its emergence as a world-class enterprise known for its excellent products, outstanding brand.

Gold rates remain unchanged

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed no change on Monday and was traded at Rs 256,500 in the local market.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also remained stagnant at Rs 219,907 while there was no change in prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold which was traded at Rs.201,582, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,850 and Rs.2,443.41 respectively.

Prices of gold in the international market increased by \$9 to \$2,439 as compared to the previous day rates of \$2,430, the Association reported.

CDNS indicate to surpass target set in Islamic finance for current FY, 2024-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has indicated to surpass the target set in Islamic finance in the current Fiscal years 2024-24.

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set a target of Rs 170 billion investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to growth in the Islamic economy in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Monday.

The National Savings had issued the Islamic bonds for the promotion of the Islamic finance system, which will help the development of the Islamic economy in the country, he said.

Replying to a question, he said the CDNS had achieved the target of Rs 75 billion during the last fiscal year (2023-24) from the Islamic bonds, and that was why it aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector.

"Islamic finance now

has a significant role in the global financial sector. A large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," he added.

The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in the CDNS.

Given the current market trend in the country, an ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added.

Replying to another question, he said that the CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country.

He said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30.

The National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where eight ships namely, Maersk Durban, MSC Elsa 3, Kouros Queen, Rhine, Golden Denise, Lusail, Jag Padma and Chang Han Run Hai scheduled to load/offload containers, Cement, Palm oil, Chemicals, LNG, Mogas and Coal, berthed at Qasim Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminals, Liquid Terminal, Engro Terminal, Elengy Terminal, Oil Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively during last 24 hours. (.) Meanwhile another edible oil carrier Silver Orla also arrived at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim during the same period. (.)

A total of ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a container vessel MSC.



FAISALABAD: Labourers packing freshly harvested maize into sacks for transport to factories and market in the city.

KP economic zones company announces formal launch of IBDP

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) has announced formal launching of the Inclusive Business Development Park (IBDP).

The pioneering initiative IBDP aimed at empowering entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds including men, women, persons with special abilities and transgender has been executed.

The IBDP was officially inaugurated by the Special Assistant to the

Chief Minister KP on Industries, Commerce, and Technical Education, Mr. Abdul Karim Tordher on Monday.

This groundbreaking project is funded by the World Bank through the KPEC, demonstrating a strong commitment to foster inclusive economic growth in the region.

The Inclusive Business Development Park, initially established in Peshawar Economic Zone, is a strategic effort to nurture small business ventures, enabling them to scale up and achieve long-term sustainability.

Iran's trade with Africa reaches \$1.3 billion

ZANJAN (APP): The president of the Iran-Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce has called for strategic planning to enhance Iran's trade relations with the continent, which currently stand at approximately \$1.3 billion.

The current trade volume, Masoud Berahman told a conference in the city of Zanjan on Sunday, is significantly lower than the potential trade opportunities between Iran and Africa.

Africa boasts a staggering \$1.5 trillion in trade turnover, which is split quite evenly between imports and exports, Berahman said at the conference featuring trade opportunities in Africa.

He pointed to the continent's rich natural resources, environmental assets, and agricultural potential, which remain largely untapped by Iranian traders.

He stressed that Iran must work to carve out a larger share in the African market.

FCCI hails direct flight for Medina

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli has extended gratitude to PIA and CAA for launching a direct flight between Faisalabad and Medina from August 30.

In a press statement here on Monday, he said that FCCI was pressing hard to restart the Faisalabad-Medina flight to benefit the millions of people residing in and around Faisalabad. He said that it was the shortest

route through which Umrah pilgrims could reach "Haram" within only 6.30 hours.

Earlier, pilgrims had to spend three hours to travel from Faisalabad to Lahore or Islamabad. "Similarly, they had to report for check-in three hours before the departure of flight", he said and added that there was sufficient passenger load available in Faisalabad for this route. Hence, one weekly flight is insufficient and PIA must arrange at least two weekly flights from Faisalabad to Medina, he demanded.

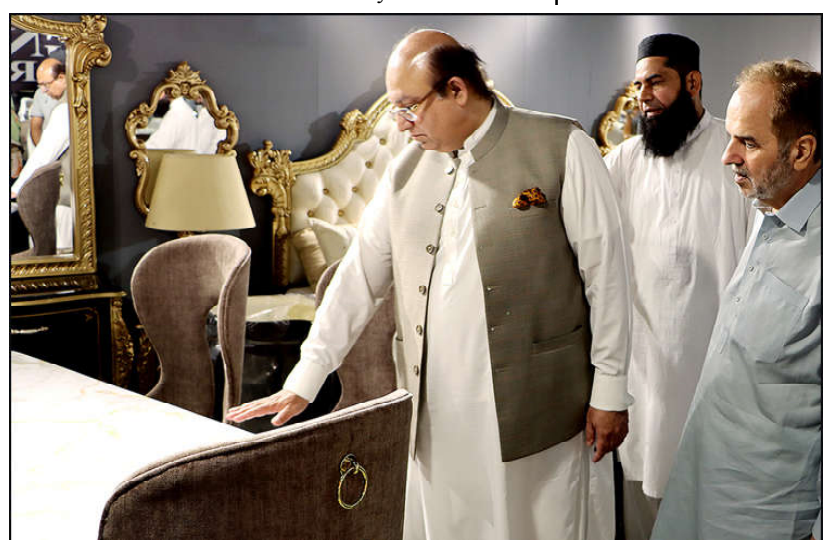
Seven more connections severed over violations

LODHARAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force raided and disconnected seven more connections over violations. According to details, the meters of two consumers were installed away from the service, causing leakage and resulting in financial losses to the department.

Consequently, their meters were disconnected.

One consumer's meter was found to be suspicious due to seal tampering, leading to its disconnection as well.

Additionally, three consumers had meters with broken counters, which were found to be tampered with and were therefore disconnected.



LAHORE: Punjab Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja ur Rehman inspecting the Lifestyle Furniture exhibition at Expo Centre Lahore.

Gazans flee 'from death to death' as Khan Yunis hit

Monitoring Desk
KHAN YUNIS: Israel expanded evacuation orders in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip overnight, forcing tens of thousands of Palestinian residents and displaced families to leave in the dark as explosions from tank shelling reverberated around them.

Palestinians already displaced numerous times by Israeli air strikes were forced to flee Al-Halaa and other northern neighbourhoods of Khan Yunis on Sunday, a day after an Israeli airstrike on a school in Gaza City killed at least 90 Palestinians.

"We're exhausted. This is the 10th time I and my family have had to leave our shelter," said Zaki Mohammad, 28, who lives in the Hamad housing project in western Khan Yunis, where the occupants of two multi-floor buildings were ordered to leave.

"We are running from death to death."

An Israeli airstrike near the Khan Yunis mar-

ket at the city centre killed four Palestinians and wounded several others, medics said, while residents reported that two multi-floor buildings were bombed, as smoke rose from areas where Israeli planes carried out attacks in the eastern and western parts of the city.

The forces pushed deeper into Al-Jalaa area that erstwhile was considered relatively safer zone. Al-Jalaa would become a "dangerous combat zone", the Israeli forces warned the remaining population of Palestinians as the army dropped leaflets containing fresh evacuation orders telling residents and refugees to leave the Khan Yunis area also.

"For your own safety, you must evacuate immediately to the newly created humanitarian zone. The area you are in is considered a dangerous combat zone," said the announcement posted on X.

Families gathered their meagre belongings and left

the area, fearing fresh missile strikes and fighting. Crowds of people, mainly from the Hamad neighbourhood in Al-Jalaa, left with whatever they could lay their hands on, some loading mattresses, clothing and cooking utensils into pick-up trucks, while others simply walked with their bags.

Young men and women escorted elderly family members, while others tried to catch a ride to safer zones.

Head of the UN refugee agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA Philippe Lazzarini said on X, "Just in the past few days, more than 75,000 people have been displaced in southwest Gaza."

Lazzarini said the new evacuation orders sent many people fleeing. "Some are only able to carry their children with them, some carry their whole lives in one small bag," he said.

"The people of Gaza are trapped and have nowhere to go."



Displaced Palestinians make their way as they flee Hamad City following an Israeli evacuation order, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli minister tells US that large-scale Iranian attack expected, Axios reports

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Sunday that Iran was making preparations for a large-scale military attack on Israel, Axios reporter Barak Ravid said in a post on X, citing a source with knowledge of the call.

In a statement on Monday, Gallant's ministry confirmed the call took place overnight. It said Gallant and Austin discussed operational and strategic coordination and the Israeli military's readiness in the face of Iranian threats.

Austin has meanwhile ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to the Middle East. The US military had already said it would deploy additional fighter jets and Navy warships to the region to bolster Israeli defences.

On Friday, an Iranian Revolutionary Guards deputy commander was quoted as saying by local news agencies that Iran was set to carry out an order by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to "harshly punish" Israel over the assassination on July 31 of the leader of Palestinian militant group Hamas in Tehran.

US publicly announces submarine move to Middle East amid Israel-Iran tensions

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to the Middle East, the Pentagon said on Sunday, as the region braces for possible attacks by Iran and its allies after the killing of senior members of Hamas and Hezbollah.

While the USS Georgia, a nuclear-powered submarine, was already in the Mediterranean Sea in July, according to a US military post on social media, it was a rare move to publicly announce the deployment

of a submarine. In a statement after Austin spoke with his Israeli counterpart, the Pentagon said Austin had ordered the Abraham Lincoln strike group to accelerate its deployment to the region.

"Secretary Austin reiterated the United States' commitment to take every possible step to defend Israel and noted the strengthening of US military force posture and capabilities throughout the Middle East in light of escalating regional tensions," the statement added.

Bomb blast in Kabul leaves one dead, 11 injured

Monitoring Desk

KABUL: A bomb blast on a minibus in a neighbourhood of Afghanistan's capital killed one person and wounded 11 others on Sunday, a Kabul police spokesman said.

The blast went off in Dasht-i-Barchi — home to many Shias, a historically persecuted community in Afghanistan and a frequent target of the Islamic State group that considers them heretics — in the western neighbourhood of Kabul.

"An IED (improvised explosive device) was planted on a minibus in the Dasht-i-Barchi area," Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadrani said in a statement.

Helicopter crashes into roof of Cairns Hilton Double Tree hotel, killing pilot

Monitoring Desk

SYDNEY: A helicopter on an unauthorised flight crashed into the roof of a Hilton hotel in Australia's northern tourist town of Cairns on Monday, killing the pilot and forcing hundreds of guests to evacuate after a blaze, authorities said. Emergency crews were called at about 2 am (1600 GMT on Sunday) after the twin-engine helicopter hit the roof of the hotel.

US presidential candidate Kamala says she supports eliminating taxes on tips

Monitoring Desk

LAS VEGAS: US Vice President Kamala Harris told supporters in Nevada on Saturday she supported eliminating taxes on tips, taking a similar position to her rival Donald Trump in an effort to win over service workers, an important constituency in the state. Harris and her Democratic running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, wrapped up a multi-day tour of battleground states on Saturday with their stop in Nevada, a western state that could play a pivotal role in the November 5 presidential election.

"It is my promise to everyone here when I am president we will continue to fight for working families, including to raise the minimum wage and eliminate taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers," Harris said.

Harris said she would

work to drive down consumer prices, vowing to "take on big corporations that engage in illegal price-gouging" and corporate landlords that unfairly raise rents on working families, as well as going after big pharmaceutical companies to drive drug prices lower.

Trump, who told a rally in Las Vegas in June that he would seek to end taxation of income from tips, accused Harris of stealing his policy proposal.

"Kamala Harris, whose 'Honeymoon' period is ENDING... just copied my NO TAXES ON TIPS Policy," Trump said on his Truth Social app. "The difference is, she won't do it, she just wants it for Political Purposes!"

A Harris campaign official said her proposal would require legislation to be passed by Congress.

Bangladesh swears in new chief justice

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Bangladesh's new chief justice has been sworn into office after his predecessor, viewed as a loyalist of toppled premier Sheikh Hasina, quit following protester demands, a presidential official said on Sunday.

It is the latest in a string of fresh appointments to replace an old guard viewed as linked to the previous regime, ousted by the student-led uprising.

Syed Refaat Ahmed, the senior-most high court judge, was sworn into office by President Mohammed Shahabuddin, the president's press secretary Shiplu Zaman said. "He became the 25th chief justice of Bangladesh," Zaman said.

Ahmed studied at the University of Dhaka, Oxford and Tufts University in the United States.

Ahmed's predecessor

Obaidul Hassan on Saturday became the latest to announce his departure, after hundreds of protesters gathered outside the court to demand he step down.

Appointed last year, Hassan earlier oversaw a much-criticised war crimes tribunal that ordered the execution of Hasina's opponents, and his brother was her longtime secretary.

Bangladesh's new interim government said on Sunday it was working to resolve attacks on Hindus and other religious minorities reported after ouster of former premier Sheikh Hasina. Hindus are the largest minority in Bangladesh.

They are considered a steadfast support base for Hasina's party, the Awami League. After Hasina's abrupt resignation and flight abroad on Monday brought an end to her 15 years of rule, there were numerous reports of attacks against Hindu households, temples and businesses.

End UK riots, parents of murdered girl urge at her funeral

Monitoring Desk

SOUTHPORT: Hundreds of mourners gathered on Sunday in Southport for the funeral of a nine-year-old girl killed in last month's knife attack, which sparked more than a week of nationwide disorder.

The parents of one of three girls, who were murdered at a Taylor Swift-themed event, called for an end to the nationwide rioting that followed their deaths at an emotional funeral for their young daughter.

Family, friends, community leaders and emergency responders all joined Alice da Silva Aguiar's parents for an emotional ceremony at a Catholic church in the seaside town, nearly two weeks after the mass stabbing that shocked the country.

Attendees had been asked to wear white, a tradition for some in Portugal, where Alice's parents hail from.

Locals lining the main road clapped as the funeral cortege — bearing a small white coffin, resting on a carriage pulled by two white horses with colourful feathers — passed by.

"Of course we're here — it's the Southport spirit," said one man who turned out. "We're here to pay our respects." Pink ribbons and balloons had been tied to lampposts and garden walls near the church. Several hundred people packed inside the venue for the service — featuring short addresses, readings, prayers and hymns — which was relayed on loudspeakers to those who had gathered outside.

Northern Ireland violence shocks Muslims, stokes fears over sectarian divides

Monitoring Desk

BELFAST: A week of racism-fuelled disorder in Northern Ireland, sparked by disturbances in English towns and cities, is proving harder to end, with fears the UK region's sectarian divisions are feeding into the violence.

"They burned every single thing, there is nothing left inside, just ashes," said Bashir, whose supermarket in Belfast was torched during attacks against foreign-owned shops and businesses. A mosque in a town near Belfast was also targeted late on Friday.

"We are scared at what may happen next, there is lots of hostility against the Muslim community," said the 28-year-old from Dubai, who did not want to give his full name citing safety reasons.

Northern Ireland has seen nightly unrest, mainly in pro-UK loyalist neighbourhoods, that began after an anti-immigration protest in Belfast on August 3.

The violence has mirrored disorder across England, spurred by misinformation spread on social media about the suspected perpetrator of a knife at-

tack in Southport on July 29 which killed three children.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) said that 31 people had been arrested during the disturbances. "On a fundamental level the Belfast attacks are similar in its dynamic to anti-immigration protests in white working-class areas in England, the Republic of Ireland and elsewhere in Europe," said Peter McLoughlin, a politics lecturer at Queens University Belfast.

"It is driven by racism and fear of the other, but in Northern Ireland it also interfaces with sectarian political dynamics," he said.

Three decades of violent sectarian conflict known as the "Troubles" largely ended in 1998, but bitterness and friction persists between pro-UK Protestant loyalists and pro-Irish unity Catholic nationalists.

Outside Bashir's smoke-scarred shopfront in the staunchly loyalist inner-city district of Sandy Row, British Union Jack flags flutter on lampposts and painted wall murals proclaim fierce allegiance to the UK.



DHAKA: Holding banners and portraits of their 'missing' relatives, family members of those allegedly 'disappeared' by security agencies during Awami League rule, gather at the Shaheed Minar.

France bids reluctant farewell to dazzling Paris Olympics

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: France bid a reluctant farewell on Monday to an "enchanted" fortnight of Olympic sport as athletes headed home from Paris praising a dazzling edition of the Games that has breathed new life into the biggest show on earth.

Hollywood star Tom Cruise delivered stardust at the closing ceremony on Sunday evening — and a link with the next Games in Los Angeles — by absailing into the national stadium.

The "Mission Impossible" star descended on a wire in front of 71,500 spectators, grabbed the Olympic flag and jumped onto a motorbike, to the delight of thousands of dancing athletes and awestruck fans.

The final act of the

Paris Olympics brought relief that an event foreshadowed by worries about terror attacks, strikes or protests had passed off with barely a hitch.

But there was also sadness that two weeks of high-spirited celebration had come to an end. "Keep the flame alive," urged the front-page headline of France's biggest sports newspaper, L'Equipe, which featured new national swimming hero Leon Marchand and urged French people to maintain the spirit "of this enchanted fortnight". At the Athletes' Village in northern Paris, bleary-eyed athletes were packing their bags after a late night, with the French capital's two main airports braced for a huge influx of travellers and sports equipment.

Indonesia holds first cabinet meeting in planned new capital, Nusantara

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo held his first cabinet meeting in his planned new capital, Nusantara, on Monday, as the outgoing leader seeks to reassure investors his \$32 billion mega-project remains on track before he steps down this October.

Years after announcing his flagship infrastructure project, intended to ease the burden on congested, sinking and overpopulated Jakarta, Nusantara has faced multiple problems, including construction delays and a lack of foreign investment.

Vietnam's newly appointed party chief set to visit China next week

Monitoring Desk

HANOI: Vietnam's top leader To Lam will visit China next week in his first foreign trip since his appointment as general secretary of the ruling Communist Party earlier in August, three officials familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The move would confirm the close ties between the two communist-run neighbours, which have well developed economic and trade relations despite occasionally clashing over boundaries in the energy-rich South China Sea, a crucial commercial waterway that Beijing claims almost in its entirety — irking several countries in the region.

Lam, who is also the state president of the Southeast Asian nation, is planning to arrive in China on Aug 18.



Practicing doctors and medical staff display placards as they take part in a protest against the incident of rape and murder of a young medic in Kolkata, during a demonstration held at a government hospital in New Delhi.

India blocks Bangladeshi fleeing chaotic regime change

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: India has arrested nearly a dozen Bangladeshis attempting to cross the border to escape violence and political turmoil following deadly protests that led to the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina, border officials said on Monday.

Hundreds more are waiting along the frontier pleading for permission to cross, India's Border Security Force (BSF) said.

Hindus are the largest minority faith in mostly Muslim Bangladesh, and are considered a steadfast support base for Hasina's party, the Awami League.

After Hasina's abrupt resignation and escape to India ended her 15 years of autocratic rule on August 5, there were numerous reports of attacks against Hindu households, temples and businesses.

India's BSF said 11 Bangladesh nationals had

Hong Kong court dismisses bid by media tycoon Jimmy Lai to overturn conviction

Monitoring Desk

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's top court on Monday unanimously dismissed the bid to overturn the convictions of media tycoon Jimmy Lai and six other pro-democracy campaigners for an unauthorised assembly in 2019.

Lai, 76, the founder of the pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily, and six others including veteran democrat Martin Lee had been found guilty of organising and participating in an unauthorised assembly in August 2019 during months-long pro-democracy protests in the China-ruled city.

While a lower court had overturned their con-

viction for organising the unauthorised assembly, but their conviction for taking part in an unauthorised procession was upheld.

Their appeal centred on whether the conviction was proportionate to fundamental human rights protections, a principle set down in two non-binding decisions of Britain's Supreme Court known as "operational proportionality".

Chief Justice Andrew Cheung and Judge Roberto Ribeiro wrote in the main judgement that the two UK decisions should not be followed in Hong Kong, as there's differences between the legal frameworks for human rights challenges in Hong Kong and the UK.



The coffin of Alice da Silva Aguiar, one of the three victims of a knife attack, arrives at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Southport.

Pakistan's Parliament championed critical legislation on gender violence, women empowerment: Speaker NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday said the path to sustainable and inclusive development sans women empowerment and gender equality was elusive whereas the Parliament of Pakistan had championed critical legislation barring gender violence and supporting women empowerment in the country.

In his keynote address at the inaugural session of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) on 'Gender Empowerment and Green Economy', the Speaker underscored that the presence of high-level dignitaries depicted great leadership and partnership of regional parliamentarians in achieving gender equality and women empowerment goals.

As many as 15 Asian

countries' parliamentarians and others from Pakistan, diplomatic community, high level political figures, government officials, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), members of international donor organisations, and academia participated in the event. Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq lauded PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam for her tireless efforts in organizing the international meeting with a very timely and pertinent agenda synchronized with the national sustainable development goals. The parliament of Pakistan has played a crucial role in ensuring well guided legislation on gender equality, reproductive health, and established women caucus, youth parliamentarians committee, and other parliamentary forums for inclusive engagement of all stakeholders in policy making initiatives, he added.

"The Parliament of Pakistan became the first public building for securing net metering license to promote green economy and renewables. The Speaker National Assembly's residence and the Parliament building were first converted over solar energy when there was no public building with solar power in the country," he mentioned. Pakistan, he said, had prepared billions of rupees project for solarization of Balochistan that would not only help reduce power leakages, but also ensure renewable energy rollout in the biggest province of the country by territory. "Climate Change is a present reality affecting our day-to-day life. We are disproportionately affected due to increased intensity of disasters and violence against gender in the aftermath of climate catastrophes.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photograph with other guests at the inaugural session of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development on 'Gender Empowerment and Green Economy'.

Good consumers fed up of load shedding & over billing: Governor directs QESCO to stop unannounced electricity load shedding immediately

Directs to improve the official procedure and adopt appropriate behaviour with the consumers

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has directed to the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) to stop the unannounced electricity load shedding immediately just because the good consumers paying utility bills of electricity have become fed up due to the negative impacts of electricity load shedding and especially over billing.

The Governor also directed to dispose of the complaints of electricity consumers in order to maintain the high standard of customer service.

He was speaking on occasion of the briefing con-

ducted by the Chief Executive Officer of QESCO, Engineer Shafqat Ali here on Monday.

Also present on the occasion was the Principal Secretary to Governor Hashim Ghilzai.

The Governor on the occasion directed to improve the official procedure and adopt appropriate behaviour with the consumers.

He also directed to take practical steps for providing electricity along with complete voltage without causing inconvenience to the consumers.

The Governor stressed the need to dispose of the complaints of the consumers about electricity.

He directed to WAPDA high ups to pay focus on the payment of arrears so that its overall performance could be improved.

He also emphasized upon the district administration to extend wholehearted cooperation for protection of QESCO authorities at the district level.

He made it clear to take well care of the electricity supply during official timing in the government offices.

He also directed to take practical steps for providing electricity along with complete voltage without causing inconvenience to the consumers.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with students on the International Youth Day ceremony.

National Minorities Day ceremony CM cuts cake to show solidarity with minorities

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti participated in the ceremony held marking the Minorities Day here on Monday.

The Chief Minister also cut cake at the ceremony arranged by the parliamentary secretary for Minorities Affairs and the Hindu community.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said

that minorities have full protection in the province. He said that the pleasant relations are established between the local people and the minorities settled in the province for centuries.

He said that it is endeavour of the provincial government to formulate such projects of development and social welfare which may benefit the minorities.

Balochistan CM greets youth for securing 2nd position

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday congratulated the youth for securing the second position at the national level and appreciating the skills of the youth.

He said this while talking to Qabala Khan, a young resident of Alamdar Road Quetta who won the second position in national cubing competitions called on him here.

Appreciating the hard work, The Chief Minister said that the youth of Balochistan has made the name of Balochistan famous at the international and national level due to their talents.

We are proud of our talented youth, and we strive to encourage talented youth, he said.

PTI hints at moving no-trust motion in NA

RAWALPINDI (INP) - Senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan on Monday hinted to move no-trust motion in National Assembly.

Talking to media outside Adiala Jail, PTI leader said that no-confidence motion may be moved against the prime minister if their mandate isn't restored.

He said that the elections were held on the direction of Chief Justice of Pakistan on Feb 8 but the mandate of PTI was stolen that day. He also demanded a judicial commission to probe the alleged rigging into Feb 8 elections.



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer QESCO Balochistan Engr. Shafqat Ali briefed Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail about QESCO

Finance minister chairs CCoSOEs meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday presided over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs). The meeting was attended by Minister for Housing & Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Law

& Justice Azam Nazeer Tamar, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Governor SBP, Chairman SECP, and other senior officers from the relevant ministries and divisions.

The Cabinet Committee approved the proposals of Finance Division and Power Division for the appointment of candidates as independent directors/chairman on the boards of ZTBL and NTDC respectively. The Committee also

considered the proposal presented by the Ministry of Housing & Works and decided to categorize Pakistan Housing Authority - Foundation (PHA-F) as essential with further directions to present a revised plan of PHA-F to the Committee. Meanwhile Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday met with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) team to review revenue collection performance.

Ahsan stresses upon peace, stability, reforms for national success

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday emphasized upon the crucial role of peace, political stability, policy continuity, and continuous reforms in achieving national success.

Speaking at an event marking the International Day of Youth, organized by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, he stressed that these interconnected factors were vital for driving growth and prosperity in Pakistan, urging the youth to recognize the importance of a stable and peaceful environment for the country's progress.

"This is not a matter of political ideology, but a question of the future and well-being of 240 million people and youth of Pakistan," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed his belief that a stable government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, working towards a single agenda for the next five years, would empower the youth to surpass India in the race for success.

He highlighted the focus areas of economy, agriculture, technology, industry, and exports, saying that single agenda approach would ultimately lead Pakistan to winning the 'gold medal' in progress and development.

The minister drew inspiration from Arshad Nadeem's experiences, encouraged the youth to learn from his journey. "Nobody can achieve success with disappointment and regret," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal reminded that Pakistan was built for success, not to lag behind.

He directed to WAPDA high ups to pay focus on the payment of arrears so that its overall performance could be improved.

He also emphasized upon the district administration to extend wholehearted cooperation for protection of QESCO authorities at the district level.

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ATTOCK: President, Asif Ali Zardari offering Faateha for Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik Shaheed, during his visit to the Shaheed's home, in Attock.

President expresses condolence with bereaved family of Shaheed Lt. Uzair

ATTOCK (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday visited the residence of Shaheed Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik to express condolence with the bereaved family.

The president prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

On the occasion, the president paid tribute to Shaheed Lt. Mehmood for laying down his life for the

country, adding that he had embraced martyrdom while facing Khawarij terrorists with bravery.

The president while expressing resolve to root out terrorism, observed that nation was proud of its valiant martyrs and their unmatched sacrifices strengthened the determination of nation further.

He also prayed for the bereaved family to bear the loss with equanimity.

Dutch envoy calls on Asif, express willingness for constructive bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Henny Fokel De Vries called on Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif here Monday and expressed her willingness to promote constructive bilateral ties in various sectors.

The Federal Minister emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Republic of Netherlands and wants to further enhance defence collaboration, a

news release said.

Latest security situation along Pak-Afghan border and Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability in the region came under discussion.

He also impressed upon Pakistan's commitment to eradication of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Both sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and explored various possibilities of further strengthening political, economic ties with focus on global and regional issues.

Youngsters are guarantor of country's bright future: Dr. Rubaba Buledi exhorts youth to focus on education and skills, participate in positive activities

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister of Balochistan for the Women's Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has stated that youth are the true asset of any nation, and no country's progress is possible without the development and welfare of its youth.

In her message on the eve of International Youth Day observed on Monday, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said that sixty percent of Pakistan's population consists of young people, and this segment is the guarantor of the country's bright future. If appropriate investment is made in this sec-



QUETTA: Col. (Retd) Humayun Achakzai and Major (Retd) Khudai Dost meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

PTI hints at moving no-trust motion in NA

RAWALPINDI (INP) - Senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan on Monday hinted to move no-trust motion in National Assembly.

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JI knows how to make and get implement agreement

LAHORE (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman has said JI knows to make agreement and get it implement too. "We will get implement every clause of agreement signed with government. Pakistan cannot afford chaos, he said this while addressing a ceremony here Monday.

He went on to say that due to 14-day dharna even every child came to know IPPs are our enemies.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with JUP Secretary General Owais Noorani.

Court rejects interim bail plea of Bushra in May 9 cases

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Malik Ijaz Asif of Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has rejected interim bail plea of Bushra Bibi in May 9 cases being withdrawn.

The court has ordered to complete the inquiry of May 9 cases within 7 days. The hearing of May 9 cases in Adiala Jail has been adjourned till August 22.

Sheikh Rashid, Shibli Faraz, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Sadaqat Abbasi, Shireen Mazari, Azam Swati and others appeared in the court.

He invited PTI workers to become part of his movement. "I say to PTI workers to become part of our movement. I left my seat for your candidate too. You want what now. He added if relief is not given to people then we will stage sit-in in front of parliament. Government has been made bound to levy tax on feudalists. If governments goes back then we will observe wheel jam strike.

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He also expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the death of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Baloch in the incident of terrorism and injuries caused to others.

He said that Zakir Baloch was a talented officer of Balochistan government. He also said that Zakir Baloch was a rising star whose services would always be remembered.

He asserted that terrorists involved in the incident would not be spared and they would be chased till the end.

He stressed that all have to respond to the terrorists together.

He prayed for the departed soul of Zakir Baloch.

He also prayed that may Allah Almighty give enough strength and patience to bear the tragic loss of his death. Besides he directed to provide best treatment facilities to the injured persons.

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Interior Minister meets Chairman MQM and Secretary General JUP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi held separate meetings with Chairman MQM Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and JUP Secretary General Owais Noorani. During the meetings, matters of mutual interest, the overall political situation of the country and promoting religious harmony and brotherhood were discussed.

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CM grieved over incident of firing in Khad Kocha

Orders quick action for arrest of terrorists

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed grief over the incident of firing in Khad Kocha, Mastung and ordered to the Home department for arrest of the terrorists involved in it.

The Chief Minister said that the incident is sorrowful and as such immediate action should be taken against the terrorists.

He also expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the death of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Baloch in the incident of terrorism and injuries caused to others.

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QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding revenue review of FY 2023-24