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EC denotifies Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

Dismisses the petition filed against the competence of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti

QUETTA (Online): Election Tribunal has denotified home minister Balochistan Mir Ziaullah Lango besides ordering re-election in 7 disputed polling stations of PP-36 Balochistan Assembly (BA).

The EC has declared portfolio held by home minister Balochistan null and void.

Justice Abdullah Baloch of Election Tribunal Balochistan High Court during the hearing of the petition nullified the portfolio of home minister held by him.

JUL-F candidate Mir Saeed Lango rival candidate of Mir Zia Ullah Lango in PP-36 Balochistan Assembly had filed election petition in election tribunal.

Akram Shah advocate

had persuaded the election petition filed by Mir Saeed Lango while Salim Lashari advocate appeared on behalf of Mir Zia Lango.

APP adds: The Election Tribunal of Balochistan on Wednesday dismissed the petition filed against the competence of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

The Election Tribunal consisting of Justice Rozi Khan had reserved the decision on the completion of the hearing last day.

On behalf of the government, Advocate General Balochistan Asif Ali pursued the case in the Election Tribunal.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti's eligibility for PB-10 was challenged by Nawabzada Ghoram Bugti.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir distributing laptops among the high achievers during National Youth Convention held in Islamabad.

New Toshakhana case IHC dismisses petition filed by PTI founder, Bushra against their arrest

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has dismissed the petition filed by PTI founder Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi against their arrest in new Toshakhana case declaring it infructuous.

The court has advised to adopt legal way of filing bail after arrest petition in Accountability Court (AC).

The petition filed by Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi against their arrest in new Toshakhana case came up for hearing before IHC bench comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Babar Sattar Wednesday.

Suleman Safdar counsel for PTI founder appeared in the court.

Government, CM grieved over loss of lives of zayreen in coach accident in Iran

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti have expressed deep grief and sorrow over loss of lives of zayreen in a bus accident occurred in Iran.

In their separate condolence statements issued here on Wednesday, the Governor and Chief Minister expressed empathy with the bereaved families of those died in the fatal accident of bus in Taftan check point. The Governor said that we share the grief of bereaved families of all those died and injured in the accident.

He prayed for early recovery of the injured persons. He also prayed that may Allah Almighty give enough strength and patience to the bereaved families to bear the tragic loss of death of their dear ones.

In his message, the Chief Minister said that the bus accident is sorrowful and he is grieved over loss of precious lives in it.

He said that we equally share the grief of death of people with their families. He also prayed that may Allah Almighty grant the bereaved family enough patience to bear the loss of their lives.

EC accepts intra party election of PML-N, JI

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has issued new list of registered political parties and intra party election of JI and PML-N have been accepted.

According to list issued on EC website 66 political parties are registered.

The name of heads of these political parties have been included in the list.

As per list the intra party presidential election of PML-N and intra party election of JI have been accepted.

Name of PTI chairman has not been updated on website being the matter of PTI intra party election pending hearing in EC.

Army chief reiterates resolve to win war against terrorism

Says a strong bond between people, govt, and military is guarantee of Pakistan's security and development; People who had built narrative of Pakistan's default are found nowhere today; Youth most expensive asset of Pakistan, no one to be allowed to waste it; State's responsible to protect nation from social media's adverse effects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Army Chief said it was the responsibility of the state to keep the masses at bay from the malicious implications of social media-induced confusion and sedition.

A strong relationship between the people, the government and the army was the guarantee of Pakistan's security and development, he said, adding, "Those who were creating the narrative of Pakistan's default, where are they today?"

"If you want to know the importance of a free state, ask the people of Libya, Syria, Kashmir, and Gaza. As Muslims we are forbidden from despair," the COAS said.

The Chief of Army Staff told the youth that life was a test, and read the Qur'anic verse, "Do people think that they will be left alone for saying, 'We believe,' and they will not be tested?"

At the end of the speech, the Army Chief recited this poem of Allama Iqbal addressing the youth: "The destiny of nations is in the hands of individuals."

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PM calls for collective efforts to achieve development goals

Govt to dole out maximum funds for youth empowerment; Calls 1973 Constitution a binding force for the nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Higher Education Commission, teachers, vice-chancellors and students from across the country.

He said it was the government's responsibility to equip the youth with modern education, technology and skills to enable them to change the country's fate and bring about a 'revolution' of progress and prosperity.

He said the country's youth had immense potential as for the last three years, Pakistani students were among the top achievers of the foreign scholarships.

Calling the 1973 Constitution a binding force for the nation, he said Pakistani nation also showed unity when the country carried out the nuclear tests in 1998 to make its defence impregnable, setting aside the serious challenges.

The Convention was attended by federal ministers, Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, Chairman of the

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ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir presenting gift to a child during national youth convention at Pak china friendship centre, in the Federal Capital.

35 Pakistani pilgrims killed after bus overturns in Iran

TEHRAN (Online): At least thirty-five Pakistani pilgrims have been killed and fifteen others critically injured in a bus accident in Iranian city of Yazd.

According to initial reports, the accident occurred due to failure of brakes.

Injured have been shifted to near-by hospital.

Most of the passengers belong to Larkana, Ghotki and other cities of Sindh.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have expressed deep grief and sorrow over loss of precious lives in the tragic bus accident of Pakistani Zaireen in Iran.

The President and the Prime Minister commiserated with the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls.

The President directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bring the bodies

to Pakistan and provide timely aid to the injured.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday expressed his deep grief over the death of Pakistani pilgrims in a bus accident that took place in Iran.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his deep grief over the loss of lives in a bus accident carrying Pakistani pilgrims in Yazd city of Iran.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives at a bus accident of Pakistani Zaireen near Yazd in Iran. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. May the injured recover at the earliest," he said in a statement.

The prime minister directed Pakistan's embassy in Tehran to extend all possible assistance to the affected families and ensure medical treatment of the injured.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing a conference on "Empowering a Digital Pakistan" organizing by Institute of Regional Studies & COPAIR.

On directives of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto: Balochistan & Sindh agree to adopt same stance on water distribution formula at IRSA platform

QUETTA: The provinces of Balochistan and Sindh have been agreed on adopting same stance on the formula of distribution of water at the platform of IRSA.

The Balochistan province would endorse every stance of Sindh under the IRSA formula.

This was decided in a meeting the Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari presided over through video link on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by the Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Balochistan, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani

from Quetta and Provincial Minister for Irrigation Sindh, Jam Khan Shoro from Karachi.

Both the ministers informed the meeting about performance of their respective departments.

It may be mentioned here that the meeting was aimed at agreeing to one same stance about the formula of distribution of water at the platform of IRSA. Thus, they adopted the same stance on directives of the Chairman PPP.

The Chairman PPP sought the details of losses caused due to the flash floods in Sindh and Balochistan.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Imran demands open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan while demanding open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed has said his and Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed matter is not internal affair of army.

"The facts will come before the world due to open trial, he said this in an informal talks with the journalists in Adiala jail Wednesday.

Terming Gen (Retd) Faiz zero from hero after retirement he said Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed issue is not a matter of national security. It is local issue. I demand army chief to conduct open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz because facts will come before the world due to open trial. But I know they will conduct closed doors trial instead of open trial.

All the cases against me have collapsed. Neither any contact nor any link remained between him and Gen (Retd) Faiz after his retirement. When some one retires he becomes free.

May 9 conspiracy started with my arrest. Ascertain it who gave orders of my arrest. I know who issued my arrest orders. No 1 Badshah who controls Rangers is super king. However he avoided to mention name.

Gen (Retd) Faiz could give me what benefit after his retirement. They are fools who say that Gen (Retd) Faiz has given me any benefit.

I am former civilian prime minister. Pakistan image will be tarnished if they take me to military court, he remarked.

GoB announces to introduce biometric attendance & face recognition system in Govt offices

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has announced to introduce the biometric attendance and face recognition system for the attendance of government employees in the offices.

In first phase, the modern system of attendance would be enforced in the Civil Secretariat.

This was announced in an official handout issued here on Wednesday. Needless to mention here that the very initiative has been taken on directives of the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan for ensuring timely attendance of the government employees in the government offices.

Youth empowerment, key to Pakistan's bright future: President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that the youth had significant potential and could greatly elevate country's reputation if given appropriate opportunities.

In a conversation with Asrar Khan Kakar, the newly elected President of the Oxford Union Society, the president extended his congratulations on his election to the coveted position.

The president recalled that former Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was the first Asian woman to serve as President of the Oxford Union.

The president highlighted that Asrar Kakar, a

PTI founder meddles in military affairs with demand for Faiz Hameed's open trial

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said PTI founder had meddled in the affairs of Pakistan Army by demanding an open trial for ex-Spy Chief.

The minister, in a news statement, regretted that the PTI founder had made multiple attempts to make the matter related to Faiz Hameed controversial.

Instead of giving statements in defense of Faiz Hameed, the PTI founder should better made his position clear in the 190 million pounds case, Tarar said, adding his controversial statements showed that he was suffering from "serious anxiety and uncertainty".

The minister said the PTI founder was reluctant to accept that the issue of Faiz Hameed was internal matter of the Army, which proved that the ex-spy chief was his "asset".

He said it seemed that the PTI chief was in mental disarray as sometime he called Faiz Hameed an "asset or a hero", while on some occasion took completely an otherwise stance.

In the Faiz Hameed case, he said it appeared that the PTI founder had no qualms about using people for his own personal interests. The minister said the PTI founder was expert in ditching his own well wishers.

The Secretary Information assured the Executive Committee that the Ministry of Information has moved a summary for rate increase to the Finance

Govt advertisement rates to be increased soon: Info Secy



Information Ministry for payment to newspapers on behalf of sponsoring departments. The members of the executive committee apprised the Secretary Information about the problems faced by them including non implementation of regional quota, problems in transfer of declarations af-

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Pakistan committed to further strengthen ties with Belarus: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday said that Pakistan is committed to further strengthening bilateral ties with Belarus, particularly through enhanced parliamentary engagement.

In a meeting with Igor Sergeevko, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus in Minsk, Ayaz said "This visit marks an important step forward in our bilateral relations. We deeply appreciate your hospitality and are eager to build on the foundations laid over the past 30 years of diplomatic relations".

The speaker emphasized the need to deepen

parliamentary relations between Pakistan and Belarus, focusing on expanding the legal framework for cooperation, said a news release received here.

"We are committed to revisiting and updating existing agreements to ensure they are more effective. Our Parliament will actively work on these frameworks to facilitate closer interaction," Ayaz Sadiq said.

On the subject of bilateral cooperation, the speaker reiterated Pakistan's support for Belarus in international platforms, including its bid to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

He also affirmed Pakistan's willingness to support Belarus in joining

various organizations where Pakistan is a member. "We believe that our collaboration can be mutually beneficial, and we are ready to offer our support wherever possible," he emphasized.

Mr. Igor Sergeevko, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belarus, expressed his gratitude for Pakistan's consistent support at international forums.

He welcomed the visit of the Pakistani parliamentary delegation comprising Members National Assembly M. Asalm Ghumman, Syed Tariq Hussain, and Syed Hafeezuddin noting it as a significant milestone in strengthening the ties between the two countries.



Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.

Naqvi pays homage to Martyrs Intl Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has paid tribute to all the martyrs who sacrificed their today for our peaceful tomorrow in connection with the observance of International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

In a message issued here, he said the nation cannot repay the great sacrifices of the martyrs who laid their lives in the war against terrorism, but we will try to repay the debt by eliminating all of the terrorists.

Interior Minister praised the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the war against terrorism, call-

ing them the benefactors of the nation.

He noted that every segment of Pakistani society has made sacrifices in this war.

He said that the Pakistan Army, police, and law enforcement agencies have given their blood for the establishment of peace in the country.

He emphasized that there's no parallel of Pakistan's unwavering sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

Mohsin Naqvi pointed out that Pakistan is the country most affected by terrorism, with thousands of people martyred and injured in the war against terrorism.

ECP reminds political parties to submit consolidated statements of accounts for FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has reminded all the heads of political parties to submit consolidated statements of accounts (Form-D) for Financial Year 2023-24 on or before August 29.

In terms of section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with section 204 of the Act and rule 159 & 160 of the Election Rules, 2017, thereof, that the political parties are required to file with Election Commission their Consolidated Statement of Accounts on (Form-D) for financial year, 2023-24 ended on 30th June, 2024 on or before 29th August, 2024, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

It may be recalled that Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that a Political Party shall, in such a manner as may be prescribed, submit to the Com-

mission, within sixty days from the close of a financial year, a consolidated statement of its accounts audited by a Chartered Accountant on Form-D containing: annual income and expenses, sources of its funds; and assets and liabilities.

The Consolidated Statement of Accounts to be submitted to the Election Commission complete in all respect and shall accompany by report of a Chartered Accountant with regard to the audit of accounts of a political party and a certificate signed by an office-bearer authorized by the party Head stating that:

- No funds were received by the party from any source prohibited under the Elections Act, 2017.
- The statement of accounts contains an accurate picture of the financial position of the party.
- The information

given above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

- The above statement is audited by the Chartered Accountant and detailed report thereof is annexed.

The statement of accounts is to be submitted on Form-D as provided in the Elections Act, 2017. Printed Forms are available, free of cost, in the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad and in the offices of the Provincial Election Commissioners, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Form-D/Proforma for source of funds are also available on ECP's Website.

Overwriting should be avoided. The attested copy of Membership / Certificate issued by ICAP in respect of Auditor engaged shall be annexed to the Form-D alongwith last valid renewal certificate.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Health Dr Mukhtar Bharath chairs meeting regarding M pox.

ADPC National Workshop on iCARE Innovations Fund concludes successfully

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), in collaboration with the World Bank, successfully held a National Workshop on the iCARE Innovations Fund in Islamabad.

The event marked a significant milestone in advancing climate adaptation and resilience efforts in Pakistan under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia project, a news release said.

The workshop brought together over 80 representatives from various government departments, development partners, international organiza-

tions, civil society, and academic institutions. Participants engaged in discussions on the progress and potential of innovative projects funded by the iCARE Innovations Fund, a crucial component of the CARE project aimed at enhancing climate resilience across South Asia.

During the event, three key innovators—Inara Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), and University of Agriculture Faisalabad—presented their pioneering work. These projects focus on critical areas such as climate-smart agriculture, integrated water resources

management, and climate information analytics.

Lt. Gen @ Nadeem Ahmed, Advisor of the CARE project, emphasized the importance of knowledge exchange during his opening remarks. He highlighted the role of the iCARE Innovations Fund in fostering innovative solutions to address Pakistan's pressing climate challenges.

The workshop featured two panel discussions on the sustainability and scalability of climate innovations and to explore the role of multi-partner collaboration in promoting climate resilience.

Chief Commissioner suspends PTI's NOC for public gathering

ISLAMABAD (APP): The chief commissioner on Wednesday suspended the NOC issued to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for holding a public gathering in the capital due to the security concerns following recommendations from Federal law enforcement agencies.

The notification issued here stated that a high-level meeting was held to review the security situation chaired by the Chief Commissioner and was attended by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad.

During the meeting, the NOC issued by the DC on July 31st was reviewed.

The IG Islamabad raised security concerns due to various upcoming events in the city.

The notification highlighted that a religious group called for a protest in front of the Supreme Court on August 22, and security was deployed for the Bangladesh cricket team currently in Islamabad.

Additionally, the IG emphasized the security of foreign embassies in the capital.

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Session judge injured in gun attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): A session judge of Kohistan, Farid Khan, sustained bullet injuries after being shot by unknown assailants over personal enmity, police reported on Wednesday.

According to a private news channel, the incident occurred outside a mosque in his ancestral village, Chhoher Sharif, where he was targeted and shot twice in the legs.

He was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.



ISLAMABAD: A view of heavy shipping containers placed at Srinagar Highway chowk for road block due to TLP protest on Thursday, in the Federal Capital.

SC rejects PML-N candidate appeal for recounting in NA-97

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while rejecting the appeal plea of PML-N candidate Ali Gohar Baloch on the matter of recounting in NA-97 Faisalabad has maintained the National Assembly membership of Saad Ullah Baloch of PTI.

Justice Naem Akhtar Khan Afghan has remarked SC set two principles in the decision that whenever any petition for recounting comes in time then RO cannot refuse recounting. SC described the differences in votes between both of the candidates. It is not being proved from anywhere in record that the petition for recounting of votes had come on February 9.

A two members bench comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan heard the petition Wednesday.

The lawyers of the respondents appeared in the court.

Justice Naem Akhtar Khan raised the question during the hearing "prove it from the record the petition for recounting was filed timely with Returning Officer (RO). You are depending on the recent decision of SC. Two principles were set by SC in the decision, SC said when the application for recounting comes in time then RO cannot refuse.

The SC also described the difference of votes between both of the candidates for recounting. It is not being proved anywhere from the record that application for recounting had come on February 09. Date is not mentioned in the paper on which you are relying. Has the RO admitted on any forum that application for recounting had come.

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ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) planting dates tree outside Jinnah Convention Center in the Federal Capital.

ISSI, NIMA sign MoU for closer collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) amid further enhancing its institutional collaboration has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA).

The signing ceremony, held at ISSI, marked the commencement of a new chapter in academic and research cooperation between the two Institutes. Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and President NIMA Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmad Saeed, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions. The event was moderated by Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, a news release said.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood warmly welcomed the NIMA delegation, highlighting the importance of formalizing the relationship between the two think-tanks.

He lauded NIMA's contributions to Pakistan's maritime and security policies and expressed confidence that the MoU would pave the way for enhanced mutual collaboration, including impactful research, conferences, and capacity-building initiatives.

Ambassador Mahmood concluded by reaffirming the commitment of both institutions to leverage their combined expertise and resources for the advancement of Pakistan's interests in the maritime and related domains.

CDA, Islamic Relief Pakistan collaborate to tackle climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Wednesday met with Country Director Islamic Relief Pakistan, Asif Shirazi, to discuss joint efforts in addressing climate change and developing Islamabad.

Randhawa praised Islamic Relief's contributions to Pakistan's development since 1992, particularly in environmental initiatives.

He highlighted CDA's efforts in plantation drives, especially in Margalla Hills,

and the establishment of the Climate Change Fund to protect Islamabad's environment.

The meeting focused on tackling climate change, with discussions on projects to meet Islamabad's growing water needs.

CDA offered technical support to address the water problem, while Islamic Relief expressed readiness to collaborate with CDA's development partners, including the World Bank and International Development Bank.

AIOU announces results for autumn 2023 semester

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced the results for the Associate Degree Programs (General, Commerce, Education, Mass Communication, Library Science, and Dars-e-Nizami) and the BA (Old) Program offered in the Autumn 2023 semester.

According to the Controller of Examinations, Mian Muhammad Riaz, the results have been uploaded to the students' portals.

The students who have completed their programs will soon have their provisional certificates available on their portals, enabling them to enroll in the next academic phase.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Health Nadeem Mahhub visits Peshawar International Airport to review M-pox arrangements.

Crackdown on illegal petrol agencies in ICT; 2 arrested, 9 sealed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has launched a crackdown on illegal petrol agencies operating in residential areas in the Federal Capital and sealed nine agencies besides arresting two accused.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon urged the residents to report such agencies and avoid buying petrol from them, said the spokesman of ICT administration.

In a recent crackdown, the Islamabad administration, led by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Saddar

zone Maheen Hassan, took action against illegal petrol agencies operating in sectors G-13 and G-14 areas. Nine illegal agencies were sealed, and two individuals were arrested for running unauthorized petrol distribution operations.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Islamabad has emphasized the need to take firm action against these illegal agencies to ensure public safety.

The DC also urged citizens to report any such agencies operating in their residential areas and to refrain from purchasing petrol from unregistered sources.

Syedaal grieves over sad demise of Raza's sister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Sarda Syedaal Khan Nasar, on Wednesday, expressed deep grief over the sad demise of the sister of former Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani.

In a message, he said, "The sudden death of the deceased is a great shock to Former Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani and is an irreparable loss for the family."

The Deputy Chairman prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the deceased high ranks in Jannah and to bestow patience upon the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Court dismisses bail pleas of accused in APPC's corruption scam

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special court on Wednesday dismissed the bail petitions of three accused involved in a multimillion rupees corruption scam of Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation (APPC), the state run news agency.

Special Judge Central heard the post-arrest bail petitions of three accused including Project Director Muhammad Ghawas Khan, former Deputy Director Musawar Imran and Ex-Chief Computer Engineer Saad Mudassar.

During the hearing, APP's Legal Advisor Sardar Yaqoob Mastoi argued that

all the accused were members of the procurement committee and they submitted 60 cheques to Accountant General Pakistan Revenues (AGPR) through forged signatures. The lawyer said that 124 million rupees of the tax-payers were looted by the accused through corrupt practices in government institution.

The advocate argued that the lower court had terminated the bails of the accused but they managed to escape. The three accused have caused millions of rupees in losses to the national news organization through corruption, he maintained.

SC serves notice in accused bail case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday served notices in a bail petition of an accused in Jinnah House Lahore attack case.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, hearing the case questioned that what the allegation was on accuse Hamid Nazeer and If he was present on crime scene and whether any CCTV footage were produced in this regard. The petitioner's lawyer argued that his client was accused of injuring a police personnel with the hit of a stick. However, the medical report said that the said personnel get injuries with the hit of a stone.

River Indus still flow in medium, low flood: FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that at present, the River Indus is experiencing "Medium Flood" in Gudu-Sukkur reach and "Low Flood" in Tarbela-Taunsa reach and at Kotri Barrage. According to the daily FFC report on Wednesday, rest of the major Rivers i.e. Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi & Sutlej are discharging normal flows.

The Maximum Conservation Level (MCL) of 1550 feet in Tarbela Dam has been maintained since August 19, 2024, whereas Mangla Reservoir is cur-

rently at an elevation of 1214.70 feet (27.30 feet space left to reach its MCL of 1242 feet). Combined live storage of the Tarbela, Chashma, and Mangla reservoirs stands at 11,110 MAF which is 83.20% of the total live storage capacity of 13,354 MAF. According to Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore, yesterday's low-pressure area over the North Bay of Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh remained stationary. Trough of Westerly Wave persists over North-eastern Afghanistan and adjoining Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers are busy in construction work of a bridge at Islamabad highway during development work, in the Federal Capital.

Thursday August 22, 2024

Troubled tribunals

It is unlikely that the public will get timely closure on the many controversies raging over the Feb 8 general election.

Fafen has highlighted that, so far, only 7pc of the 377 petitions have been resolved, with Balochistan's tribunals alone in achieving a double-digit disposal rate of 17pc.

The nation saw the post-polls fiascos play out on their television screens and has awaited answers about what exactly went wrong.

While these delays were happening, many candidates and their supporters saw their victories magically turn into defeats and vice versa.

From supposedly 'final' results being retracted, revised, and then reissued, to recounts being done without candidates being informed.

This is where the election tribunals, acting as third-party arbiters between the disputing candidates, were supposed to provide closure.

The delay will only mean that the legitimacy of the coalition government will continue to remain in doubt.

Tragically, the systems that were meant to act as a check and balance on our institutions and ensure compliance with the constitutional order.

Rafia Zakaria

The incident occurred on Aug 9, 2024, hours after crowds in India and Pakistan cheered on their respective contenders for the javelin gold in Paris.

However, nobody, it seems, knows what happened at the R.G. Kar Hospital. It has been two weeks since the news broke that a trainee doctor who was on duty that night was brutally raped and killed in the early hours of Aug 9.

Zahid Hussain

There have been few instances in Pakistan's history where an army chief has bowed out without generating controversy.

Retired Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa may have been among the most controversial army chiefs, but whatever is happening now is no less scandalous.

Gen Bajwa has been held responsible by both sides of the political divide for the fall of their respective governments.

New revelations have emerged about his alleged political manoeuvring that saw the fall of two prime ministers and regime change.

questions are being raised about how such a brutal crime could have taken place in a fully staffed hospital.

According to news reports, the second-year resident was completing a 36-hour shift at the hospital and was attacked while she was apparently resting in a seminar room.

When finally they were allowed to see their child's body, they saw that she had been beaten and badly bruised. The glass from her spectacles had been smashed on her face and even her eyes were bleeding from the shards.

strangled to death. Suspecting a move to destroy evidence, the father of the rape victim questioned the haste with which the body of his child was cremated.

Doctors, including those with labour-room responsibilities, have to work at all hours of the day and night and may be singlehandedly responsible for dozens of patients at the same time.

It is understandable why the medical community in India is on the streets protesting against the rape and the conditions that led to it.

Night duty

Medical premises in Pakistan are often not equipped with safe and adequate facilities for female doctors whether these are bathrooms or rooms where female medical staff working long hours can rest safely.

In the Kolkata case, the person who has been arrested was a civilian police volunteer, who appears to have had easy access to all parts of the hospital.

It didn't take much time for the new incumbent to show that he was in charge. Gen Bajwa was fond of holding forth for hours on end on national and international issues.

By then, it seemed

that had the total backing of the security establishment. But there were some inherent contradictions in the system that started emerging, with the new prime minister trying to assert his position and taking some decisions which came into conflict with the establishment's views.

He told me that the prime minister had become completely dependent on Faiz Hameed. But it was the appointment of Usman Buzdar as Punjab chief minister and Khan's blind confidence in him that remained the main sticking point.

The saga of Gen Bajwa

But most interesting is the story of how Gen Bajwa was chosen for the coveted post by the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif, despite being much lower on the seniority list.

It was on the assurance of retired Maj-Gen Ijaz Ahmad, his father-in-law, that Gen Bajwa was appointed.

It was apparent that merit and seniority did not matter in the appointment of the army chief. Sharif was already embroiled in the Panama case and his ties with the then military leadership had soured.

Some months later, Sharif was ousted via the Supreme Court. There was little doubt that the action against the three-time prime minister had the full back-

ing of the security establishment. But there were some inherent contradictions in the system that started emerging, with the new prime minister trying to assert his position and taking some decisions which came into conflict with the establishment's views.

A long meeting with Gen Bajwa in October 2021 gave me some insight into the widening cleavage between the establishment and the PTI government.

He told me that the prime minister had become completely dependent on Faiz Hameed. But it was the appointment of Usman Buzdar as Punjab chief minister and Khan's blind confidence in him that remained the main sticking point.

By then, it seemed

that he had already opened a channel with the PML-N leadership, as also confirmed by Khawaja Asif. He told me about his frequent meetings with Shehbaz Sharif for whom he had developed a strong liking.

He also narrated a story about his meeting with Maulana Fazlur Rehman. According to the general, the only request made by the JUI-F chief was that he remove the Khan government.

By then, it seemed

that the general had already opened a channel with the PML-N leadership, as also confirmed by Khawaja Asif.

He told me about his frequent meetings with Shehbaz Sharif for whom he had developed a strong liking. However, at the same time, the general would appear highly contemptuous while talking about his meeting with him and other opposition leaders.

There has only been a change of command.

Poking the bear

Mahir Ali

Twenty-Four years ago, just months into his first term as Russia's second post-Soviet president, Vladimir Putin was pictured partying at a dacha in Sochi while his nation coped with the loss of a nuclear-powered submarine during naval exercises.

Back in 2000, the Russian media had few qualms about calling out official incompetence and presidential indifference.

The region's name should also resonate with anyone familiar with the key events of World War II. The most formidable clash of tanks in history entailed a monumental loss of life — upwards of a million, by some accounts — but the Battle of Kursk is mainly remembered as a turning point when, following a hard-won triumph in the Battle of Stalingrad, the Soviet Red Army turned the tide against the Nazi invaders.

More than 80 years later, both sides in the unnecessary conflict try to tar each other with the Nazi tag; both rely to some extent on far-right forces within their military structures.

That threat still cannot be discounted, al-

though the flashpoint might be in a different part of the world, but it is not imminent. However, the consequences of the Ukrainian advance into Russian territory remain unclear, and the messaging from Kyiv about its motivation has been somewhat muddled.

The Ukrainian president has said that the successful attack on Russian soil was intended as a negotiating tactic — presumably to persuade Putin that the border is vulnerable in both directions, so his insistence on retaining large chunks of Ukraine as part of any peace deal is untenable.

Might that work, or will Putin's instinct be to exact revenge, for which Ukrainian civilians may pay the biggest price? Putin's tendency is to prefer revanchism over compromise.

should serve as an even bigger reminder than his one-time confidant Yevgeny Prigozhin's revolt last year that Putin's republic does not measure up to its projected illusions.

Without delving into history, suffice it to say that Putin's ill-considered gambit returned to bite him on the backside, whereas it remains to be seen whether Zelensky's gamble will pay any dividends.

US sources suggest that Kyiv's Kursk initiative derailed talks in Qatar towards an agreement on not targeting energy facilities: chiefly power plants in Ukraine and oil refineries in Russia, but including nuclear facilities.

What might come next in this sordid conflict remains to be seen. But anyone who expects Putin to come to his senses in the face of territorial blackmail is living in a fool's paradise.

'Doing okay'

Arooj Waheed Dar

Persistently high inflation in Pakistan is eroding the purchasing power of the poorest, limiting access to basic facilities.

With the government's limited fiscal space and competing priorities, it is clear that investment in social sectors is likely to remain low.

The Doing Good Index of the Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society examines the regulatory and societal environment in which private capital is directed towards philanthropy.

The report highlights a dramatic increase in the regulatory burden for SDOs between 2020 and 2024. This period coincides with severe impacts on marginalised communities in Pakistan due to

Covid-19, climatic shocks, and the Russia-Ukraine war. Instead of easing the regulatory burden for SDOs during this critical period, further hurdles were put up with primary focus on heightened scrutiny of political funding and rigorous monitoring of financial flows to NGOs under the pretext of preventing money laundering and terrorism financing.

In terms of finances, SDOs are facing growing difficulties in transferring and receiving foreign funds. This issue is compounded by a decline in local funding due to reduced purchasing power, which limits individuals' capacity to donate.

Furthermore, the procedures for accessing government procurements are reported to be highly complex. Non-transparency remains a significant concern.

With negligible public spending in social sectors, it is essential for the government to set political agendas aside and create a conducive environment for SDOs to address these deficiencies.

CM Maryam opens model house of 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' program

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated a model house of 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' [Own Roof, Own House] programme and launched an online portal (acag.punjab.gov.pk), where citizens could apply for the programme.

Helpline number for the program is 0800-09100, where citizens could call to seek information.

The CM visited the model house on Wednesday, and thoroughly inspected its every part. She also

inspected various stalls related to construction. She observed 3D printer at Infrastructure Development Authority, Punjab (IDAP) stall. She was briefed about Smart Rock to test the strength of concrete.

She was apprised about eco-friendly brick type "Core Eco Block."

Addressing the ceremony, held at Ashiana-e-Quaid, she appreciated the efforts of Secretary Housing Asadullah Khan and Director General PHATA (Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency).

The CM was briefed

by Secretary Housing Asadullah Khan about the details of Low Cost Housing project. He also screened a documentary on low cost housing program for common man in Punjab.

Senior Provincial Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Ministers Sohaib Ahmad Malik, Zeeshan Rafique, Members of Punjab Assembly and Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik attended the ceremony.

Chief Secretary, Secretary Housing, DG PHATA, and other relevant officers were also present.



BHITSHAH: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani laying wreath on the grave of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai on the occasion of the 281st Urs celebration.

Thar coal producing cheapest power in country: Murad

KARACHI (INP): Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that the Sindh government had 10 years ago called for investment in the wind and solar energy, now entire country wants investment in it.

Talking to Lahore's media persons here, Sindh's Chief Minister said that electricity has become a very serious issue. "The cheapest electricity being generated in the country with Thar coal power

plants," he said.

He said Thar coal power plants generating over 3,000 megawatts of the electricity.

"This electricity supplied to the national grid and later Faisalabad," he pointed out. "Thar's electricity not supplied to Sindh," he said.

"Thar coal could generate cheaper electricity for Pakistan," he said. "We can create jobs and increase exports with

industries running on Thar coal," CM Shah suggested.

Murad Ali Shah said that cyber knife machine's facility has not been available in any hospital of Pakistan.

"Sindh's Jinnah Hospital providing free treatment with cyber knife," chief minister said. "This cyber knife treatment requires US\$ 70,000 to 1,50,000 expenses in the world," he added.

Chairperson BISP discusses Nashonuma program with Sindh Health Minister

KARACHI (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, Wednesday, emphasized the role of the Benazir Nashonuma Programme in addressing health and nutrition challenges among poor and deserving women and children in Pakistan.

The BISP Chairperson, in a meeting with Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho here, had a detailed discussion on the BISP Nashonuma Programme and collaboration of BISP and provincial health departments to further enhance the outreach of the program.

stunting, improve weight gain during pregnancy, reduce anemia and micronutrient deficiencies, and raise awareness about maternal and early child health, she added.

Senator Khalid also discussed the program's pilot targeting adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 in Qambar Shahdadkot and the integration of immunization facilities through collaboration with the health department.

Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho commended the efforts of BISP, particularly the Nashonuma Programme, and briefed the Chairperson BISP about initiatives of the Sindh government in the health sector. The Sindh minister expressed her support for future collaborations between BISP and the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) to further enhance the program's reach and effectiveness.



PESHAWAR: Renowned Social Activist Ashraf Khan meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

Gilani visits Bhit Shah, urges masses to spread message of mystics

HYDERABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday arrived at Bhit Shah on the second day of the 281st Urs of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, Provincial Minister of Culture Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah accompanied him on the occasion. He placed a flower wreath over the shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai and recited surah Fatihah. Gilani along with provincial culture minister Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah listened to "Shah jo raag" in the premises of Dargah and also recorded his comments in the guests' books.

Later, he attended the Latif Literary Conference at HT Surley Hall as a special guest. Addressing the conference, Gilani emphasized Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai's message of standing firm against oppression and advocating for women's rights.

During the Latif Literary Conference, scholars including Madad Ali Sindhi, Taj Joyo, Dr. Sher Mehriani, Aziz Kangrani, Shaikat Ujjan, Adal Soomro, Mukhtiar Malik, A.D. Lashari and others presented their research papers on Shah Latif's art, thought and philosophy.



KARACHI: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) call on Minister of Health Sindh Azra Fazal Pechuho at Sindh Secretariat Karachi.

PWPA seminar highlights CM's vision to empower women

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Women Protection Authority (PWPA) organised a seminar at Punjab University (PU) on Wednesday to spread awareness regarding Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's vision to empower women.

Prominent participants included PWPA Chairperson Hina Parvez Butt and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) 'I Am The Code', Lady Marieme were present at the event.

During the event, 'I

Am The Code Pakistan' chapter was officially launched at the university's Social Work Department, marking the formal beginning of the initiative in Pakistan.

The PWPA chairperson, speaking at the event, said its was a significant step towards promoting digital literacy and gender equality in Pakistan. "The initiative aims to empower women and girls by providing them with digital literacy and coding skills," she added.

Minister reviews registration process for Himat Card

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal, Sohail Shaukat Butt visited various parts of Rawalpindi Division to review registration of CM Punjab Himat Card package persons with disabilities (PWDs).

According to the details, the minister accompanied by MPAs Malik Iftikhar Ahmed, Imran Ilyas, Mansoor Afsar and Zaib-un-Nisa Awan visited registration points established in Sir Syed Chowk (Rawalpindi), Taxila and Murree.

During his visit to Sir

Syed Chowk, the minister directed the concerned teams to encourage the PWDs for maximizing registration for the Himat Card.

He reviewed thoroughly the process of registration and verification. He said that the beneficiaries of the facility must be registered and verified by the Social Welfare's mobile application.

Talking to the media on the occasion, he highlighted that CM Maryam Nawaz was actively working for the welfare of PWDs.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Chairman Cabinet Committee for Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the 11th meeting at Home Department.

Governor KP contacts Pak envoy in Iran; expresses grief over tragic bus accident

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday expressed grief and sorrow over the traffic incident at Yazd city in Iran which claimed the lives of 28 Pakistani zairrens and injured 23 persons.

The Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has contacted Pakistani Ambassador Muhammad Mudassar Tipu in Iran regarding the tragic bus accident in Yazd.

The Governor emphasized the need for providing all possible assistance to the victims.

Ambassador Tipu assured that every effort would be made to support the affected individuals, despite the accident site being 700 kilometers away from the consulate, said Governor Kundi.

He said that the Pakistani Ambassador is personally overseeing the relief operations.

Governor Kundi expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of Pakistani

pilgrims in Yazd.

He said that President Asif Ali Zardari has also conveyed profound grief over the incident and instructed the Sindh government to immediately contact the families of the victims.

The affected individuals are from Larkana, and the government will ensure full support for their relatives, he said. He said that special directives have been issued by President Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for the repatriation of the deceased bodies. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has promptly contacted Iranian authorities in response to the accident.

Governor Kundi extended prayers for the swift recovery of the injured and expressed solidarity with the bereaved families.

He also welcomed the Iranian authorities' commitment to providing maximum support.

Minister inspects work at Kohat

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate on Wednesday inspected the ongoing scheme after completing the asphalt work on Shekhan Road in Kohat.

The Minister directed the timely completion of work of shoulders of the said road without compromising on the quality and quantity of work.

He also asked the party leadership and the general people to keep a vigil eye on the quality of the ongoing development works in their respective areas and report immediately where any defect or corruption is seen, so that action is taken against such elements and stop the waste of money.

Aftab Alam declared that the national exchequer is the sacred trust of the people and it will be spent purely on the betterment of masses.

Two killed, 7 injured in roof collapse in Bannu

BANNU (APP): Two women were killed and seven others sustained injuries while buried under the debris due to roof collapse in Khorgai Musakhel, area of Domel, Bannu. According to a private news channel, the incident took place when a roof of the house collapsed due to a lightning strike.

The rescue team reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported.

The injured were shifted to Khalifa Gul Nawaz Hospital, Bannu.

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SHC summons all accused in Murtaza murder case on Oct 01

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has summoned on October 01 all the accused in Mir Murtaza Bhutto murder case.

According to report the appeal filed by Noor Muhammad domestic servant of Mir Murtaza Bhutto and government challenging the acquittal of the accused persons came up for hearing before the court.

It was said in the petition that former police officer Wajid Durrani is indisposed and he cannot appear in the court.

Counsel for Shoaib Saddal requested for exemption from

attendance. The court granted exemption for one day each to Shoaib Saddal and Wajid Durrani.

Ibrahim Saif ul Din advocate counsel for the petitioner while opposing applications said this case is pending hearing since long which may be completed soon.

The court has ordered all the accused to appear before it on October 1.

It may be mentioned Murtaza Bhutto was killed in alleged police encounter on September 20, 1996. Two cases were registered with reference to this incident. Trial court acquitted the accused.



LAHORE: Punjab Women Protection Authority (PWPA) Chairperson Hina Parvez Butt and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) 'I Am The Code', Lady Marieme in a group photo during a seminar organised at Punjab University (PU) to spread awareness regarding Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's vision to empower women.

Kp gov't committed to revitalize Higher Education Sector: Secretary HED

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is fully committed to address the challenges faced by the higher education sector, particularly within the province's universities.

This was said by Capt @ Kamran Afridi, Secretary of the Higher Education, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during a special meeting held here at Khyber Medical University (KMU).

Secretary HED, Kamran Afridi highlighted that the government is actively working on short, mid and long-term strategies to uplift the sector.

He praised the efforts of the Higher Education Task Force, led by Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq vice chancellor KMU, which is operating on an emergency basis to address these challenges.

"The progress made by the Task Force so far is commendable," said Secretary HED Kamran Afridi.

"It is expected that the Task Force will finalize its recommendations by the end of this month, which will be presented to the Chief Minister KP in the first week of September."

The special meeting was attended by several distinguished members of the Task Force.

2 dacoits killed in police encounter

FAISALABAD (APP): Two alleged dacoits were killed while their two accomplices managed to escape from the scene after a police encounter in the area of Balochni police station. A spokesman said here on Wednesday the police signalled four suspects riding on motorcycles near Chak Takiyan Wali Saim, but they opened fire on the police party. The police returned the fire, and during the encounter, two outlaws were killed, whereas their two accomplices managed to escape from the scene.

The killed criminals were identified as Atif alias Atti and Shoaib alias Shobi, who were wanted to the police in 28 and 14 cases of dacoity, robbery, etc. respectively.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Saharash Nagar flooded, near the Indus River, as river waters overflow into homes, causing significant damage and widespread inundation.

Minister expresses gratitude for € 91.1 million German support for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema on Wednesday, expressed his gratitude for the € 91.1 million German support for Pakistan's post-flood, climate-resilient reconstruction. He also appreciated the long-standing partnership between the two countries since 1961 encompassing total development assistance of € 4 billion from the Federal Republic of Germany, said a press release issued here.

The meeting between Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema and German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Mrs. Svenja Schulze. Ms. Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Federal Republic of Germany called on the Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema along with the delegation comprising

of German Parliamentarians, German Ambassador to Pakistan, and other senior officials. Ahad Khan Cheema welcomed the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development and members of her delegation on their visit to Pakistan. He appreciated the Government of Federal Republic of Germany for being a valuable development partner and specifically highlighted its bilateral economic

assistance and support extended to Pakistan for attaining the GSP+ status. The Minister highlighted revenue generation, export-led growth, increased agriculture modality, information technology, and human resource development as key priority areas for driving the economic agenda of the Government. He further emphasized that the reforms are being undertaken within the framework agreed with the IMF.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation, Board of Investment & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan presided 222nd meeting of Privatisation Commission Board.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema exchanging views with Svenja Schulze, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development during meeting held in Islamabad.

NA Committee calls of urgent need for efficient natural gas distribution

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Energy (Petroleum Division) on Wednesday called for the urgent need for efficient natural gas distribution and the reduction of line losses through stringent monitoring. The meeting, chaired by Member of the National Assembly Syed Mustafa Mehmood, was attended by the Federal Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) Officials from the Ministry provided a comprehensive briefing on the activities and responsibilities of its various departments, highlighting the importance of providing an uninterrupted and environmentally sustainable energy supply. They also outlined the challenges in gas transmission and distribution across the

country. The Ministry informed the committee that domestic gas supplies have been steadily declining, with no major discoveries made by exploration and production companies in recent years, leading to a sharp reduction in indigenous gas availability. The committee decided to hold its next meeting to discuss the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives undertaken by both public and private oil and gas companies. The meeting was attended by members Syed Naveed Qamar, Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Mujahid Ali, Anwar-ul-Haq Chaudhary, Dr Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, Gul Asghar Khan, Salahuddin Junejo, Muhammad Moin Aamer Pirzada, Asad Alam Niazi, Mian Khan Bugti, and senior officials.



BAHAWALPUR: A family picks out a colorful hat for their child to protect from heatwave at roadside stall.

SMBR chairs meeting on slum ownership rights

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed chaired an important meeting to discuss the provision of ownership rights to residents of slum areas across Punjab. The meeting included a briefing by Director General of Slums, Muhammad Shahid, on the current status of slum settlements in the province. During the briefing, it was revealed that Punjab is home to a total of 4,300 notified slums, spread across the province's nine divisions including Lahore, Faisalabad, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, Sargodha, and D.G. Khan. Of these, approximately 3,200 are located in rural areas, while 999 slums are situated in urban regions. It was further reported that 49 percent of

the urban slum residents have already paid all government dues and obtained ownership rights. Additionally, over a thousand residents of rural slums have also been granted ownership rights. Nabeel Javed instructed the Director General to scrutinize the rural slums based on merit and submit a report within the next few days. He also emphasized the need to verify the data related to urban slums and ensure the provision of basic amenities to all residents. The senior official assured that the granting of ownership rights will be done swiftly and fairly, without any negligence or bias. The meeting also considered a proposal to construct multi-storey buildings for urban slum residents, ensuring access to all basic facilities.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where four ships, MSC Positano, Agios Dimitrios, Horizon-1 and Madison Eagle carrying Container, LPG and Coal, berthed at Container Terminals, Engro Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile three more ships, Gaschem Mosel, Epic Burano and New Apex are also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on today morning. A total of ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a petroleum product carrier ship 'Two million Ways' left the port on today morning while four more ships, Navig-8 Gallantry, Suzy, Agios Dimitrios and Horizon-1 are expected to sail on today. Cargo volume of 148,789 tonnes, comprising 103,962 tonnes imports cargo and 44,827 tonnes export cargo carried in 5,258 Containers (2,258 TEUs Imports & 2,338 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours. There are 08 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them five ships, Bitumen Koseji, Antares, Navig-8 Constellation, Epic Burano and New Apex & two more ships, CMA CGM Pelles and Maersk Cairo scheduled to load/offload Bitumen, Palm oil, ULSLD, LPG, LNG and Container are expected to take berths at MW-2, LCT.

Rupee sheds 18 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday witnessed a devaluation of 18 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.52 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.34. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.60 and Rs 280.30 respectively. The price of Euro increased by Rs1.21 to close at Rs 309.59 against the last day's closing of Rs 308.38, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.90, whereas an increase of 76 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 362.59 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 361.83.

SAB recommends 100,000MT of sugar exporting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board (SAB) which recommended exporting 100,000 metric tons of sugar. In this regard the final approval for sugar export will be given by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, said a news release. Minister for

Commerce Jam Kamal Khan also attended the meeting. During the meeting, They reviewed the availability of sugar stocks and prices in the country. The minister highlighted that there is surplus sugar in the country adding that there will be no hike in the ex-mill price of sugar. Rana Tanveer said that sugar exports will be carried out following the terms and conditions set by the cabinet.

Pakistan to introduce new currency notes

ISLAMABAD (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) decided to replace currency notes with denominations ranging from Rs 10 to Rs 5,000. According to details, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed told the Senate Standing Committee on Finance that the central bank will soon permission from the federal cabinet to introduce the new currency note. He said that new currency note denominations of Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs 500, Rs 1000, and Rs 5000 having all new features will be issued by December 2024. The Senate Standing Committee on Finance chaired by Senator Farooq H Naik was also briefed by the SBP governor that

contrary to rumors, the Rs 5,000 note will not be phased out, but replaced with a new design. The SBP governor said that besides paper currency note, plastic notes made from polymeric material will also be issued. "Plastic currency will be used in the future if it proves to be more durable than paper currency," the Jameel Ahmed added. During the meeting, Senator Mohsin Aziz proposed to phase out Rs 5000 note to curb smuggling, however his suggestion was rejected by the SBP governor. "The Rs 5,000 note will not be phased out and no such proposals are being considered," The SBP governor said.

Jam, German Minister Svenja Schulze forge stronger economic ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday met with Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Svenja Schulze, in Islamabad to bolster economic and trade relations between the two nations. The meeting focused on advancing economic collaboration, with a particular emphasis on sustainable business practices and labor standards, said a press release issued here. Minister Schulze

responded by highlighting the long-standing historical relationship between Germany and Pakistan, which has spanned many decades. She noted that many German companies are operating successfully in Pakistan, particularly in the textile sector, and praised the robust business ties between the two countries. Minister Schulze also emphasized the importance of women's empowerment across all sectors, a priority she shared with Minister Jam Kamal.

Minister Jam Kamal lauded Germany's leadership in promoting sustainability through initiatives like the German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act. He highlighted Pakistan's ongoing efforts to improve labor standards and environmental sustainability in its textile industry, and he sought German support for capacity-building and technical assistance to help Pakistani SMEs comply with these new regulations.

Gold rates up by Rs.300 per tola to Rs.261,000

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.300 and was sold at Rs.261,000 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 260,700 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.257 to Rs. 223,765 from Rs. 223,508 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.205,118 from Rs.204,882, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,950.



ISLAMABAD: As a gesture of goodwill, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal presenting a traditional "Shaal" to Germany's Minister Svenja Schulze, who reciprocated with a German souvenir.

OICCI highlights private sector's role in mitigating climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has launched an insightful report titled "Pakistan's Climate Crossroads: Private Sector Solutions to Pakistan's Climate Challenges". Commenting on the report, OICCI President Rehan Shaikh stated, "Given the climate vulnerabilities threatening Pakistan, business growth can no longer come at the cost of the environment. We need to link returns on private sector investments with sustainability and consider the green transition as a pathway to creating new jobs and livelihoods." The report

underscores key elements of Pakistan's climate strategy, including climate action plans, needs assessment, vulnerability analysis, resilience, and climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. The private sector is identified as crucial in advancing climate solutions. During the report's launch, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Executive Director and International Advisory Committee Member of COP29, Dr. Abid Suleri, remarked, "Addressing Pakistan's climate challenges requires urgent and collective action." He emphasized the need to shift perceptions about the private sector.



Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain chaired a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board (SAB) in Islamabad.

SMEDA starts program to make SMEs bankable as per govt vision

LAHORE (APP): The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), as per direction of Federal Minister Industries Rana Tanveer Hussain and Federal Minister Finance Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, has launched a move to make the SMEs bankable for easy and increased access to finance. As a first step in this regard, SMEDA inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Askari Bank Limited at SMEDA Head Office on Wednesday. The MoU was signed by Socrat Aman Rana, Chief Executive Officer of SMEDA and Hussain Ali Haider, Country Head-SME Division Askari Bank Limited on behalf of their respective sides. The signing ceremony was also attended by Ashfaq Ahmad, GM Business and Sector Development

Services, Ms. Farah Yasir, DGM-B&SD, Sheharyar Tahir, DGM-External Relations and Usman, Assistant Manager Financial Services from SMEDA. Whereas, from Askari Bank, the Country Head SME Division was accompanied by Syed Nauman Sajid, Regional Head SME Central and Awaiz Tahir, Senior Credit Head SME. CEO SMEDA Socrat Aman Rana said that the Government of Pakistan, top from Prime Minister to all economy related ministers, especially the Minister of Industries Rana Tanveer Hussain and Minister Finance Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb were committed to make SMEs bankable for enhancing SME access to government financing schemes and specialized financial products. He said that despite higher significance of SMEs to job creation.

PSX turns bullish, gains 515 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday turned around to bullish trend, gaining 515.34, showing a positive change of 0.66 percent, closing at 78,260.86 points against 77,745.52 points on the last working day. A total of 552,564,507 shares were traded during the day as compared to 380,717,441 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 14,590 billion against Rs 11,237 billion on the last trading day. As many as 453 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 289 of them recorded gains and 119 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 45 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 62,921,008 shares at Rs 11.23 per share, Power Cement with 41,961,669 shares at Rs.5.79 per share and Yousuf Weaving with 37,366,130.



LAHORE: Members of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Kissan Board are holding protest demonstration against high inflated electricity bills, in Lahore.

'UAE investors seek joint ventures with PFC'

LAHORE (APP): The UAE investors have shown keen interest in forming joint ventures with the Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) to tap into the global market by meeting international standards. According to a message received here Wednesday from the UAE, a delegation led by CEO PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq was visiting gulf states and holding meetings with their counterparts. He said the collaboration between the UAE investors and the PFC was seen as a strategic move to capitalize on the growing demand for high-quality furniture worldwide, particularly in export markets. Pakistan's furniture industry, known for its craftsmanship and traditional designs, has significant potential to expand globally if aligned

with modern production techniques and international quality standards. He said the proposed joint ventures aimed to enhance Pakistan's furniture manufacturing capabilities by incorporating advanced technology, improving design innovation, and increasing production efficiency. The UAE investors, with their extensive networks and access to international markets, offered significant advantages in terms of capital, marketing expertise, and market reach. Through these partnerships, the Pakistan Furniture Council sought to upgrade its production facilities and elevate its products to meet global consumer expectations, he added. Mian Kashif hoped it would be an opportunity for both countries.



Senator Saleem Mandviwala, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.

Those involved in smuggling will not be allowed to cause harm to national economy: PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif while directing to make more effective and speed up the steps against smuggling has said those involved in smuggling will not be allowed at all to cause harm to national economy.

"use of modern technology to stem smuggling be ensured. The vehicles of transporters used in smuggling be confiscated and legal proceedings initiated against them beside facilitators and elements involved therein, he said this while chairing review meeting for prevention of smuggling in the country Wednesday.

It is good omen that smuggling has gone down due to effective actions by the respective institutions. FBR, interior ministry and other institutions should forge more better cooperation among them. . .

A comprehensive strategy be worked out and presented for better opportunities of jobs to the

people living in border areas, he stressed.

All the institutions should accelerate their efforts for complete elimination of smuggling, he added.

The meeting was briefed that a comprehensive campaign is underway under the Ministry of Interior to check smuggling of petroleum products, cigarettes, mobile phones, gold, tea, clothes, commodities, vehicle tires and spare parts. It was informed that a web portal has been launched for prevention of Sugar and Urea, while preparation of a mechanism for identification of non-custom paid vehicles and their mapping is also in final stages.

The meeting was apprised that fifty-four joint check posts have been established under the directives of the Prime Minister to curb smuggling.

Similarly, 212 vehicles of Afghan Transit Trade fleet, which were feared to be used in smuggling, have been identified and banned.

Bank guarantee has been made compulsory instead of only insurance guarantee for the Afghan Transit Trade.

The meeting was apprised that besides an overall significant decline in the smuggling of essential goods, smuggling of petroleum products has been curtailed to fifty percent while Sugar 80 percent.

It was said in the briefing the cost of the smuggled goods confiscated during the financial year 2023-24 stands at Rs 106 billion.

The trend for hoarding has also declined due to anti smuggling campaign in the country.

The participants were also informed about the action taken against the officers found involved in conniving in smuggling. The process of identification of elements involved in smuggling, transporters and their facilitators is underway speedily. Help is being taken from data base of NADRA, Excise and other institutions in this regard.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding country wide anti smuggling drive.

FAO workshop highlights key steps in Balochistan's Water Management overhaul

QUETTA (APP): The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) hosted a workshop in Quetta to discuss new policies and legislation aimed at revolutionizing water management in Balochistan. FAO gathered around 80 stakeholders in Quetta to discuss the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Policy and the Water Bill for Balochistan including representatives from Balochistan's irrigation, agriculture, forestry, and livestock departments, as well as media professionals and members of both local and international NGOs, said in a press release issued by FAO.

The workshop aimed to disseminate information about these new initiatives, which could significantly reshape how water resources are managed in the province. Developed with FAO's technical assistance and funded by the World Bank under the Balochistan Integrated Water Resources Management and Development Project (BIWRMDP), the IWRM Policy and Water Bill seek to modernize water governance in the region. The initiatives are designed to create a legal framework that ensures the sustainable and fair distribution of water resources. This framework also aims to strengthen institutions, promote inclusive water management practices, and establish effective monitoring and evaluation systems.

During the workshop, Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, underscored the importance of these measures. He described the IWRM Policy and Water Bill as a crucial step towards sustainable and equitable water management in Balochistan. Waleed Mahdi, FAO's International Program Coordinator and Head of Office in Balochistan, highlighted the collaborative effort behind these initiatives. He stressed that the partnership between the Government of Balochistan, FAO, and the World Bank is vital for promoting inclusive water governance in the province.

Gross human rights violation in IIOJK, Palestine trial of conscience of modern world: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday said that gross human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine is the trial of the conscience of the modern world. "Severe Human Rights violations in IIOJK and Palestine warrant immediate attention of the civilized world," he expressed these views during his meeting with the President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko in Minsk, Belarus today.

He said that resolving the Kashmir issue as per resolutions of the United Nations Security Council is pivotal for regional peace and stability, and an immediate ceasefire in Gaza is also essential for ending the Palestinian Genocide, according to a news release received here.

He said that Pakistan is the least contributor to climate change but the most severely affected Nation due to the devastating impact of climate change.

He added, "The issue of global climate change requires global efforts." While highlighting the friendly ties between both nations, he said that Pakistan and Belarus enjoy cordial ties based on shared interests.

He expressed his resolve to strengthen relations between both nations further. The Speaker added, "Pakistan is blessed with vast potential in energy and trade."

Ayaz Sadiq also said that Pakistan-Belarus Bilateral Relations are characterized by mutual respect. He further underscored that Pakistan-Belarus ties would expand through collaboration in economic, industrial, and agriculture sectors. During the meeting, matters related to enhancing bilateral relations, including trade and parliamentary relations, were deliberated in detail.

Both sides also expressed determination to further strengthen bilateral relations. The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked that Belarus attached great importance to its close ties with Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: NDMA conducted the first National Industrial Disaster Preparedness & Response Exercise at NDMA HQs.

NDMA conducts first National Industrial Disaster Preparedness & Response drills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) successfully conducted the first of its kind two-day National Industrial Disaster Preparedness & Response Exercise at NDMA headquarters.

Chairman NDMA Lt General Inam Haider Malik inaugurated the Exercises.

The prime objective of National SimEx on Industrial Hazards was to highlight the importance of effective management through proactive decision-making and timely implementation of on-ground measures to minimize the impact of industrial incidents, a news release said.

The exercise underscored the need for a strengthened coordination mechanism to ensure timely preparedness efforts and foster collaboration between government entities and industrial partners. Participants included Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), rescue agencies, and key players from the chemical and petroleum, oil & gas industries including Lucky Core Industries Limited, Sitar Chemical Industries Limited, Ittehad Chemicals Limited, NIMIR Industrial Chemicals Limited, Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited, Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited, Engro Fertilizer Company Limited, Pak-Arab Refinery Company Limited, Attock Refinery Limited, Pakistan Refinery Limited, Cynergico Pakistan Limited, Sui Southern Gas Company Limited and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Company Limited.

Senior representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industries & Production, and Ministry of Defence Production also attended the two-day exercise, highlighting the event's significance and the collective commitment to enhancing industrial disaster preparedness and response capabilities.

Participants lauded the efforts of NDMA and remarked this SimEx as a significant step towards building a resilient framework for industrial disaster management in Pakistan, ensuring that all stakeholders are well-prepared to handle potential emergencies effectively.

Asghar appeals to all political parties to support genuine demands of Chaman parlat

QUETTA (APP): The Provincial President of Awami National Party (ANP) Asghar Khan Achakzai has appealed to all political parties to support the genuine demands of Chaman parlat (protest sit-in).

He said that Chaman parlat is not desire of any individual or any party. Rather it is question of the livelihood of thousands of people.

He said that Chaman parlat is not desire of any individual or any party. Rather it is question of the livelihood of thousands of people.

These views were expressed by the ANP Provincial President of ANP while addressing the participants of Parlat in Chaman just adjacent to the Pak-Afghan border on Wednesday. Asghar Khan Achakzai appreciated the participants of Chaman parlat.

committee to forge unity among their ranks because the opponents are very pretentious, cunning and promise breakers.

Therefore, all the political and democratic forces have to decide joint course of action together with traders Laghri Ittehad.

These views were expressed by the ANP Provincial President of ANP while addressing the participants of Parlat in Chaman just adjacent to the Pak-Afghan border on Wednesday. Asghar Khan Achakzai appreciated the participants of Chaman parlat.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani presenting a shield to Chairman Draft Committee and Chief Engineer Canals Nasir Majeed at conclusion of National Water Resource Management Policy and Water Bill Workshop

Shoab Nausherwani maintains: Govt. determined to remove backwardness of Balochistan, resolve issues of people

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoab Nausherwani has stated that the provincial government is determined to remove backwardness of the province and resolve issues of the people under leadership of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

He was speaking to different delegations who called on him in his office here on Wednesday.

The Minister Finance heard the issues as raised by the members of delegation and assured to address them.

The Minister Finance said that he is fully aware of the issues being faced by the people of province and his constituency. He said that it is aim of his life to resolve the issues of people at their doorstep.

He said that removing backwardness of the province and resolving issues of people is included in top priorities of the government so as to put the province on path of development and prosperity.

He assured that our government would not leave any stone unturned to resolve issues of the people.

He said that he is a public representative and as such he would not disappoint the people at all. He also said that he believes in provision of facilities to the people and would always available to the people for the purpose.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Finance Mir Shoab Nausherwani in a meeting with Additional Chief Secretary P&D Hafiz Abdul Basit

Comprehensive plan devised for success of Quetta anti-polio drive

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lieutenant @ Saad bin Asad presided over a meeting of DPEC, reviewed the monitoring, training, security and other arrangements of the anti-polio campaign to be start from September 10, 2024.

In the meeting, a comprehensive plan has designed to make the upcoming anti-polio campaign successful and to administrator the polio vaccine drops to all children under five years of age.

In a meeting, Assistant Commissioners City, Sariaib, Sadar, Kuchlak, DHO, DDHO, District EPI Officer, Divisional EPI Officer, Union Council Coordinators were participated.

A detailed report of the previous campaign was reviewed in the meeting, in which effective measures were taken to remove the deficiencies.

It was also decided in the meeting that police lady constables will also perform duty along with the teams during the anti-polio campaign starting from September 10 in Quetta.

It is decided that the parent or family who refuses to administer the polio vaccine drops will be arrested.

In the meeting, a report was also presented about the sensitive areas. During the campaign, announcement would be done from all mosques regarding the administration of immunization drops.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Quetta said that no negligence will be tolerated during the anti-polio campaign. He said that parents have a responsibility to cooperate with the administration in vaccinating their children against polio.

Saad added that teachers and religious scholars should educate people about the harmful effects of the paralytic polio and adopt the preventive measures to become polio-free. He urged that society members to play their role for the complete eradication of polio.



LAHORE: Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Sajjad Ghani presenting a five million rupees cheque to Arshad Nadeem, Javelin Throw Olympian Gold Medalist during ceremony held at Wapda House in Lahore.

Irrigation Dept. initiates legal action against canal water pilfering in Naseerabad Div.

QUETTA (APP): The Irrigation Department, Balochistan has initiated legal action against the pilferage of water in canals fall in the Naseerabad division.

According to the Irrigation Department's official sources, FIR has been registered against those involved in the pilferage of water and impeding flow of water illegally in different canals in Sohatpur district.

The FIR has been lodged against Sanullah, Yasir Khan, Samtullah, Muhammad Hamza and others by the Sub-Engineer, Irrigation (Drainage), Zafar Ali.

The Irrigation Department has warned that no one would be allowed to pilfer canal water. Besides, no one would be allowed to make breach in the canal or stop the flow of water in canals illegally, it was further warned.

Flood-damaged roads in Bela Tehsil restored

HUB (APP): The communication roads cut off due to heavy rains and floods in Bela Tehsil of Balochistan were restored on Wednesday.

According to DC Office, the restoration work began immediately after the communication link was disrupted last night under the direction of Secretary Communications and Construction Balochistan Lal Jan Jafar. The district administration of Lasbela and engineers from the Department of Communications and Construction worked tirelessly to restore the roads, particularly in Goth Ismailani, which was heavily affected by the floods. Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Humira Baloch stated that all staff of the Department of Communication and Construction are on alert.

Governor, Justice Jamal, Jan Jamali, others condole death of Younas Mandokhail

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, senior judge of Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Jamal Mandokhail, former Speaker and Governor, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali and a large number of other personalities visited the residence of former Chief Secretary, Muhammad Younas Mandokhail and expressed condolence with his family over his death, here on Wednesday.

The Governor and others also offered fateha for the departed soul of Younas Mandokhail.

Those visited the residence of Younas Mandokhail for condolence and fateha were included from different walks of life including parliamentarians, lawyers, civil servants, doctors and others.

Younas Mandokhail died after protracted illness in Quetta. Later, he was laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard in Zhub.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hanza Shafqaat presenting traditional stick to Abdul Rasheed Kakar for getting Pride of Performance in the field of education

Saleh directs to take steps for provision of healthcare facilities in all Govt's hospitals

QUETTA: The Secretary Health, Saleh Muhammad Baloch has underlined the need to take steps for provision of all possible healthcare facilities in the hospitals at the earliest.

He also directed to take steps to remove shortage of the medicines in the hospitals.

The Secretary said that it is our top priority to provide medical facilities to the people and for this, we have to work as team.

He also directed to ensure steps for procurement of the medicines as per the rules and regulations and that under the budget allocated for the financial year. He said that all available resources are being mobilized for the health sector according to the directives of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and the Provincial Minister for Health. The Secretary was presiding over the meeting about procurement of the medicines in hospitals here on Wednesday. Those who were present in the meeting were included Director General Health, Dr Amin Mandokhail, Director MSD Dr Ismail Mirwani.



QUETTA: Former Chief Minister Balochistan Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch addressing officers at CPO office as chief guest