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QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti along with parliamentary leaders of coalition partners addressing a Press conference

**No Baloch killed any Punjabi rather terrorists have killed Pakistanis: We have to fight against terrorism together, no need to carry out grand operation in Balochistan, says Chief Minister**

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that we would speak to those who want to surrender and speak to us. He said that he is in favour of talks, but with whom, the talks may be held?, adding he questioned. He said that we have not closed the doors of dialogue. But, no one would be allowed to sabotage the peace of Balochistan. We would welcome those who want to join the national mainstream. He said that we wouldn't allow anyone to impose one's ideology or

narrative through use of force. The Chief Minister said that terrorists attacked in different areas and places, in which 38 innocent people were martyred. He said they are not angry Balochs, who are involved in the incidents of terrorism, rather they are terrorists. He said that terrorists didn't kill Punjabi speaking people rather they killed Pakistanis. He said that the terrorists want to sabotage the peace in Balochistan, but the state would take steps to establish its writ. He said that there are so many people who say that negotiations should be

held. He insisted that we are ready to speak to those who want to surrender and speak to us. These views were expressed by the Chief Minister while addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Chief Minister secretariat on Monday. The parliamentary leaders of different parties were also present on the occasion. The Chief Minister maintained that the terrorists have no religion, tribe or nationality, but they are terrorists. Referring to the Musakhail tragic incident,

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### COAS reaffirms commitment to fraternal ties with China

RAWALPINDI (Online): Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces General Li Qiaoming called on Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir at the General Headquarters Monday. The meeting afforded an opportunity for in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security, military training, and measures to further augment bilateral defence cooperation. The COAS General Syed Asim Munir underscored the robust relations between the Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army, highlighting the ongoing bilateral military cooperation as a testament to the enduring brotherhood between the two nations.

The visiting dignitary expressed admiration for Pakistan's concerted efforts in combating terrorism and extremism, acknowledging the unwavering professionalism and dedication of the Pakistan Army. The COAS General Syed Asim Munir expressed his gratitude to the dignitary, reiterating that Pakistan deeply cherishes its fraternal ties with China. Earlier, upon arrival at the General Headquarters, General Li Qiaoming paid respects at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada by laying a floral wreath, and was presented with a guard of honor by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army, in a ceremonial display of respect and hospitality.



RAWALPINDI: Commander of the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Forces, General Li Qiaoming paid respects at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada by laying a floral wreath during his visit to General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

Gets briefing on terrorism incidents and security situation in different areas:

### Govt. ready for extraordinary measures in exceptional circumstances, asserts CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has categorically stated that the provincial government is ready for extraordinary measures in other wise exceptional circumstances, and as such directed to the counter terrorism department (CTD), police, levies force and other law enforcement agencies to prepare comprehensive plan for security.

He directed to the concerned authorities to give effective and prompt response in the case of any sorrowful incident. The Chief Minister was at briefing on law and order situation particularly in backdrop of the terrorism incidents in different

areas of the province, here at the Central Police Office, on Monday. The Chief Minister visited the CPO along with the Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan. The Additional Chief Secretary Home and Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh briefed the Chief Minister about the incidents of terrorism and security situation in Musakhail, Kalat, Mastung, Bolan, Khad Kocho and Noshki. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister asserted that the writ of state would be established at every cost.

He said that government

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## Musakhail, Kalat, Bolan, Noshki, Mastung hit: At least 39 dead in multiple incidents of terrorism in Balochistan

23 passengers gunned down after they were offloaded from the passenger buses and other vehicles in Musakhail; Police, levies personnel among 10 killed in armed attack in Kalat; Six bodies were discovered in Bolan; CM strongly condemns terrorism act; seeks report, orders investigations; Governor grieved over martyrdom of passengers in Musakhail; directs to arrest elements involved

### Independent Report

QUETTA: As many as 23 passengers and some persons of levies and police among at least 40 persons were killed mostly gunned down and some got injured by the unknown armed assailants in multiple incidents of terrorism occurred in different parts of Balochistan province including Musakhail, Kalat, Bolan, Noshki. The official reports suggested that most of the terrorism incidents were

occurred between the night of August 25-26. Only in one horrific incident, some 23 passengers were gunned down after they were offloaded from the passenger buses and other vehicles in Rada Sham area of Musakhail, the official reports suggested. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Musakhail Ayub Achakzai told that at least 23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from passenger buses and trucks in the Radasham area

of Musakhel. He told that the armed men blocked the inter-provincial highway and offloaded passengers from the vehicles after identification and then shot them dead. Police and Levies reached the site of the incident and bodies were shifted to the nearby hospital, he added. Meanwhile, speaking to the media, the spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind said that

the militants had attacked on two to three fonts where they faced retaliation and resistance from the security forces and law enforcement agencies (LEAs). However, he added, that the terrorists exploited the dark to carry out the Musakhel attack where they offloaded the passengers from the buses and shot them after identification. After the assassination of passengers, the armed men set ablaze around two

dozens of vehicles and fled Ten people, including police and levies personnel, were killed in an armed attack in Kalat district of Balochistan on Sunday night. Kalat SSP Dostin Dashti reported that gunmen exchanged fire with law-enforcement agencies throughout the night on the national highway and within the city. The casualties included one police sub-inspector.

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### 21 terrorists killed, 14 security officials martyred in Balochistan anti-terrorism operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 14 valiant sons of the soil including soldiers and personnel from the Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) embraced martyrdom while eliminating 21 terrorists in different counter-terrorism activities, initiated promptly after the terrorists attempted to conduct numerous heinous activities in different areas of Balochistan on the night of August 25th and 26th.

"On behest of inimical and hostile forces, these cowardly acts of terrorism were aimed at disrupting the peaceful environment and development of Balochistan by targeting mainly the innocent civilians, especially in Musa Khel, Kalat and Lasbela Districts. Resultantly, numerous innocent civilians embraced shahadat," the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a news release said. The ISPR informed that the terrorists had stopped a bus in general area Rara Sham, in Musa Khel District and maliciously targeted innocent citizens, working in Balochistan to earn their livelihood.

"Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies immediately responded and successfully thwarted the evil design of terrorists and sent twenty-one terrorists to hell in ensuing clearance operations, ensuring security and protection of local populace," it said. However, during the conduct of operations, fourteen brave sons of soil including ten Security Forces soldiers and four personnel of Law Enforcement Agencies, having fought gallantly, rendered the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat (martyrdom). The ISPR said: "Sanitization operations are being conducted and the instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts, targeting innocent civilians, will be brought to justice."

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### PM pays tribute to security personnel martyred in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paid tributes to the personnel of security forces who embraced martyrdom during operations against terrorists in various areas of Balochistan province. In a message, the prime minister said the timely actions of the security forces foiled the nefarious designs of the terrorists. He said the entire nation stood with its brave security forces. He vowed to uproot all forms of terrorism adding that the cowardly activities of the terrorists could not shake our resolve. Offering his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, the prime minister prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs in Jannah.

### Info Minister urges parties to avoid politicizing terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has urged political parties to refrain from doing politics on the issue of terrorism. Responding to a point of order, he said we have requested Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur to establish a Counter Terrorism Department in the province at the earliest. He said there should also be safety initiatives to combat terrorism. The Minister recalled the nation successfully defeated terrorism and restored peace in Karachi during the tenure of Mian Nawaz Sharif. Unfortunately, the previous government of PTI brought back the Taliban to Pakistani areas and these elements are responsible for recent incidents of terrorism and bloodshed in the country.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Provincial Advisor Naseem ur Rehman Mandokhail meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

### President Zardari reiterates nation's resolve to keep up fighting terrorism

No form of terrorism is acceptable in the country. Our fight against terrorism will continue till the complete elimination of the scourge: PM ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned a terrorist attack targeting a passenger bus in the Musakhel area of Balochistan. They expressed their deep grief over the loss of precious lives in the attack. "The killing of innocent

### IHC seeks detailed report on slow internet

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday summoned Ministry of Information Technology (IT) technical person in a case against slow internet speed and alleged installation of firewall. The court also sought the detailed report from respondents till next date September 3. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, hearing the cases, remarked that the work associated with the IT field was connected with the Internet. He said that a similar case was also pending with Lahore High Court, adding that no one was taking responsibility here too. Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA)'s lawyer contended that firstly the authority came to know that two cables are damaged. "Now we have received messages that the third cable is also cut down," he said. The court asked that who was responsible for this cutting of cables, the business community has been complaining about the internet speed for the last ten days.

### Collapse of railway bridge in Dozan: Train service from Quetta to Punjab, Sindh suspended

Independent Report QUETTA: The train service from Quetta to the interior country including Punjab and Sindh was suspended after the railway bridge located in Dozan area of Bolan pass got collapsed following the explosion on Monday. The Railway authorities informed that some unknown assailants blew up the railway bridge constructed over a century ago. As a result, the railway bridge caved in suspending the railway service between Quetta and rest of the country. Following the subversive act, the trains including Jaffar Express and Bolan Mail could not proceed for Rawalpindi and Karachi respectively on Monday morning. Similarly, the Bolan Mail coming from Karachi to Quetta was stopped at Larkana while Jaffar Express coming from Rawalpindi was intercepted at Sukkur.

### PM terms Pak-China strategic ties vital for regional peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says defense and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region. He was talking to Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, who call on the prime minister in Islamabad on Monday. He said the deep-rooted ties between the two nations enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, making them indispensable for the progress and development of both countries.

The prime minister warmly welcomed General Li to Pakistan and underscored that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and trusted friends. Expressing satisfaction over the deepening military-to-military exchanges between the two countries, the prime minister said these relations form the foundation of their bilateral relationship. Speaking on the occasion, China's Commander General Li said, as an iron brother, strategic partner, and reliable friend, Beijing places the highest priority on its relationship with Pakistan.

### 4 killed, 18 injured in Razmak blast: Police

MIRANSHAH (APP): At least four people were killed and 18 others injured when a powerful explosion ripped through a crowded Razmak tehsil bazar in North Waziristan tribal district on Monday. The police and district administration while confirming the blast said that it occurred when explosives placed in a motorcycle ex-

ploded in Razmak bazaar, killing four on the spot and injuring eighteen others. The injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals where emergency imposed. Commissioner Bannu Abid Pervez has confirmed the blast as well as casualties and directed the hospital administration of Razmak to provide best medical facilities to the injured.



QUETTA: Relatives Bolan and Qalat crying over the dead of his love one at hospital. 6 person of Bolan and Qalat incident shifted to civil hospital.

### Time risen for elimination of terrorism & barbarity: Sustainable peace guiding principle of civilized society: Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the time has risen to get to the mentality based on terror and barbarity and ensure its elimination. The Governor asserted that there is no room of spreading fear and turmoil in our peaceful and human-friendly province. In a statement issued here on Monday, the Governor condemned the terrorism incidents in Musakhail, Kalat and other areas of the province in strongest words. He said that the sustainable peace is a guiding principle of any civilized society, which can brighten

our course ahead by providing strong base to the society, economy and public politics. The Governor exhorted the law enforcement agencies to be ready all the time to ensure protection of the people and their property and save the government installations from destruction especially at the public places, national highways and bus terminals. He also exhorted them to take concrete measures for ensuring sustainable peace. The Governor emphasized that we have to ensure protection of life and property of the people at every cost so that they remain busy in earning livelihood for their children.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting of Oversight Committee regarding betterment of education in the province





QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti being briefed by Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh regarding terrorists activities in Musakhail, Kalat, Bolan, Bela, Khad Kocho and Noshki

## 'Sympathizers of terrorists are terrorists'; says Interior Minister

LAHORE (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that the sympathizers of terrorists at home or abroad and supporters of the acts of terrorism in different parts of the country are terrorists and the government will deal with them with an iron hand.

Addressing a press conference at the Gaddafi Stadium here on Monday, he said the government has undeniable proof that foreign hands are involved in the act of terrorism in Balochistan. He further said that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan and the terrorist outfit operates from Afghanistan, adding that the government has provided evidence to the Afghanistan government regarding Afghan land being used for subversive activities in Pakistan.

"TTP men released by

the previous government are also undertaking terrorist acts in the country," the Interior Minister said.

He hinted at involvement of different foreign hands and some characters in creating instability in Balochistan, adding the government will expose all those elements who wish to destabilize Pakistan. He said those who attacked are terrorists, adding that the government is out to destroy terrorists.

On the acts of terrorism in Balochistan, he said the federal government supports the viewpoint of Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, adding that the government will eliminate terrorists.

To a question, he said the decision to launch the 'Azam e Istehkam' operation in Balochistan is a tricky matter, adding that the political leadership will reach some decision in a few

days. However, the Interior Minister assured that a tit-for-tat response will be given to terrorists besides seeking a political solution.

To another question, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that he had nothing to do with the 2024 general election and its results, adding that had only assisted the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the successful conduct of the election. He further said that he did not respond to the allegations by the political figures in order to avoid any controversy.

Naqvi said, "Terrorism is a menace and we are dealing with it", adding that the masters of a certain political party may have a desire to create instability in the country.

On the intelligence agencies, he said the recent incidents are a result of long-term planning, not a failure of the intelligence institutions, adding that terrorism is a menace and the government is ready to take them down.

On the martyred policemen in Southern Punjab, the Interior Minister said that the federal government is in close liaison with both provincial governments and is providing them with succour.

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### We have to fight...

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the Chief Minister said that innocent people were killed after flooding them from the buses.

He said that 21 terrorists have so far been killed in response to the terrorists attacks. While there are also reports of killing of four to five more terrorists, he added.

He said that it is against the Balochi traditions to kill the innocent people after flooding them from the buses. It is also a cruelty to kill the innocent people in front of their families.

To a query, the Chief Minister said that there's no need of grand operation in the province.

He said that soft operation would be carried out against terrorists but not the grand operation.

He said that we would establish the check posts where these would be required.

However, we would eliminate terrorism using force and terrorists would be given exemplary punishment.

He said that judiciary, media and society has to fight war against terrorism as this is not the war only of the state.

He said that we know that from where, the terrorists are getting support.

He said that this confusion must be ended now that there are no angry Balochs, all of them are terrorists.

Referring the Bela incident, the Chief Minister said that terrorists couldn't enter the gate, and they were killed at the door.

He on the occasion urged youth not to be misled and support the state.

He said that we would enhance the capability of our forces, and would eliminate terrorism considering it a challenge.

He said we wouldn't be paying any heed towards propaganda tool regarding the check posts.

## PM appreciates Jansher's achievements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday lauded former Squash World and British Open champion, Jansher Khan's contributions and achievements in the field of sports.

The prime minister said that Jansher Khan's efforts in popularizing the game of Squash and its promotion in the country were worth appreciation as he had brought laurels to the country, adding the entire nation was proud of his achievements.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with former eight

times Squash World Champion and six times British Open Champion, who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister reiterated that the government was taking tangible steps for the promotion of Squash and other sports in the country, adding that provision of best facilities in the fields of games and sports were among the government's top priorities.

He also directed the relevant authorities of taking all possible steps for the treatment of former champion.

## SC gives one moth time to petitioner for preparations in land dispute case of Chitral

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has given one month time to the petitioner for preparations in land dispute case of Chitral. The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked this case is pending hearing since the last 10 years. Moving to the petitioner the CJP said "you have lost the case in three courts. The petitioner said the courts give decision with shut eyes. The CJP remarked "Don't deliver speech here. The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over

two members bench of SC during the hearing the case Monday. The CJP said to the petitioner "I am sitting here for justice.

The petitioner said "Please give the date as my counsel is in Peshawar. I don't know he has placed the file where. I am coming here from Chitral directly.

The CJP remarked "we want to hear your case because you have come here from far off.

The court gave one month time to the petitioner besides adjourning the hearing for one month.

## PTI moves SC in reserved seats case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) on Monday approached the Supreme Court for implementation on verdict in reserved seats case.

Aziz Bhandari Advocated, on behalf of PTI, filed the miscellaneous application to the court. It prayed the court to terminate the petition of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for interpretation of the verdict.

The petition said that the basic structure of PTI exists as per the constitutional and the law. It said that the PTI has conducted intra party elections on March 3, and its details was submitted to the ECP.



MULTAN: Federal Minister for Power Sardar Ahmad Khan Leghari talking to media persons at MEPCO Headquarters.

### Govt. ready for extraordinary...

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ment would take the elements involved in the sorrowful incidents to the logical end. He said that the terrorists and their facilitators would not be spared at all and taken to task anyway.

He said that those targeting the innocent people don't deserve any remission. He also asserted that those spreading lawlessness and chaos would not

be spared whatsoever.

He said that the CTD, Levies and Police would be equipped with the modern weapons and equipment to counter terrorism.

The Chief Minister on the occasion issued certain directives to the concerned authorities for bringing improvement in overall security. He directed to enhance patrolling for security of the highways in Balochistan.

### President Zardari reiterates...

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people is tantamount to killing the entire mankind. The terrorists are enemies of the country, nation, and humanity," the president said and reiterated the nation's resolve to keep up fighting terrorism.

Prime Minister Shehbaz directed the law enforcement agencies to carry out an immediate probe into the incident. He also instructed the authorities to cooperate with victim families and extend urgent medical care to the injured.

"The perpetrators of this attack will be given an exemplary punishment. No form of terrorism is acceptable in the country. Our fight against terrorism will continue till the complete elimination of the scourge," the prime minister resolved.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on also condemned a terrorist attack in Kalat killing police and Levies personnel and reiterated the country's undeterred resolve to wipe out terrorism.

The prime minister expressed grief over the martyrdom of the security personnel and prayed for the martyred as well as the recovery of the injured, according to a PM Office statement.

He also prayed for strength to the bereaved families to bear the loss and directed the authorities concerned to extend the best possible medical treatment to the injured.

Prime Minister Shehbaz directed an immediate probe to take the perpetrators of the attack to justice.

He said the nation would never forget the sacrifices of the police and security forces and said that such cowardly attack could not undermine the nation's morale.

The prime minister said that the nation stood by the security forces in the war against terrorism and that the terrorists' nefarious designs to mar the country's peace would never succeed.

## Global Chehlum events reflect Imam Hussain's (RA) enduring legacy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The global observance of the annual Chehlum underscored the enduring legacy of Imam Hussain (RA), with thousands gathering worldwide to honour his sacrifice at the Battle of Karbala. This significant event reflects the values of justice, resistance, and unwavering faith exemplified by Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions in 61 Hijri.

In Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan, the commemoration spanned two days and was marked by solemn processions in major cities including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Hyderabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Gilgit, Skardu, and Muzaffarabad. The events featured elegy recitations, public gatherings, and were meticulously organized with stringent security measures. Community support services, such as

water distribution points and communal kitchens, were set up to assist participants. The processions were marked by solemn marches, recitations of elegies, and public gatherings that honored the memory of the Imam and his companions.

To ensure the safety and smooth execution of these large-scale gatherings, strict security arrangements were implemented by local administration. Enhanced security measures, including the deployment of police and security personnel, were in place to protect participants and manage the crowds effectively. Moreover, to facilitate the participants in these processions, numerous "Sabils" (water distribution points) and "Lunger" (community kitchens) were set up. These services provided refreshments and meals to

the devotees, ensuring that their needs were met throughout the event. Volunteers worked tirelessly to offer food and water, embodying the spirit of charity and support that characterizes the observance of Arbaeen.

In Karbala, Iraq the Arbaeen observance similarly drew thousands for the "Walk of Thousands," a spiritual pilgrimage that transformed the city into a sea of black-clad devotees. Each step of this journey resonated with the profound legacy of Imam Hussain (RA), reinforcing the principles of justice and righteousness he stood for.

Known as the "Walk of Love and Reverence," this pilgrimage symbolizes not only remembrance but also the enduring legacy of sacrifice and faith that Imam Hussain (RA) represents.



QUETTA: A delegation of lawyers led by Advocate Muhammad Akbar Mulakhail meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Waqar Younis to serve as team mentor in Champions Cup: Naqvi

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has said that former fast bowler Waqar Younis was appointed as an Advisor to the Chairman PCB under a temporary arrangement and will serve as one of the mentors of the five teams of the newly launched Champions Cup.

Addressing a press conference at the PCB Headquarters, Gaddafi stadium here on Monday, he said Waqar Younis was brought in the PCB set-up to help find the right persons as mentors of the teams in the newly introduced domestic tournament 'Champions Cup', adding that Waqar Younis negotiated with all the cricketers including Misbahul Haq, Shoaib Malik, Sarfraz Ahmed and Saqlain Mushtaq to take the job as mentors.

Cup is aimed at bridging the gap between domestic and international cricket.

The Chairman PCB said that the newly introduced tournaments will help strengthen cricket in the country, adding that these cricket greats will help create a pool of players to represent Pakistan at the international level.

About surgery in Pakistan team, he said that it was not advisable to make changes when you do not have the right replacements for the players, however, he promised to replace the out-of-form cricketers from the national side after the completion of Champions Cup in September 2024. He said the Champions Cup will provide the PCB with a pool of high performers with the record and data and these players will provide us the option to make changes.

"Surgery is only possible when one is equipped with all kind of tools. The PCB does not have the pool of players to make replacements if certain cricketers are axed," the Chairman stressed.

Mohsin Naqvi, to a query, said that a long-term solution was needed to treat the ills facing Pakistan cricket as the Pakistan cricket team was not doing well over the past three years. "I wish to find long-term solution of the problems facing Pakistan cricket rather than committing to short-term cure of the malaise," he said.

To a question, Naqvi said Pakistan cricket team had not been doing well in the test matches for the past three years, adding that he did not have a magic wand to set things right but only a long-term policy can help in achieving good results.

On the loss against Bangladesh cricket team in the first test match in Rawalpindi, he said the loss against Bangladesh was highly disappointing, adding that it was to the captain and the coach to field a team after the selection committee had selected a team. He said the team management must reconsider its strategic mistakes so that these do not occur again.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Annti Partanen, FinnFund Representative.

### At least 39 dead in multiple...

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four levies personnel, and five civilians, he added.

Dashti stated that after the gunfire, the attackers managed to escape. Efforts were going on to clear and secure the area, he added.

Police stepped up security in the area and enhanced checking of vehicles and motorists.

In another attack, Kalat Assistant Commissioner Aftab Ahmed and a Levies officer were injured during a shootout at a security checkpoint.

SSP Kalat stated that the incident occurred when unidentified gunmen opened fire. Both injured officers have been taken to a hospital.

Meanwhile, the bodies of six persons were found from the hilly area of Kolpur the same morning. The reports suggested that all of them were gunned down.

The local administration told that the bodies were removed to the civil hospital Quetta for identification and further necessary procedure.

In Noshki, five passers-by got injured as a result of mortar shell firing by some unknown armed assailants at a check post of law enforcement agency.

On retaliation, the armed assailants fled from the scene.

At the outset, thorough investigations have been started into the incidents of terrorism in different parts of the province.

Meanwhile the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has strongly condemned the terrorism incident occurred in Musakhail area of the province.

According to an official



QUETTA: Markazi Tanzeem-e-Ijraan Pakistan Central President, Muhammad Kashif Chaudhary along with Syed Abdul Qayyum Agha, Syed Haider Agha and others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.



## JICA, UNHCR for collaborative action to expand accelerated learning in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Participants at a national education workshop emphasized the need for collective action to expand Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALPs), aiming to provide education to disadvantaged children and youth who have been out of school.

The event, co-hosted by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), drew over 80 participants, including government officials and education experts from Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held here on Monday.

The aim of the workshop was to address the educational needs of over-age, out-of-school children and youth, particularly those whose education has been interrupted. Discussions centered on effective strategies and opportunities for improved coordination to tackle the education crisis in Pakistan.

UNHCR's Representative in Pakistan, Philippa Candler, praised the Pakistani government for its ongoing support of refugees

and their education.

She highlighted the staggering number of out-of-school children globally, with Pakistan accounting for 26 million of them, including 500,000 refugee children.

Candler emphasized the importance of ALPs in helping these children, particularly girls and young women, to complete their primary education and transition to secondary schooling.

She called for a unified effort to improve education in Pakistan for all children and reaffirmed UNHCR's commitment to supporting policies that benefit both refugee and host community children.

JICA's Country Chief, Naoki Miyata, pointed out that with 67 percent of its population under 30, JICA has focused on human capital development by enhancing access to education.

Miyata expressed hope that the workshop would lead to impactful measures through accelerated education policies to address the challenge of out-of-school children.

Senior Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Sohail Akhtar Malik, emphasized the urgency of the situation.

He referenced the Prime Minister's declaration of an education emergency and stressed the need for innovative, cost-effective solutions.

Malik highlighted the role of digital technology in accelerating learning, particularly through ALPs, to ensure that out-of-school children receive their right to education.

During the workshop, participants shared successful practices, such as Allama Iqbal Open University's ALP (Middle-Tech) program, which currently serves around 3,000 children across Pakistan.

Moving forward, provincial consultations will take place, followed by national technical discussions in September. The goal is to develop a unified approach to accelerated education, ensuring that these programs are accredited and effectively support all children in need, regardless of their background.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Mohammad Asif presenting a souvenir to General Li Qiaoming, PLA Ground Forces Commander of China.

## China corner-stone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy with convergence of views on regional, global issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday, during a call on by People's Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Forces Commander of China, General Li Qiaoming, said that friendship with China was a corner-stone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy based on convergence of views on

regional and global issues.

The Minister welcomed the Chinese Ground Forces' Commander and appreciated long history of Pak-China relations in all fields, a news release said.

He said these relations were focused on welfare of peoples of both countries and not against any other country. He added that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with

China.

The Minister appreciated existing bilateral mechanisms, like Strategic Dialogue, Consular Consultations and Counter Terrorism Consultations. He mentioned that the strategic relations between the two neighbouring nations were based on mutual trust. He pointed out that Pakistan deeply appreciated China's diplomatic

Kh Asif says:

China corner-stone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy with convergence of views on regional, global issues

## HEC, PPRA conduct online training for procurement professionals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Division, HEC in collaboration with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), Pakistan conducted a one-day online training on "Procurement Regulatory Framework" for procurement professionals working in the higher education sector.

It was attended by over 130 officials of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from across the country through smart classrooms as well as HEC officials from different divisions. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC was chief guest at the open-

ing ceremony.

Speaking to the participants, he highlighted the roadmap of this initiative, outlining its objectives and potential impact on Pakistan's higher education landscape within the procurement domain.

He emphasized the importance of such programmes to improve the procurement system within the higher education sector through understanding of rules and to avoid inaccuracies.

Senior officials from PPRA delivered extensive lectures on procurement rules and demonstrated the advanced e-procurement process.

## Muqam flays killing of innocent passengers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON here on Monday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the loss of precious human lives in the despicable and shameful incident near Musakhail, Balochistan.

In a message, he said, "The loss of precious human lives would never go to waste, and the whole nation stands united to eradicate the menace of terrorism."

He prayed for the departed souls and granted patience to bereaved families.

## Kashmiris face jail for speaking out against Indian atrocities: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that anyone who speaks out or raises his voice against Indian atrocities and advocates for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute through peaceful means is being jailed by Indian authorities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement issued in Srinagar maintained that Indian brutalities will not be able to intimidate Kashmiris into submission.

The spokesman condemned the killing of a Srinagar youth in a fake encounter by Indian paramilitary forces two days ago in the Watergam area of Baramulla district and paid rich tribute to the martyred youth.

## AIOU introduces electronic system for managing daily official correspondence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in a recent development, has introduced an electronic system for managing daily official correspondence, showcasing its commitment to adhering to governmental policies and guidelines.

In this recent development, AIOU has further cemented its role as a leading national institution by adopting the digitalization of its educational, financial, and administrative processes.

Under the directive of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the Registrar Department has issued a new notification.

This directive mandates all university departments to utilize the e-Office system for all official correspondence and office files starting from August 28.

The notification also outlines that the Director of Information Technology is responsible for ensuring the smooth operationalization of this electronic system.

## Appointment rules of higher judiciary comes into force as per Constitution: Azam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said the rules and procedures pertaining to the appointment of the higher judiciary come into force as per the Constitution and its articles postulated in the Law.

The law minister expressed these views during the ninth session of the National Assembly after the Speaker sought him to clarify the procedure for appointment of the Chief Justice of the apex court.

Azam Tarar informed the House that there was no rule of seniority in the high courts, as the Lahore High Court unanimously made the fifth-ranked judge the Chief Justice.

"However, under the Eighteenth Constitutional

Amendment, the senior-most judge becomes the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court," the Law Minister said.

Earlier, Opposition Leader, Omar Ayub Khan demanded the appointment of the apex court chief on seniority basis.

Meanwhile, the Opposition Leader extended his gratitude to the Speaker National Assembly for issuing the production orders of the detained Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Member National Assembly, Chaudhry Imtiaz, who was attending the current session.

Omar Ayub Khan condemned the Musa Khel attack leaving 23 innocent civilians martyred alongwith the dacoits' attack on police van in Rahim Yar Khan.



ISLAMABAD: Former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## IG commends officials for foolproof security during chehlum procession

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to the details, the main Chehlum procession in Islamabad sector G-6 concluded safely. On this occasion, IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi commended all officers for their security duties.

During the processions, the Islamabad Police, ensured foolproof security arrangements, deployed 3,000 officers for the procession. IG Islamabad visited the procession and personally inspected the security arrangements, while monitoring was also conducted from the Safe City Control Room.

On this occasion, DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza, SSP Operations, the Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad,

and other senior police officers were also present.

Additionally, the Islamabad Police completely cordoned off the procession route, ensured proper lighting arrangements, and deployed police officers along the route. Security duty personnel stationed on rooftops were kept on high alert.

IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that no police officer would leave their duty point until the procession concluded. He emphasized that providing foolproof security for the Chehlum procession of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S.) is a significant responsibility, and they were fully prepared to fulfill this duty.

## Brother of Mohsin Jameel Baig laid to rest

ISLAMABAD (Online): Brother of Mohsin Jameel Baig, Editor-in-chief of the international news organization "Online News International" and daily Jinnah, Jameel Baig laid to rest.

The funeral prayer was offered at the H-11 cemetery where the deceased was laid to rest amid wails and sobs.

His funeral prayer was attended by senior politicians, bureaucrats, military officers, anchors of TV channels, senior journalists and hundreds of people from different walks

of life including Federal Minister of Information Atallah Tarar. Important personalities expressed their condolences to Mohsin Jameel Baig individually on the death of his brother. Among those who participated in the funeral prayers, Muslim League-N Member National Assembly Hanif Abbasi, former Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf, Ex-Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Ex-DG ISPR Lt General Asif Ghafoor, Editor-in-Chief ABN News Mehtab Khan.



ISLAMABAD: Brother of Mohsin Jameel Baig, Editor-in-chief of the international news organization "Online News International" and daily Jinnah, Jameel Baig laid to rest.

## DC orders crackdown on dengue as cases climb to 23

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon has called for strict enforcement of anti-dengue measures across the Federal Capital as five new dengue cases have emerged pushing the total count for the year to 23.

In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner has chaired a review meeting to assess the ongoing anti-dengue campaign.

During the meeting, all assistant commissioners provided updates on the situation in their respective areas.

The latest data revealed, that five new dengue cases in the past week raising concerns as the total number of cases in the

city this year reached 23. Breaking down the numbers, Kural reported the highest with eight cases, followed by three in Sohan, and two in Barakahu.

Other areas with reported cases include F-7 with two, and F-6, E-11, G-7, Sihala, Rawat, H-13, Alipur and Tarnol, each reporting one case.

The meeting also included a review of last year's dengue statistics. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for the strict implementation of anti-dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

He urged the authorities to take action against any assistant commissioners who fail to enforce these measures.



ISLAMABAD: National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) signing a landmark Joint Venture Agreement with the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST). The agreement, which aims to provide specialized training in chip design and manufacturing, was formalized at NAVTTTC Headquarters. The signing ceremony attended by the Honorable Minister for Federal Education, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui as Chief Guest.

## Ayaz commends security forces for successful operation against terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday praised the security forces for their successful operation in Balochistan, which resulted in the elimination of 21 terrorists.

In a press release, Sadiq lauded the bravery and dedication of the security personnel involved in the operation. He expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of 10 security forces members and 4 law enforcement officials who sacrificed their lives.

He extended heartfelt

condolences to the families of the martyrs, acknowledging their profound loss.

Ayaz Sadiq said that the sacrifices made by the security forces and law enforcement agencies in combating terrorism have been invaluable. He assured that the nation's commitment to eradicating terrorism remains steadfast and that the sacrifices of the security personnel will be remembered always.

The Speaker condemned the cowardly acts of terrorism and reaffirmed that such actions would not weaken the nation's resolve.



ISLAMABAD: A view of long queues of vehicles on Islamabad Expressway during peak hours.

## Islamabad Club generating its revenue without drawing govt's funds, NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday apprised the lower house of the Parliament that the Islamabad Club was generating its revenue on its own without drawing the federal government's funds.

The Minister was replying to the query of Member National Assembly Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) and former Speaker, Asad Qaiser who had sought details pertaining to the operations and revenue

details of the Islamabad Club. MNA Asad Qaiser said that the Islamabad Club, Gymkhana and other clubs were providing leisure and entertainment facilities to the VVIP people. "This is a poor country, and there are many big clubs that needed to be converted into universities or other public service institutions," Asad Qaiser said.

The Law Minister while singling out the mover underscored that Asad Qaiser himself was the voluntary member of the Islamabad Club.

## Adiala Jail's Supdt challenges contempt proceeding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Superintendent Central Jail Adiala, Rawalpindi approached the Supreme Court of Pakistan against contempt proceeding by Islamabad High Court (IHC) in matter of lawyers' meeting with PTI founder in jail.

However, the registrar office raised the objection against the petition and said that the petitioner has the right to file an intra-court appeal before the same court.

The petitioner couldn't file the plea directly in SC against the order of single member bench of high court, it said.

The jail superintendent also challenged the objection of registrar office and prayed the court to dismiss it.

## FIA cracks down on ICT's illegal vehicle registration ring

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has launched an operation in response to a complaint from the Excise Department in Islamabad, targeting the illegal sale and registration of tampered vehicles.

According to the spokesman of ICT administration, the operation led to the arrest of two accused, identified as Shahbaz Tasawar and Rizwan Ullah, who were involved in preparing fraudulent documents for non-custom vehicles.

These suspects attempted to register a luxury vehicle using a fake customs import document.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Education Mohinuddin Wani, Principal Prof. Asiya Rafique pose for a group photo after MoU signing ceremony with Pak Arab Company at IMCG F8/1.

## Foreign investment shows confidence in country's economy: Mashhood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that foreign investments showed remarkable confidence in the country's economy and Pakistan was moving towards the right direction due to the tireless work of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Talking to the media here on Monday, he said that as many as 3,000 new companies had been registered with the Securities and

Exchange Commission in July while foreign investment has been made in 86 companies which was a testament to the improvement in the economy.

He said that the provision of maximum relief to the masses was the priority of the government and that it was making all-out efforts to achieve it.

The Chairman PMYP expressed hope that the restoration of the economy will soon bring political and financial stability to the country.

## Edu ministry, Pak-Arab fertiliser provide 30 computers to girls college

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has join hands with Pak Arab fertilizer company to provide 30 computers to the Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) F/8-1 Computer Lab.

The initiative has been taken by the Education Ministry in order to take a

significant stride towards modernizing education by initiating various projects in collaboration with private sector. According to the Education Ministry, it is imperative for private public partnership to join hands for enhancing the infrastructure and quality of education in government schools federal capital.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chairing the meeting of Business Advisory Committee at Parliament House.



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## Delayed funds

A friend in need is a friend indeed. China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have lived up to the adage, rescuing Pakistan multiple times in recent years by propping up its international reserves through large cash deposits and loans, as well as rolling over their debt, to help it access IMF funds in order to avert a sovereign default.

Of late, though, they appear a bit hesitant to lend a helping hand as promptly. Little wonder these nations have not yet intimidated the IMF of their decision to roll over their combined existing debt of \$12bn for another year. This is said to be one of the reasons the Fund removed Pakistan from the agenda of its Aug 30 Executive Board meeting where it was expected to sign off on the recently concluded staff-level agreement for a new bailout package of \$7bn over the next 37 months.

Earlier, these countries had turned down a request from Islamabad to extend the maturity of these loans for a period of three to five years to allow 'predictability' through the IMF programme tenure. The other factor delaying the loan's approval pertains to Islamabad's failure to arrange funds well in time to plug an external financing gap of \$2bn, which both the finance minister and State Bank governor had earlier described as an easy task. Strapped for cash, Pakistan has now reached out to Riyadh for an additional debt of \$1.5bn on top of the existing \$5bn deposits, as well as Middle Eastern banks for the rest of the money to bridge the external financing gap. Unless the government is able to secure these funds, the IMF Executive Board might not close the deal even in September.

Pakistan will eventually secure the required debt rollovers from the friendly states, as well as fresh Saudi funds — and possibly commercial loans — that will give it access to IMF dollars and unlock other multilateral financing. Still, the experience of dealing with the IMF and bilateral lenders during the last few years underlines the country's decreasing geopolitical influence that was once considered sure insurance for significant financing from a range of Western and Arab lenders and donors whenever required.

Today, we find ourselves in a situation similar to where Sri Lanka was a year ago after it declared bankruptcy. It took months and firm commitments from bilaterals like China before the IMF concluded a loan deal with Colombo. For the last three years, our foreign policy has mostly revolved around just one point: how to borrow and from where to borrow. The situation has become untenable. It is time we tried to change and stand on our feet rather than look outside for charity. This can be very tiring for our friends.

### Maleeha Lodhi

India's election commission has announced that polls to elect the legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir will be held in three phases on Sept 18, 25 and Oct 1. The Indian government is obliged to hold these by Sept 30 to comply with the supreme court verdict of December 2023, which had upheld Delhi's 2019 abrogation of Article 370 of the constitution as "legal and constitutional". The last assembly elections took place 10 years ago. After the assembly was dissolved in 2018 the state has been under direct rule by Delhi. In August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government wrote another grim chapter in J&K's tragic history by illegally annexing the state, bifurcating and absorbing it into the Indian union. This was in defiance of UN Security Council Resolutions that prohibit any material change in the state, which is recognised as an international dispute.

Since 2019, the Modi government has carried out far-reaching changes — administrative, electoral, demographic and in domicile

rules — to pave the way for elections with the aim of consolidating its 2019 action and claiming this has been "accepted" by the people of J&K with "normalcy" returning there. In fact, last month, before announcement of the election schedule, the government substantially increased the powers of the lieutenant-governor (LG), who is nominated by Delhi, to sharply limit the authority of the next 'elected' government. The Modi government has opted to maintain central control knowing that BJP or its proxies cannot win the election and being unwilling to cede authority to anyone else. The LG was given sweeping administrative and security powers — over the police, transfer and postings of civil servants, sanction for prosecution and other public order issues. His decisions will not be subject to review by the Council of Ministers, with his nominees authorised to attend cabinet meetings.

This provoked an uproar in J&K and was denounced by the national opposition as another move to disempower the people there. It was sharply

criticised by both pro-India Kashmiri parties, National Conference and People's Democratic Party. Former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti described it as reducing J&K to a municipality while Omar Abdullah said the chief minister's office had been downgraded to "a powerless rubber stamp". Congress condemned it as the "murder of democracy". It was also criticised in its latest report by the 'Forum for Human Rights in Jammu and Kashmir,' an independent organisation comprising concerned Indian citizens.

This however was only the latest attempt to disempower the people of occupied J&K. Two key post-2019 actions aimed to reshape the electoral map and alter the state of play to the detriment of the Kashmiri people. In 2020 India's Delimitation Commission carved out new electoral constituencies with Jammu given six more seats in the 90-member J&K Assembly while Kashmir was given only one more, even though Kashmir's population far exceeds that of Jammu. This gerrymandering was

designed to give Jammu greater representation to reduce the political weight of Muslims in the assembly and shift the balance to Hindus.

Demographic changes through new domicile laws also sought to disenfranchise Kashmiris. After abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution, non-Kashmiri outsiders became eligible to domicile status and to enlist as voters. An indeterminate number of domicile certificates were issued over the past five years. In July 2022 even temporary residents were given voting rights. Again, this was decried in J&K as a brazen effort to change its demography.

Against the backdrop of such manipulative moves and gerrymandering what can be expected in the upcoming election albeit to a toothless assembly? What will the poll mean for the BJP government's 'consolidation' aims? It is widely predicted that Omar Abdullah's National Conference will emerge as the lead party in the election. In its election manifesto the party has pledged to

fight for the restoration of Article 370, which gave J&K special status, repeal all post-2019 laws that eroded Kashmir's autonomy and work for India-Pakistan dialogue. Abdullah also made it clear that NC's first order of business would be for the assembly to adopt a resolution calling for restoration of statehood and rejecting Delhi's decision to strip J&K of its special status. If this happens it will hardly advance the BJP's agenda in the territory. In fact, a tussle between the 'elected' government and the LG will be inevitable, which far from establishing 'stability' will plunge the region into renewed political turmoil.

Then there is the engineer Rasheed factor and how it plays out in the election. Abdul Rasheed Sheikh won in the Lok Sabha elections from Baramulla. A fierce opponent of abrogation, he won from jail defeating former chief minister Omar Abdullah. Being incarcerated since 2017 on terrorism funding charges he has emerged as a symbol of defiance of Delhi. His elec-

tion campaign made waves across the Valley and drew support across the board especially from youth. His victory reflected the depth of Kashmiri anger with Delhi in what was widely seen in the Valley as a vote against India. The question then is whether his Awami Ittehad Party can build on that momentum and make a significant impact in the assembly poll.

Arguably the most important factor will be whether people express their anger with Delhi and rejection of occupation through a protest vote. Over the decades elections in J&K have been seen by Kashmiris as a meaningless and illegitimate exercise under Indian occupation. This has been reflected in the abysmally low public participation especially in view of boycott calls by genuine Kashmiri leaders, denuding the polls of any legitimacy. However, the relatively higher voter participation in the recent Lok Sabha election suggests that casting the vote may become a 'new' form of resistance and expression of the Kashmiri aspiration for freedom. -- Courtesy Dawn

## What mpox means for our children

### Fyezah Jehan

The modern world is getting increasingly smaller and interconnected. Whether a newsbreak or a viral outbreak, it travels across continents in the blink of an eye. Just as we were beginning to breathe easier after Covid-19, another virus has silently made its way across our border and made its presence felt. Mpox, once considered as confined to the remotest regions of a few countries of the African continent, has now found its way to Pakistan, proving that in our interconnected world, no place is truly free from risk.

The recent confirmation of two mpox cases in KP has brought this disease to our doorstep. For a country already grappling with numerous public health challenges, the arrival of mpox is an unwelcome addition to a growing list of concerns.

The World Health Organisation has announced mpox to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Beyond just another public health scare, mpox may be a new

crisis that could threaten our children, including Pakistan.

The virus, carried by animals and transmitted through close contact, broke free from its geographical and non-human confines, and circulating largely in the African continent, has spread to Europe, North America, and beyond. This is largely due to the appearance of a more virulent (aka damaging) strain, 'clade 1a' that emerged in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2023, claiming the lives of over 500 people, most of them children. For many, including myself, this evolution of the virus to a more severe form was only a matter of time. As the virus is freely transmitting between people it is changing to affect younger people and households in the affected areas.

Pakistan is now part of that reality. How did a virus from the heart of Africa find its way here? And what does its presence mean for our children? As a country where the health of most remains fragile, our children are at a greater risk. Pakistan has a pre-

dominantly younger population, where 45 per cent of its over 200 million people are children. Young children's immune systems are not as fully developed as those of adults. This means that they might have a harder time fighting off the virus, leading to more severe symptoms and complications.

The symptoms of mpox in children, such as fever, rash, and fatigue, can be easily confused with other common childhood illnesses like chickenpox or measles. This can lead to delays in diagnosis and treatment, increasing the risk of severe outcomes, and unsuspected spreading of the virus. As a corollary, chickenpox which is far more common and causes frequent outbreaks, can also lead to unnecessary fear of mpox.

Malnutrition is another risk. One in four children in Pakistan have some form of nutritional deficiency. Mpox in such children can lead to complications such as secondary bacterial infections like sepsis, bacterial skin infections, and respiratory issues including

pneumonia.

An inadequate healthcare infrastructure and a pre-existing burden of infectious diseases continue to cast a long shadow over the future of our children. We are already battling polio that is resurfacing, and have not recovered from the decline in vaccination following Covid-19. In this situation, the arrival of mpox could be catastrophic.

The virus, which spreads through close contact, thrives in conditions where access to medical care is limited and where a child with mpox might not see a doctor until late, increasing the risk of further infections and complications.

Children often spend a lot of time in close contact with others in settings like schools, daycare centres, and households. This close contact can facilitate the rapid spread of the virus among children, leading to outbreaks that can be difficult to control.

The strain of mpox now circulating has shown a concerning ability to affect children more severely than adults. In

the Congo, approximately 70pc of those affected are children and they are four times more likely to die than adults.

This is not a time for complacency. The arrival of mpox in Pakistan should be a wake-up call for all — policymakers, healthcare providers, and citizens alike. Increased index of suspicion, detection and diagnosis through our surveillance systems is necessary. Early detection is key to preventing the spread of mpox, particularly in vulnerable populations.

We need an organised public campaign to educate communities about the symptoms of the infection and the importance of seeking medical care at the first sign of illness, just as we did for Covid.

While no treatment is available, early case-finding, diagnosis, supportive care, isolation and contact-tracing can help limit disease. Paediatric-specific guidelines should be developed in this regard.

Vaccination with the newer second- and third-generation vaccines must be prioritised. It is impor-

tant to note that while Pakistan may have maintained strategic supplies of older smallpox vaccines from the Smallpox Eradication Programme (concluded in 1980) these first-generation vaccines are not recommended for mpox at this time, as they do not meet current safety and manufacturing standards. The supply of newer vaccines must be ensured, and access strategies must be prioritised in children by our international and local partners.

Child health groups such as Unicef, the Pakistan Paediatric Association and academic bodies advocating for children's health must join hands to develop educational material for both the public and healthcare workers and train appropriately.

There is a silver lining. Mpox was declared a PHEIC as recently as 2022, and it is highly likely that it may not spread further. The story of mpox in Pakistan is still in its early stages and could inspire new public health vigilance and global solidarity. The choice is ours. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Teacher licensing

### Ali Nawab

The recent initiative of teacher licensing demonstrates the Sindh government's commitment to ensuring quality teachers in public sector schools where the low academic achievement of students has generally been associated with the low capacity of teachers. The first phase of the licensure test has been conducted although the pass percentage was quite disappointing (17 per cent). This result generates further concerns related to the quality of teachers and teacher education institutes in the province. Relying solely on a licensure test is unlikely to fulfil the goal of having quality teachers.

Although a common practice in many countries, the licensure test is one of several measures to determine the competency of potential teachers for the profession of teaching. It is because the written test lacks the space and possibility to assess the important characteristics of potential teachers. Teaching is a complex and temporal process that requires different responses to different situations. Someone might be very good at theory and in written aspects but not necessarily in teaching or in the response to problematic situations. On the contrary, someone else could prove to be exemplary in teaching, but not be good in theory or writing. If we agree that being an effective teacher requires practical skills, then setting a high passing score and relying solely on a written test may eliminate effective teachers.

Consequently, in many countries, including the US, there is a growing focus on performance assessment or the

ability of prospective teachers to plan lessons, deliver instructions, engage students in meaningful activities, respond to problematic situations, assess student learning and reflect on their practice for further improvement. These are the acknowledged prerequisites to be an effective teacher, which a licensure test can barely assess.

A high passing score and sole reliance on the written test may lead to the exclusion of aspiring teachers, who come from marginalised and disadvantaged communities. Individuals, for example, from remote and backward areas as well as minority groups may not have access to quality education. Resultantly, it is less likely for the disadvantaged students to achieve the target score in the licensure test. Where other countries are working on diversifying teaching — for instance, Ireland — we may be limiting diversity in our schools and in the teaching profession. To ensure inclusion in learning, we must first ensure inclusion in the profession of teaching.

Since the quality of teacher education institutes will be associated with the performance of their students in the licensure tests, simply relying on the written test would make them focus only on those curricular components that are assessed in the tests. In this sense, the practice aspect of teaching will receive reduced attention in teacher education institutes. If so, the consequences would be predictable.

Teacher licensing in itself is not a guarantee of quality teachers. Many countries across the globe, such as Finland, Singapore, the Netherlands, Japan and Korea, do not require

any licensure test. It is to be noted here that these countries are well placed in international comparisons for student achievement. It suggests that quality teacher education, rather than the licensing test, determines the competency of a prospective teacher.

Thus, to ensure quality teachers for learners, a straightforward approach is required: improve the quality of teacher education institutes to produce quality teachers. These institutes must be mandated and supported to achieve certain levels of accreditation from the National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education. In addition, practical components such as teaching practice, or practicum or internship should be a compulsory part of the teacher education programme. It is crucial to provide prospective teachers with high-quality teaching practice experience. The evidence of effective teaching practice should be considered for licensing.

If those who have initiated the teacher licensing process are serious about the quality of teachers, their focus should be on practice and performance assessment. This could be achieved through improving the quality of teacher education institutes rather than licensure tests. Since other provinces in the country may introduce teacher licensing building on the experience of Sindh, how teacher licensing is implemented would have significant implications for education not only in this province but also across Pakistan. Thus those who are involved in teacher licensing should plan and implement it very consciously and cautiously. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Rise in renewables

### Zarrar Khuuro

One of the first major milestones in the development of renewable energy was way back in 1979, when US president Jimmy Carter installed 32 solar panels on the roof of the White House in order to power a water-heating system.

Clunky, inefficient and expensive by today's standards (they weighed 45 kilos each and cost a whopping \$28,000 to install) these panels served to heat water for the White House until they were removed during the Reagan administration, undoubtedly as a signal that the new Republican president preferred good old fossil fuels to these hippie-inspired and possibly commie ideas like sustainability and environmentalism.

The panels went into storage until at least one of them ended up in a museum in China. There's a certain irony to that, as China is currently leading the world when it comes to scaling up renewable energy, with twice as many solar and wind projects under construction as the rest of the world combined.

Right now, China has 180GW of solar power under construction along with 159GW of wind power, which far outshines the comparatively measly 40GW under construction in the US. In the first half of this year, China's clean energy generation has already exceeded the total amount of energy produced by the UK in a year from all sources.

Existing projects are also being expanded, like the Caipeng photovoltaic power station, which holds the record for being the highest solar power plant in the world, and the Xinjiang solar farm, which has the capacity to power all of Papua New Guinea for an entire year.

In fact, according to Reuters, China has installed

so many solar panels that they're generating more energy than the country's storage and transmission infrastructure can handle! And because China just refuses to think small, it is also manufacturing practically all of the world's equipment for producing solar panels and — because synergy is a good thing — is also now making over half of all new electric cars sold worldwide.

The US is, of course, trying to catch up and one landmark there is that for the first time, the US has this year produced more electricity from wind and solar than it does from coal.

It's not just the richer countries that are taking advantage of this energy revolution. In fact, the push for renewables could be a lifesaver for poorer countries saddled with high fuel import bills for power production.

Here Uruguay stands out as a great example; this South American country was highly reliant on imported oil and gas-based power and, much like Pakistan, greatly suffered from financial shocks whenever the prices of these commodities spiked.

Already at full capacity when it came to hydel power and unwilling to set up nuclear power plants that would rely on imported uranium, Ramon Méndez Galain, Uruguay's then director of energy, decided to bet on wind and solar power. He financed this by holding a series of clean power auctions where the private sector was offered long-term contracts at guaranteed rates, resulting in \$6 billion being invested in renewables in just five years.

In short, he went for the IPP route, only with a focus on renewable energy and with undoubtedly more reasonable terms than we got here in Pakistan. Now Uruguay is reaping the dividends of this approach, with energy production

costs having been cut in half and new jobs being created by the clean energy sector.

Perhaps as importantly, Ramon's vision has also practically insulated his country from the shocks of foreign wars and resultant supply issues; from July 2023 to April 2024, Uruguay ran entirely on renewable energy!

There are certainly lessons here for Pakistan, which also pays far too high a price for fuel imports and is unable to withstand any financial shocks, resulting from high prices of imported fuel.

Like Uruguay, we too are primed to take advantage of the natural bounty of wind and solar power, and thankfully, we can now see significant movement in that direction. Recently, K-Electric announced its intention of setting up renewable power projects of a combined 640MW and bidding has already begun on one of these projects, a 150MW solar plant in Balochistan for which they received Pakistan's lowest tariff bid of PKR 11.2 per unit, establishing a new precedent in the Pakistani renewable space. The strong interest from international and local investors in the solar projects not only demonstrates Pakistan's investment potential but also promises significant economic benefits. In addition to this the Sindh government is planning a 550MW floating solar energy project at Keenjhar lake and similar projects are underway across the country and when these are online, Pakistan's energy sector may finally have its day in the sun.

Some may wonder why we are adding capacity when we can't seem to be able to pay for the capacity we already have (and in many cases aren't even using) but we have to understand that there are no quick fixes, and that moving towards renewables in a big way will definitely help us save big bucks in the future. -- Courtesy Dawn



## Governor Tessori reviews arrangements for Chehlum procession at Nishtar Park

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori visited Nishtar Park here on Monday morning and reviewed the arrangements for the main procession of Chehlum of Imam Hussain (R.A) and his companions who embraced martyrdom at Karbala.

Governor Kamran Tessori was briefed about the foolproof security measures adopted by the concerned administration on the occasion.

The Governor expressed satisfaction with the administrative measures taken by the city administration.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Tessori said the Government had made the best possible arrangement for the security of the procession of Chehlum of Imam Hussain (R.A).

The elements involved in the incident that happened yesterday would soon be identified, the Governor said and added that all the Ulama belonging to different schools of thought are agree on the point that this incident is a conspiracy to deteriorate the peaceful environment of the city.

Kamran Tessori said the security forces personnel had sacrificed their lives in the restoration of law and order in the city of Karachi and we will not let these sacrifices go in vain.

He said there is constant coordination between IG Sindh, Additional IG Karachi, and officers of other security agencies to maintain order, while a control room has already been established at the Governor's House to monitor the situation.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori is taking the oath of office of Acting Chief Justice of Sindh High Court from Senior Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto during a ceremony at Governor House.

## Rapid population growth major national problem: SACM

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to KP CM on Population Welfare, Malik Liaquat Ali Khan Monday said rapid growth of population was one of the major national problems and matter of concern.

Addressing a seminar regarding family planning here under the auspices of 'Rahnuma' a civil society organization in collaboration with UNFPA, he stressed need for taking solid steps to prevent population growth and resolution of this serious problem.

Member KP Assembly Askar Pervez, former MPA Meher Sultana, Secretary Population Welfare Aamdad Ali Lohani, Regional Director Population Welfare Gohar Zaman and others also addressed the seminar. During the seminar, the authorities of 'Rahnuma' a civil society organization gave a detailed briefing on the control of

the growing population and its prevention in the Kyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

They informed the special assistant regarding Family Planning Vision 2030 and its targets.

Various suggestions for controlling of population growth, preventive plans, seeking of clerics support and cooperation in the acceleration of public awareness campaign, legislation, inclusion of subject in the curriculum and supply of medicines to the far-flung areas came under discussion. The provincial government has also developed a narrative in the name of 'Tawazun' (balance), whose purpose was to recess and balance in the birth of children.

Liaquat Ali Khan said that keeping in view the resources, family planning was the need of the hour, adding a healthy mother gives birth to a healthy baby.

## Saeed Ghani wants early completion of MDA's housing schemes

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has directed the officials of the Malir Development Authority (MDA) to ensure the earliest completion of the MDA's projects initiated to serve the people.

The Local Government Minister stated this while chairing a meeting in his office on Monday and attended by the MDA's officials.

Ghani was briefed in detail about the MDA's development initiatives and was also informed about problems in carrying out development works for three ongoing projects of the MDA.

He asked the officials to compile reports on the issues hindering the completion of the MDA's development initiatives and submit these details to

him so that the Sindh government could remove these bottlenecks.

He said the MDA should ensure the earliest completion of its proposed housing schemes to provide inexpensive accommodation facilities to the people. He informed participants of the meeting that the Sindh government of Pakistan Peoples Party had been acting upon the PPP's manifesto that stood for providing shelter to every family in the province.

The meeting was attended by MDA Director-General Najamuddin Sehto, Project Director Muhammad Laeqq Ahmed, Superintendent Engineer Shiraz Mirani, Land Management Director Farooq Bugti, Finance Director Waqas Soomro, and other officials.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a rain-emergency meeting at CM House.

## CM alerts local bodies, administration in view of heavy rainfalls

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chairing a meeting to discuss emergency measures in response to heavy rainfall alerted all local bodies, district administration, and the Irrigation department to be prepared for timely action in case of any emergency.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers including Sharjeel Memon, Saeed Ghani, Jam Khan Shoro, Makhdoom Mahboob, Advisor Najmi Alam, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Mayor Sukkur Arslan Shaikh, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, S.M.B.R. Baquailah Unar, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretaries

– Livestock Kazim Jatoi, Secretary Rehabilitation Waseem Shamshad, Raheem Shaikh, Local Govt Khalid Hyder Shah, Health Rehan Baloch, Irrigation Zarif Khoro, Meteorologist Sarfraz Ahmad, representatives of Corps Headquarters, COMKAR, DG PDMA Salman Shah, and other concerned officers. Mayors, Commissioners and deputy commissioners of other divisions attended the meeting via video link. The PDMA DG told that the Pakistan Meteorological Department has reported that a well-marked low-pressure area over central India has intensified into a depression over Madhya Pradesh and is expected to

move southwestward, possibly reaching eastern Sindh on the night of August 26.

This weather system is likely to bring strong monsoon currents into Sindh, resulting in the conditions as follows: Tharparkar, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Hyderabad, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allahyar, Matiari, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Jamshoro, Dadu, Kambar Shahdadkot, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, and Larkana districts may experience rain, wind-thunderstorms with scattered heavy-very heavy to isolated hefty falls from tonight until August 31, with occasional gaps.

## Veteran TV artist Khalida Riasat remembered

LAHORE (APP): The 28<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of legendary television artist Khalida Riasat was observed here and across the country on Monday.

She began her professional career in 1970's with drama serial "Naamdar".

Khalida Riasat was born in 1953 in Karachi. She was the younger sister of notable television personality, Ayesha Khan.

However, she got popularity from Haseena Moin's drama serial "Bandish".



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Labour and Human Resource Faisal Ayub Khokhar during his visit to Social Security Hospital Multan Road.

## ANF seizes 373 kg drugs in 10 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations across the country managed to recover 373 kg drugs worth Rs 340 million and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 783 grams ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger arrested at Lahore Airport.

1.140 kg ice and 50 grams heroin were recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at a courier office in Karachi.

In another operation, 190 kg heroin was recovered from Chaman area.

100 kg hashish and 22 kg opium were recovered from Pasi and Gwadar areas.

## Minister meets Nepal Ambassador

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs, Punjab, Ramesh Singh Arora, held an important meeting with the Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari, at his camp office here on Monday.

During the meeting, the focus was on promoting measures to protect minorities in Punjab and enhancing interfaith harmony and cooperation.

Both emphasised the importance of fostering mutual understanding and respect among various

religious communities. The Ambassador Adhikari highlighted Nepal's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote peace and tolerance, while also showcasing Nepal's rich history of religious and cultural diversity.

The provincial minister appreciated Nepal's continued efforts to promote regional cooperation and underscored the role of religious leaders in strengthening the relations between the two countries.

## Kundi criticizes PTI for seeking NRO, pleading for release from jail

BUNER (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has criticized the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for allegedly seeking an NRO (National Reconciliation Ordinance) and pleading for release from jail.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said this while addressing the public meeting in Buner on Monday.

Governor Kundi praised the people of Buner for their sacrifices in maintaining peace, emphasizing that their contributions are well-recognized.

He welcomed the public enthusiasm and the joining of other parties into the PPP, describing it as a positive development.

Governor Kundi referred to the events of May 9 as unforgettable and criticized the previous government's performance.

He highlighted that the late Benazir Bhutto endured imprisonment and martyrdom for the country's sake, while former President Asif Ali Zardari spent eleven years in unjust detention without speaking against the country.

He criticized the leadership of PTI for allegedly seeking an NRO and pleading for release from prison.

Kundi expressed confidence that the public support indicates that the upcoming government will be led by the PPP.

Governor Kundi reiterated that providing

economic stability to women was a dream of Benazir Bhutto. He said that the Benazir Income Support Programme is a step toward fulfilling that vision.

Reflecting on 2008, Kundi recalled that when the PPP came into power, the province was engulfed in violence, but by 2012, they had managed to restore peace. However, he criticized the subsequent administration for failing to maintain stability.

He condemned the current state of unrest in the province, highlighting the prevalence of armed groups and the kidnapping of judges. Additionally, he criticized the rise in corruption and the inefficiency of justice institutions.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Secretary Health Azmat Mehmood chaired meeting to review revamping in Government Hospital at Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department.

## Justice Naimatullah sworn in as Acting CJ SHC

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday administered the oath of office of the Acting Chief Justice to the senior Puisne judge of the Sindh High Court, Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto.

The swearing in ceremony was held here at the Governor House in which Judges of the Sindh High Court, senior lawyers, office bearers of the Bar Associations and other personalities belonging to legal fraternity were present on the occasion.

## One killed, 3 injured in road mishap

ATTOCK (APP): A six-year-old girl on Monday was killed and three others injured, two among them were women when a car overturned on Bassal-Pindigheb road.

The police sources said that a family belonging to the nearby village Kharappa was going in a car which overturned as the driver lost control over the vehicle due to overspeeding.

Resultantly, a six-year-old girl was killed on the spot while three others were injured.

The injured and body were shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Pindigheb.

The police registered a case and launched further investigation.

## SA session re-scheduled for Sept 2

KARACHI (APP): The sitting of the Provincial Assembly (PA) of Sindh has been re-scheduled for September 2, Monday.

The Speaker Sindh Assembly Syed Awais Qadir Shah in exercise of powers conferred upon him has adjourned the setting, which was scheduled to be held on August 27 and now it would be held on September 2.

## CM orders strict price controls on bread, flour

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting on price control immediately after her return to Lahore from Murree on Monday, reviewed food prices, especially the prices of bread and flour, separately in each district.

The CM directed the authorities to never allow bread to be sold above the fixed price in any city, saying that flour should be supplied to people across the province at controlled rate.

The chief minister was briefed by Secretary Industry Ehsan Bhatta about the prices of essential commodities in the province. She was also briefed in detail about price control efforts of the

administration in different districts. She was appraised that as per a report of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Punjab has the lowest food rates compared to all other provinces.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed satisfaction over price control mechanism in the province, and appreciated the efforts of administrative authorities in this regard.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Chairperson Price Control Task Force Salma Butt and MPA Sania Ashiq attended the meeting. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Principal Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dal, Secretary Industry, Secretary Agriculture and other relevant officers were also present.



LAHORE: Members of a charity distributing Langar, free food to devotees at the 981st annual Urs of Hazrat Data Ali Hajveri.

## 12 detox units & drugs rehabilitation centers setup in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has setup 12 detoxification and drugs rehabilitation centers (DTRC) in different districts of the province.

These centres were established at Mardan, Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda, Kohat, Karak, Swabi, Swat, Malakabad and DI Khan districts for treatment and psychological services to patients.

More such centres in others 12 districts would be setup in the province besides a model detoxification and rehabilitation centre at Lakki Marwat, official in social welfare department told APP.

He said the numbers of beds at DTRC would be increased from existing 120 to 500.

Besides awareness to counter smuggling of illicit drugs, four pronged strategy was adopted focusing on supply reduction, controlling illicit drugs trafficking, treatment and rehabilitation measures in addition to enhance cooperation with national institutions and enforcement agencies.



HYDERABAD: Ranger troop stand alert on a building at Koh-e-Noor chowk while Chehlum procession to commemorate the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussein (RA) the grandson of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

PESHAWAR (APP): Once known as a City of Flowers, Peshawar is currently confronted with a monster problem of traffic pressure horns, which started unnerving the people.

Exposed to massive traffic jams almost every day, especially during peak hours in the morning and evening, Peshawarites are subjected to various health, mental, and psychological health hazards due to unnecessary pressure horns of buses, buses, wagons, a tsunami of rickshaws and other vehicular traffic that continued to people's headache.

Despite many complaints were made and rules framed; however, the implementation against pressure horns' laws has been declared unsatisfactory in KP.

"No doubt, pressure horns are a social curse. On Sunday last, I visited Peshawar where a truck's loud pressure horns affected my hearing structure and faced pains," said Kamal Khan, a resident of Nowshera while talking to APP.

The irritating and doubled hearing pains forced me to visit an ENT specialist for treatment, said Kamal, and questioned that who was responsible for his suffering without naming the PTI

Government.

ENT specialist and former professor of Khyber Medical College Peshawar, Dr.Fazal Sattar said that using a pressure horn for an extended period can lead to hearing loss, as the loud noise can damage the delicate structures of the ear. Additionally, he said that such horns can be jarring and may cause physical discomfort to its victims due to sudden loud noise. Causing an extreme stress and anxiety in people exposed to it for extended periods of time especially traffic police, vendors shopkeepers, and drivers, he said that in some cases, air horns can even be dangerous and

cause accidents while driving or operating machinery.

Dr Sattar said many medical investigations conducted by experts at local and international levels have proved that noise pollution can cause physiological stress reactions such as high blood pressure besides increasing heart rate, speech, and sleep disturbance.

Besides hearing loss, he said that noise pollution could also caused cardiovascular problems associated with accelerated heartbeat, gastric intestinal, decrease in alertness and ability to memorize, and long-lasting effects such as

insomnia, nervousness, bulimia, chronically high blood pressure, anxiety, and depression.

In recent years, the noise pressure levels in all major cities including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Rawalpindi have risen exponentially as unplanned and unmanaged urbanization continued to swell the urban sprawl.

Except for some posh townships, it is difficult to differentiate between a residential and commercial locality, offices, shopping plazas, and auto-repair workshops surround even schools, universities, and hospitals which should always be protected from noise pollution.



## Action plan ready to reform power sector: Awais Leghari

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister of Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari has said an action plan is on the anvil to introduce reliable reforms to the power sector with an objective to minimize line losses, bring down the cost of electricity production and pass its benefits on to consumers.

He expressed these views during a meeting at the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) office along with Federal Secretary for Energy Dr Muhammad Fakhar Alam Irfan on Monday. He identified power theft as a major shock to the national economy and said that the government had taken bold steps to contain the menace. He said that on the special directives of the Prime Minister, the electricity crisis had been reined in through revolutionary reforms and hoped that at least 40 percent more power pilferage would be controlled very soon.

He said that apolitical and independent members had been deputed in the Boards of Directors (BODs) of distribution companies (Discos) to check power theft and provide best possible facilities to the consumers.

Earlier, Engineer Muhammad Amir, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO, gave a presentation about the overall performance of the company and said that more than 11,000 cases of power theft had been detected up till now since September 2023. He said that 8,300 power pilferers had been nabbed so far.

Similarly, five FESCO employees have also been arrested while 27 others suspended as inquiries were initiated against them. He said that 27.16 million units fines had been imposed on power pilferers with an estimated value of Rs.847.88 million.

Chairman PPMC Saqib Jamal, Chairman FESCO BoD Umar Farooq, board members Amir Zia and Mohtarma Zoi Khurshed Khan were also present in the meeting.

that people could easily pay their bills," he added.

He urged upon FESCO officers to provide maximum facilities to the consumers.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the Steering Committee Meeting on the Pakistan Raises Revenue Program (PRRP) at the Finance Division.

## Commerce minister pledges tax relief for sports goods exporters

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government is steadfast in its commitment to reducing the tax burden on exporters, the Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Monday assured industry representatives during a key meeting with the Sectoral Council for Sports Goods.

The virtual meeting, held at the Ministry of Commerce, focused on addressing the challenges faced by the sports goods industry, with particular attention to taxation and energy production policies, said a press release issued here. During the discussion, the Minister pledged to reconsider the current policy that imposes a cap of 100KW on solar energy production for export-oriented industries.

This move is expected to alleviate operational constraints and enhance

the competitiveness of the sports goods sector, which heavily relies on sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions.

Furthermore, Mr. Jam agreed to present the industry's proposals to the National Export Development Board, advocating for the retention of the Fixed Tax Regime.

Exporters emphasized that this regime is crucial for shielding them from the potential harassment associated with the Normal Tax Regime, which involves multiple tax departments.

The meeting underscored the Government's ongoing efforts to foster a conducive environment for exporters, particularly in the sports goods sector, which is a significant contributor to the country's economy.

## Necessary step to be taken to ensure implementation of PRRP: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday said that the government will continue to engage with stakeholders and take necessary steps to ensure the successful implementation of Pakistan Raises Revenue Programme (PRRP).

The minister chaired the Steering Committee Meeting on the Pakistan Raises Revenue Programme (PRRP), which was attended by the Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Ali Parvez Malik, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue,

Secretary Economic Affairs Division and Secretary Planning Development and Special Initiatives, said a press release.

Secretary Maritime Affairs, Ms. Tania Airdus CEO Waseela, Salman Nasir CEO Ayesha Spinning Mills Limited Kamran Khalid Chief Product Officer Netsol Technologies, senior officers from concerned ministries and FBR and key stakeholders from the private sector and relevant agencies also attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on the strategies to enhance Pakistan's revenue

generation capacity. During the proceedings participants discussed multiple initiatives and reforms aimed at broadening the tax-base, improving tax compliance, and reducing revenue leakages.

The committee explored innovative approaches to enhance the efficiency of tax collection mechanisms and ensure equitable distribution of the tax burden.

The Steering Committee Meeting concluded with a strong consensus on the need for concerted efforts to implement the PRRP and achieve its objectives.



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Energy, Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, chairing a meeting at FESCO Headquarters.

## APTMA, German delegation for enhancing bilateral trade

LAHORE (APP): The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) and a visiting delegation of German importers have agreed to enhance sustainability reporting to boost bilateral trade expansion.

The German delegation, led by Dr. Michael Arretz, Managing Director VFI e. V. German Importers and included Ms. Bettina Müller (Project Director, SEQUA), Mr. Christian von Mitzlaff (Supply Chain Due Diligence Consultant), and Mr. Sarim Mahmood (CEO FOS), visited the APTMA office here on Monday.

APTMA North Zone Chairman Kamran Arshad, along with Senior Vice Chairman Asad Shafi, Vice Chairman Ahmed Shafi, Mohammad Ali, Ismail

Fareed Sh, Haroon Elahi and Secretary General Mohammad Raza Baqir welcomed the delegation.

The German delegation's visit aimed to explore opportunities for cooperation and synergies in the textile sector.

Kamran Arshad emphasized the importance of the €45 million Technical Cooperation Agreement between Pakistan and Germany to enhance trade and investment. He also sought mutual capacity building, training on the EU Digital Product Passport requirement, and orientation programs on the EU Green Deal regulations. He expressed hope that the EU's extension of GSP plus for another 10 years would bring economic benefits to Pakistan and improve human rights, labour rights.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, Beek-6, Fairchem Mako, Chemroute Pegasus and Asklipos scheduled to load/offload Rice, Palm oil, Chemicals and LNG, berthed at Grain Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Engro Terminal and Port Gas Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile seven more ships, MSC Positano, APL Antwerp, MSC Silvia, Lydia, Tivolo Park, Amorgos and Marangos Asclepius carrying Container, Mogas, Chemicals, Coal and LNG are arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.

Ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a container carrier 'Atlantic Ibis' left the port on today morning while four more ships, Amis Brave, Ossa, Bolan and Fairchem Mako are expected to sail on today afternoon.

## Shell Pakistan reports Rs 1.3 billion profits

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) has posted a profit after tax of Rs 1.3 billion for half year results for the company, compared to the profit after tax of Rs. 3.5 billion made in the same period last year.

According to a press release, in October 2023, Shell Petroleum Company Limited entered into a Share Purchase Agreement with Wafi Energy LLC for the sale of its entire shareholding in SPL.

This transaction is currently in progress. In April 2024, an Addendum to the agreement was posted on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), reflecting a change in the

capital ownership structure of the Acquirer, where Wafi Energy Holding Limited replaced Wafi Energy LLC as the 'Acquirer.'

On July 27, 2024, a Public Announcement of Offer was made by Arif Habib Limited on behalf of Wafi Energy Holding Limited to further acquire up to 24,162,179 ordinary shares, representing 11.29% of SPL.

The completion of this transaction is subject to regulatory approvals, legal requirements, and the fulfillment of other closing formalities.

During the reporting period, SPL successfully maintained its market share amidst relatively stable macroeconomic conditions.

## IESCO domestic consumers to get Rs 14 per unit relief

ISLAMABAD (APP): The domestic consumers of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) who used 201 to 500 units in August will get Rs 14 per unit relief in their electricity bills as per the orders of the Punjab Government. According to the press release issued by IESCO, for consumers under domestic tariff batches 1 to 5 who have already paid their electricity bills, the excess amount will be adjusted in the September bills. For consumers in batches 1 to 5 who have not yet paid their August bills, revised bills with the 14 rupees per unit relief will be delivered to their homes. Bills for consumers in batches 6 to 15 are being printed according to the relief announced by the Punjab



Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan in Islamabad.

## Belarusian ambassador calls on Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan Andrei Metelitsa called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and discussed issues of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in various fields.

In the meeting, the ambassador highlighted the "Transport Week" to be held in Belarus in September and its representation from Pakistan, said a press release on Monday.

He invited Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan to participate in this inter country event in Belarus.

Ambassador Metelitsa discussed with the minister regarding Pakistan's participation in the "Joint Memorandum" of transport with Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Abdul Aleem Khan and the ambassador

discussed joint projects in the fields of communication and transport and reviewed the possibilities of increasing the existing bilateral relations.

During the meeting, the minister said that mutual relations between Pakistan and Belarus, especially in trade matters can be increased further. He said that a series of trade corridors through transit routes and roads network will be good omen for the entire region. Ambassador Metelitsa said that his stay in Pakistan was pleasant, the people were friendly and the vegetables and fruits were excellent.

He was given briefing by the Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman National Highway Authority on possible cooperation opportunities in transportation and other various ongoing projects related to Afghanistan, China and Central Asian states.

## Oil prices surge over Middle East tensions

PARIS (AFP/APP): Oil prices jumped Monday after an escalation of hostilities between Israel and the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah raised fears of a wider conflict in the Middle East.

Brent, the global benchmark, rose over three percent to trade at more than \$81 per barrel.

Stock markets were mixed, taking a breather after US Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell gave investors a boost last week by signalling that an interest rate cut was coming.

Israel and Hezbollah traded a barrage of fire Sunday after 10 months of cross-border clashes.

Hezbollah said it had launched a large-scaled drone and rocket attack on Israel.

Israel said it

conducted air strikes into Lebanon that destroyed "thousands" of Hezbollah rocket launchers and thwarted a major attack.

The oil market was also reacting to Libya's eastern-based administration declaring that it was shutting down oil fields under its control and "suspending all production and exports until further notice".

The move by the Benghazi-based administration, which controls most of the country's oil fields, comes amid rising tensions after the UN-recognised government based in the capital Tripoli replaced the central bank governor on Monday morning.

In equities, Wall Street opened mixed, with the Dow and S&P 500 extending gains while the tech-heavy Nasdaq fell.

## FBR official suspended for 120 days over 'choice posting' irregularities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has suspended Jawad-ul-Hassan an officer of the Pakistan Customs Services (PCS) BS-18 with immediate effect.

According to the FBR notification, he currently posted as Deputy Collector at the Collectorate of Customs Enforcement in Dera Ismail Khan, will remain suspended for 120 days.

The move comes after Jawad-ul-Hassan was found to have violated directions issued by the Chairman FBR/Secretary Revenue Division regarding irregularities in 'choice posting'.



MULTAN: Members of Traders Community are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills.

## NA Committee on Food Security apprised about role of GPI

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research, which met on Monday with Syed Tariq Hussain in the chair was apprised about the role of Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI) in agriculture sector development of the country.

The meeting focused on the transformative impact of GPI, led by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), in driving advancements within the country's agriculture and livestock sectors, said a press release.

The discussions covered several areas, emphasizing the role of GPI in the modernization and sustainability of agriculture sector and was briefed on how GPI plans to revolutionize the sector by introducing modern farming practices including optimized fertilizer management and advanced irrigation processes, all of which aim to significantly boost crop yields.

The initiative is seen as a strategic effort to reduce Pakistan's dependency on food grain imports, thereby enhancing the country's capacity to increase agricultural exports. The GPI team demonstrated their ongoing efforts to empower local farmers with access to cutting-edge technologies and resources. These technologies are designed to enhance crop productivity and promote Climate Smart Agriculture practices. The meeting expressed its full support for these endeavors and underscored the importance of continued government and private sector collaboration to achieve the vision of a self-reliant and prosperous Pakistan.

Standing Committee reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the Green Pakistan Initiative to ensure that the agricultural sector remains a cornerstone of the national economy and a guarantor of food security for all citizens.

## PSX loses 230 points

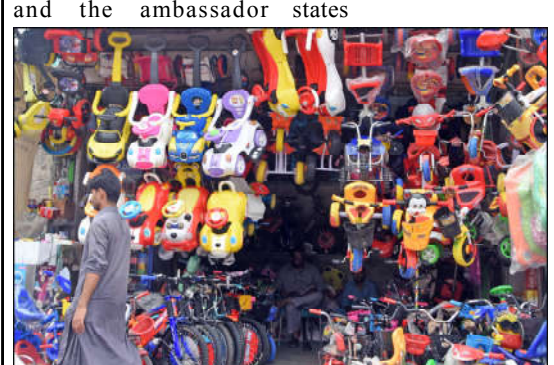
ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 230.37 points on Monday, showing a negative change of 0.29 percent, closing at 78,571.06 points against 78,801.43 points on the last working day.

A total of 512,337,206 shares were traded during the day as compared to 682,409,886 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 18,894 billion against Rs 18,168 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 433 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 150 of them recorded gains and 242 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 41 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Symmetry Group Limited with 59,366,445 shares at Rs 7.69 per share, Kohinoor Spinning with 50,616,021 shares at Rs 10.52 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 24,441,228 shares at Rs 1.28 per share.

Hoechst Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.189.64 per share price.



RAWALPINDI: A vendor is displayed kids cycles and toys attraction for customers at his shop in the city.

## Pharmaceutical goods export increases 29.66% during July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of Pharmaceutical goods witnessed an increase of 29.66 percent during the first month of the current financial year (2024-25), against the exports of the corresponding period of last year. The country exported pharmaceutical goods worth US \$33.971 million during July 2024 against the exports of US \$26.201 million during July 2023, showing growth of 29.66 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of quantity, the pharmaceutical goods export also rose by 10.59 percent from 7,151 metric tons to 7,908 metric tons, the data revealed. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, pharmaceutical exports went up by 16.63 percent during July 2024 as compared to the exports of US \$29.128 million in June 2024, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the country's overall merchandise export increased by 11.77 percent.



ISLAMABAD: Employees of Utility Store shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands at Utility Store headquarter, In the Federal Capital.



## Russia fires huge missile, drone salvo at Ukraine's power grid

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia launched about 200 missiles and drones at Ukraine on Monday, killing five people and striking energy facilities nationwide, Kyiv said, while neighbouring Nato member Poland reported a drone had probably entered its airspace.

Power cuts and water supply outages were reported in many areas, including parts of Kyiv, as officials said the attack — 2.5 years into Russia's full-scale invasion — targeted power or other critical infrastructure in at least 10 regions.

Russia dramatically stepped up its strikes on the Ukrainian power grid in March in what Kyiv has said looked like a concerted

effort to degrade the system ahead of next winter when people need electricity and heating most.

Monday's missile and drone salvo was Russia's most intense in weeks, coming as Ukraine is claiming new ground in a major cross-border incursion into Russia's southern Kursk region while Russian forces steadily inch forward in Ukraine's east, closing in on the transport hub of Pokrovsk.

"It was one of the biggest combined strikes. More than a hundred missiles of various types and about a hundred Shahed drones. And like most previous Russian strikes, this one is just as sneaky, targeting critical civilian infrastructure," President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

Poland said an "object" had entered its airspace, that it may have landed on Polish territory and that searches were underway.

"Most likely it was a drone and we assume so, because the trajectory of the flight and the speed indicate that it was definitely not a missile," Jacek Gorzyszewski, spokesman for the Polish army's operational command, told Reuters.

According to Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, 15 Ukrainian regions sustained damage from the missile and drone barrage. Zelenskyy said the energy sector had suffered "a lot of damage".



French far-right leader Marine Le Pen, member of parliament for the Rassemblement National (National Rally - RN) party and Jordan Bardella, President of the French far-right Rassemblement National (National Rally - RN) party, walk outside the Elysee Palace on the day of their meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron to discuss appointing a new prime minister, in Paris, France.

## Spain's Sanchez visits West Africa aiming to stem migration surge

**Monitoring Desk**  
MADRID: Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez starts his second visit this year to West Africa on Tuesday, aiming to curb migration to the Canary Islands and to counter the Russian presence in the Sahel region.

The West African migration route has seen a 154% surge this year, with 21,620 people crossing to the Canary Islands in the first seven months, according to data from the European Union border agency Frontex. The wave has stretched resources on the Spanish archipelago, with local authorities saying they may have to house migrants in military camps or even in tents ahead of an expected rise in arrivals due to calmer conditions in the Atlantic

Ocean. Spanish authorities fear that as many as 150,000 more migrants from Africa may be set to make the perilous crossing in the coming months. According to Frontex data, nearly half of the new arrivals are Malians, forced out of their country by a conflict and economic crisis in which the Russian mercenary group Wagner is involved.

Sanchez is focusing on strengthening relations with Mauritania, Senegal, and Gambia, the main departure points for migrant boats. The first two share land borders with Mali. Spanish police have long operated in West Africa to strengthen border control as part of Madrid's strategy to give financial and security aid to departure points for migrant boats.

## Brazil deploys military planes to fight wildfires in southeast

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIBEIRO PRETO: The Brazilian government is deploying military planes to combat wildfires ravaging Sao Paulo state in the southeast, as more than 40 cities have been placed on high alert, the regional development minister announced on Sunday.

Minister Waldez Góes said that four planes will be mobilised initially "to fight the flames and monitor affected zones." They include a KC-390 Embraer, a troop transport craft converted to be able to drop loads of up to 12,000 litres of water on fire zones.

Among the cities most threatened is Ribeirão Preto, with a population of more than 700,000, 300km from Sao Paulo.

Videos posted on social media showed Ribeirão Preto plunged into near-darkness by a dense layer of smoke.

"It's apocalyptic. Lots of wind, lots of smoke — you can't even see the city."

## India's Odisha state culls birds after Avian flu outbreak

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: The state of Odisha in eastern India has culled more than a thousand chickens after a positive test for the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian influenza, or bird flu, a state government official told Reuters on Sunday.

The epicentre of the outbreak was in the Puri district, about 19 miles from the state capital Bhubaneswar, and follows the recent death of 1,800 birds at a local poultry farm.

"The work is ongoing. We are going to cull about 20,000 birds," Additional Director of Disease Control Dr Jagannath Nanda told Reuters.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversees a performance test of drones during a visit to the Drone Institute of North Korea's Academy of Defence Sciences at an undisclosed location in North Korea.

## North Korea's Kim Jong Un oversees tests of 'suicide drones'

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched as new "suicide drones" took off and destroyed test targets including a mock tank, and urged researchers to develop artificial intelligence for the unmanned vehicles, state media reported on Monday.

Kim visited the Drone Institute of North Korea's Academy of Defence Sciences on Saturday and

viewed a successful test of drones correctly identifying and destroying designated targets after flying along different preset routes, state news agency KCNA said. Kim called for the production of more suicide drones to be used in tactical infantry and special operation units, such as underwater suicide attack drones, as well as strategic reconnaissance and multi-purpose attack drones, KCNA said.

## UN 'concerned' by newly ratified Afghan morality law

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: The UN mission in Afghanistan said on Sunday it was "concerned" about a morality law recently ratified by the Taliban authorities, criticising in particular restrictions on women.

The Taliban authorities on Aug 21 announced the codification of a law with 35 articles detailing wide-ranging behaviour and lifestyle restrictions based on their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

The law sets out graduated punishments for non-compliance —

from verbal warnings to threats, fines and detentions of varying lengths — enforced by the morality police under the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice.

"It is a distressing vision for Afghanistan's future, where moral inspectors have discretionary powers to threaten and detain anyone based on broad and sometimes vague lists of infractions," said Roza Otunbayeva, head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

## Russia skips UN meeting pledging respect for humanitarian law

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: Switzerland hosted United Nations Security Council members at a meeting in Geneva on Monday to recommit to international humanitarian law, describing an "alarming" global context characterised by over 120 armed conflicts, with Russia the only member absent.

Switzerland, which is one of the 15 members, organised the informal meeting to commemorate the Geneva Conventions, signed 75 years ago after World War Two in the Swiss city to limit the barbarity of war.

## Japan scrambles jets against China plane that breached airspace

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japan's defence ministry said it had scrambled jets against a Chinese reconnaissance aircraft that had briefly breached its airspace on Monday morning.

The aircraft was identified as a Y-9 reconnaissance plane that flew over the Danjo Islands to the west of the southern island of Kyushu between around 11:29 a.m. and 11:31 a.m.

## China, Philippines clash in South China Sea

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: The Philippines and China clashed in disputed waters of the South China Sea on Sunday over what Manila said was a resupply mission for fishermen, the latest in a series of sea and air confrontations in the strategic waterway.

The incident overshadows efforts by both nations to rebuild trust and better manage disputes after months of confrontations, including a violent clash in June, in which a Filipino sailor lost a finger.

The Philippines on Sunday accused China of "aggressive and dangerous manoeuvres" to block the resupply mission. China's coast guard, meanwhile, said it had taken "control measures" against a vessel that had "illegally" entered the waters and repeatedly approached Chinese ships in a dangerous manner.

In the incident near the Sabina Shoal, the Philippine South China Sea task force said Chinese vessels rammaged and used water cannons against a Philippine Bureau of Fisheries ship transporting food, fuel and medical supplies for Filipino fishermen.

For its part, the Chinese coast guard said the Philippine ship "ignored repeated serious warnings and deliberately approached and rammaged" China's law enforcement boat, resulting in a collision. It added that responsibility for the collision lies entirely on the Philippine side.

China asserts sovereignty over nearly all of the South China Sea, including areas claimed by the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Brunei. Beijing has deployed an armada of vessels to protect its claims.

## Ukraine's president says Russian overnight attack involved over 100 missiles and about 100 drones

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday condemned Russia's overnight and early morning barrage on his country as "vile" and said it involved over 100 missiles of various types and about 100 "Shahed" drones.

Ukraine's leader said there were deaths and dozens of injuries and that the attack caused a lot of damage to Ukraine's energy sector.

"Like most previous Russian strikes, this one was just as vile, targeting critical civilian infrastructure. Most of our regions — from the Kharkiv region and Kyiv to Odesa and our western regions," Zelenskyy said.

The barrage began

around midnight and continued beyond daybreak in what appeared to be Russia's biggest attack against Ukraine in weeks.

Russian forces fired drones, cruise missiles and hypersonic ballistic Kinzhal missiles at 15 Ukrainian regions — more than half the country, Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said Monday morning.

"The energy infrastructure has once again become the target of Russian terrorists. Unfortunately, there is damage in a number of regions," Shmyhal said, adding that Ukraine's state-owned power grid operator, Ukrenergo, has been forced to implement emergency power cuts to stabilize the system.

## Australia gives millions of workers 'right to disconnect'

**Monitoring Desk**  
SYDNEY: Australia gave millions of workers the legal right to "disconnect" on Monday, allowing them to ignore unreasonable out-of-hours calls, emails and texts from their bosses.

People can now refuse to monitor, read, or respond to their employers' attempts to contact them outside work hours — unless that refusal is deemed "unreasonable".

Unions welcomed the legislation, saying it gave workers a way to reclaim some work-life balance.

"Today is a historic day for working people," said Michele O'Neil, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

"Australian unions have reclaimed the right to knock off after work," she said. In the streets of Sydney, people appeared to welcome the change.

"I have a very hard time disconnecting and even though I may not necessarily be logged on, my brain is constantly working overtime," not-for-profit worker Karolina Joseski told AFP.

"So getting that after-hour call from my boss doesn't necessarily help." But the reform got a cool welcome from Australia's top industry body.

"The 'right to disconnect' laws are rushed, poorly thought out and deeply confusing," the Australian Industry Group said in a statement.

"At the very least, employers and employees will now be uncertain about whether they can take or make a call out of hours to offer an extra shift," it said.

The law is similar to those of some European and Latin American countries.

Research indicates that the right to disconnect benefits employees, said University of Sydney associate professor Chris Wright.

More than 70 percent of workers in European Union companies with a right to disconnect policy considered its impact to be positive, according to a November 2023 study by the EU work-related agency Eurofound.

## Rohingya refugees mark the anniversary of their exodus and demand a safe return to Myanmar

**Monitoring Desk**  
COX'S BAZAR: Tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who live in sprawling camps in Bangladesh on Sunday marked the seventh anniversary of their mass exodus, demanding safe return to Myanmar's Rakhine state.

The refugees gathered in an open field at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar district carrying banners and festoons reading "Hope is Home" and "We Rohingya are the citizens of Myanmar," defying the rain on a day that is marked as "Rohingya Genocide Day."

On Aug. 25, 2017, hundreds of thousands of refugees started crossing the border to Bangladesh on foot and by boats amid indiscriminate killings and other violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Myanmar had launched a brutal crackdown following attacks by an insurgent group on guard posts. The scale, organization and ferocity of the operation led to accusations from the international community, including the U.N., of ethnic cleansing and genocide. Then-Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina ordered border guards to open the border, eventually allowing more than 700,000 refugees to take shelter in the Muslim-majority nation. The influx was in addition to the more than 300,000 refugees who had already been living in Bangladesh for decades in the wake of waves of previous violence perpetrated by Myanmar's military.

Since 2017, Bangladesh has attempted at least twice to send the refugees back and has urged the international community to build pressure on Myanmar for a peaceful environment inside Myanmar that could help start the repatriation. Hasina also sought help from China to mediate.

But in the recent past, the situation in Rakhine state has become more volatile after a group called Arakan Army started fighting against Myanmar's security forces. The renewed chaos forced more refugees to flee toward Bangladesh and elsewhere in a desperate move to save their lives. Hundreds of Myanmar soldiers and border guards also took shelter inside Bangladesh to flee the violence.

## Putin played on Trump's ego, top security aide says

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump was determined during his presidency to cozy up to Vladimir Putin despite Russia's interference in US democracy and objections by advisers, a former top aide claims in a new book, according to an excerpt published on Saturday.

The new behind-the-scenes details from H.R. McMaster, Trump's second national security adviser, come as Americans are set to decide whether the former president should return to the White House and as US officials warn of fresh foreign election meddling.

"After over a year in this job, I cannot understand Putin's hold on Trump," McMaster, in an excerpt from his memoir published in the Wall Street

Journal, says he told his wife in March 2018.

A former lieutenant-general, McMaster became Trump's national security adviser in February 2017, and says that from the beginning, discussions of Vladimir Putin and Russia "were difficult to have with the president".

He says Trump connected "all topics involving Russia" to the federal investigation into Moscow's interference in the 2016 election and possible ties with Trump's campaign, a probe which would dog his entire presidency.

US officials have warned this year of new efforts by foreign powers, including Russia and Iran, to meddle in the November election, in which Trump is facing Vice President Kamala Harris.



FENI (Bangladesh): Flood survivors take shelter inside a school building in Chittagong.

## Hezbollah chief says further strikes on Israel possible

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said on Sunday that his group would assess the impact of its rocket and drone attack on Israeli military targets earlier in the day before determining whether it would carry out further attacks to avenge a slain commander.

The leader of the Lebanese armed group said in a televised address that it had been able to carry out its attack "as planned," denying

statements by the Israeli military that its preemptive strikes had stopped a wider attack by the group.

Nasrallah, speaking after the most intense exchange of fire between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel since hostilities broke out in parallel with the war in Gaza, said the group had intentionally refrained from targeting civilians or public infrastructure, including Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv.

## French police arrest man suspected of attempted arson against synagogue

**Monitoring Desk**  
LA GRANDE-MOTTE: French police have arrested a man suspected of trying to set a synagogue ablaze in the southern French city of la Grande-Motte on Saturday, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said.

About 200 police officers had been hunting for the suspect, Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said earlier, adding that the attacker had set fire to several entry doors to the synagogue and several cars nearby.

BFM TV said the suspect was a 33-year-old Algerian. Local police declined to give details.

The anti-terrorism prosecutor's office, which was put in charge of the in-

vestigation, said early on Sunday that a suspect had been arrested in Nîmes on Saturday evening.

"Before the police could intervene, (the suspect) opened fire on (the police), which returned fire. The man was wounded in the face," the office said in a statement, adding that two other people were taken into custody. A policeman was slightly injured when a gas bottle exploded as police secured the site of the attack on Saturday morning, Attal said.

"This is an antisemitic attack. Once more, our Jewish compatriots are targeted," Attal said on X. "In the face of antisemitism, in the face of violence, we will never allow ourselves to be intimidated."



## NA told Operationalization of Gwadar Airport likely by December

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday informed the National Assembly that the New Gwadar International Airport project has substantially completed, and its operationalization is expected by December after formal handovers and trials.

Responding to various questions during Question Hour, he said the New General Aviation Aerodrome near Muridke was substantially completed and would be operational by next month. It was anticipated that general aviation organizations and flying schools would be relocated to the new aerodrome within three to four months, he said.

Replying to another question, Khawaja Muhammad Asif said before the operationalization of Islamabad International Airport (IIAP), Cabinet Secretariat Aviation Division

vide letter No 6-12/84-P&D dated 3rd February, 2017 has forwarded a copy of Prime Minister's Office Islamabad letter No. 378/M/SPM/2017 dated 1st February, 2017 where in it has been directed PCAA to carry out a consultative exercise and initiate a summary for the Cabinet proposing possible names that can be given to the New IIAP Islamabad.

Accordingly, the PCAA has forwarded the summary to Aviation Division vide letter of even number dated 9th February, 2017 wherein the name of Liaquat Ali Khan International Airport was among the names which were proposed to be named for the airport, Liaquat Ali Khan International Airport, Fatima Jinnah International Airport, Abdul Sattar Edhi International Airport, Dr. A.Q Khan International Airport, Dr. Abdus Salam International Airport,

Sardar Abd ur Rab Nishtar International Airport, Baba Bulleh Shah International Airport, Data Ganj Bakhsh International Airport, Muhammad Ali Jauhar International Airport and Ch. Rehmat Ali International Airport.

The name of Islamabad International Airport was formally declared by Cabinet Division Memorandum dated 7th March, 2018, he added.

He said in 2017 a matter regarding naming newly constructed airport of Islamabad was discussed with the then Prime Minister, wherein, it was directed to submit proposals after making necessary consultations. Accordingly, few names were submitted to the Prime Minister vide Summary dated 06.06.2017. The then Prime Minister shortlisted two names i.e. IIAP and Gandhara International Airport for placing before the Federal Cabinet.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani presiding over a meeting regarding financial issues of Public Sector Universities of the Province

## Balochistan Universities Financial Commission meets: Govt. determined to resolve financial issues of PSUs in limited resources: Shoaib

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chairman, Universities Finance Commission and Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani has stated that our government is mobilizing all available resources for promotion of education in the province so that the young generation may brighten the name of Balochistan and country by getting modern scientific and technical education.

Mir Shoaib Nausherwani also said that our government has been determined to resolve the financial issues of the teachers of universities remaining in the limited resources.

He said that we have

not only given funds for payment of the salaries of the teachers before, but Rs. 2.5 billion are also being given to ensure payment of the salaries of the teachers even now.

However, there is dire need to prepare a policy for resolving the financial issues of the universities on sustainable basis.

He was chairing the meeting of the Universities Finance Committee along with the Provincial Minister for Education, Ms Rahila Hameed Durrani here on Monday.

The Secretary Finance, Babar Khan, Secretary Higher Education, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir and vice Chancellors of all public sector universities of the province.

The meeting formed a committee with the Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, Dr Khalid Hafeez, as its chairman and Secretary Finance, Secretary Higher Education, representative of Higher Education Commission, Vice Chancellor of Bolan Medical University, Dr Shabbir Lehri and Vice Chancellor, Dr Abdul Razaq Sabir as its members.

As per the decision, the committee would present its recommendations within 15 days.

Afterwards, new formula would be prepared for resolving financial issues of the universities with consensus.

## IHC summons detailed report on handing over Aafia to US till Friday

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned on Friday detailed report from foreign ministry about handing over Aafia Siddiqui to US.

The court also issued directive replies to two questions of the court be submitted that "had ISI any evidence against Aafia Siddiqui and had ISI mandate to hand over Aafia Siddiqui and her children to some one else.

On the other hand Mr Smith the counsel for Aafia Siddiqui has filed his affidavit in the court.

It has been said in the affidavit that in 2003 Sindh government handed over Aafia Siddiqui and her children to ISI and ISI handed over Aafia Siddiqui along with her children to US.

Upon this affidavit the IHC has sought replies to two questions with reference to handing over Aafia Siddiqui and her children to US authorities.

Ishaq took up the case for hearing on Monday.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) Muhammad Iqbal Dogal, Imran Shafiq counsel for family of Aafia Siddiqui and amicus curiae Zainab Janjua appeared in the court.

Fouzia Siddiqui sister of Aafia Siddiqui also appeared in the court through video link.

At the inception of hearing Mr Smith counsel for Aafia Siddiqui filed his affidavit in the court.

The affidavit said Sindh government handed over Aafia Siddiqui along with her children to ISI in 2003 and ISI handed over Aafia Siddiqui with her children to US.

Justice Sardar Ijaz



QUETTA: MPA Molvi Noorullah meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

## Govt. to bring terrorists & facilitators to task, says Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has condemned the terrorist attack in Musakhel that claimed lives of 23 innocent passengers.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Monday, the Speaker expressed deep grief and sorrow over loss of precious lives in the tragic incident of terrorism in Musakhel.

He expressed heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families of those martyred in the terrorist attack.

He said that the terrorists and their facilitators involved in the cowardly act would get exemplary punishment.

He said that the government of Balochistan would chase the terrorists and those patronizing them, and bring them in the court of justice.

The speaker reiterated the government's resolve to eliminate terrorism and ensure protection of life and property of the masses.

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## Senator Samina Zehri says: Nefarious ambitions of the enemies will be crushed

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, the chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, has strongly condemned the terrorist incidents in other areas of Balochistan, including the killing of innocent people in the terrorist incidents in Musakhel. Expressing deep grief and anger.

She said in her condemnation statement that humanity is ashamed of the Musa Khel incident, that innocent people were thrown from the vehicles and killed. Knowing the cowardly enemy and their facilitators will not be able to escape in any way. Very soon all these cowardly elements will be sent to hell.

In her condemnation statement, she condemned the incident as little as possible. She further said in her

condemnation statement that the recent incidents of terrorism in other parts of Balochistan are the actions of cowardly and anti-national elements that will soon be brought to the level of infidels. Expressing grief and sorrow, she expressed her heartfelt sympathy and condolence to the families of the deceased and prayed that Allah may grant the martyrs a high place in His mercy and patience to the families. She said that targeting innocent citizens is a form of terrorism. There is evidence of kidney failure. She said that the purpose of the cowardly incidents of terrorism is to weaken Pakistan, which is moving towards political and economic stability, and to push it towards instability, which will not be allowed to succeed under any circumstances.



QUETTA: Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) flag flying half-mast at Bugti House in connection of death anniversary of Leader of JWP Nawabzada Akbar Khan Bugti, in Quetta.

## Targeting innocent people is an unforgivable crime: Hassan Zehri

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Pakistan Peoples Party Senior Leader, Spokesman President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Adviser on Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri strongly condemned the incident of terrorism in Rara Sham area of Musakhel district in which armed men killed 23 people belonging to Punjab. The passengers were taken off the buses and killed by firing, but they have expressed deep grief and sorrow.

In his condemnation statement, he strongly condemned the incident and said that the killing of 23 innocent people by terror-

ists in Rara Sham is a highly condemnable incident, which we strongly condemn and assure that the terrorists will be punished, and they will not sit down with China before they are wiped out and will chase the terrorists and their facilitators to their end. He further said in his condemnation statement that various areas of Balochistan including Gwadar, Kolpur, Kalat, Khadhkha, Balochistan. The recent incidents of terrorism in other parts of the province are the actions of cowardly and anti-national elements that will soon be brought to the level of infidels. Expressing deep sorrow and regret, expressed



QUETTA: A delegation led by Chairman Khidmat-e-Khalq Foundation Naimatullah Zaheer meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Enemy countries trying to sabotage peace, dev, in Balochistan: Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday said that enemy countries were trying to sabotage peace and development in Balochistan region.

Talking to a private television channel program, he said that rival countries were funding the terrorists to slow down the development works in the province but the incumbent government was fully determined to quell all such activities and designs of the enemy.

In reply to a question

about today's killing incidents in Balochistan, he said anti-Pakistan forces were making efforts to weaken Pakistan.

He said Jawans of law enforcement agencies were striving hard to wipe out the terrorism from the country. Pakistan has made a lot of sacrifices in war on terror, he stated.

To a question, he said some people were doing business in the name of missing persons. These people are hiding in foreign countries and operating from there to create unrest in this part of the region.

## Three more officers of Adiala Jail transferred for 'facilitating' IK

RAWALPINDI (INP): Three officers of Adiala Jail have been transferred on the allegations of "facilitating" Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan.

After the arrest of the PTI leader's alleged facilitators in the prison, transfer of officers is going on. The Prisons IG on Monday issued a notification transferring the three officers.

According to the notification, Additional Superintendent Aftab Ahmed has been transferred to the Punjab Staff Training College.

## NIC of Moonis blocked in money laundering case

LAHORE (Online): National Identity Card (NIC) of PTI leader Chaudhry Moonis Elahi has been blocked in money laundering case under the orders of court.

Spokesperson of FIA Lahore told the media men NIC of Moonis Elahi has been blocked under Lahore High Court order and his passport has been placed in control list.

Spokesperson said the national identity cards of 6 accused including Moonis Elahi have been blocked in money laundering case.

The other accused whose NIC have been blocked in money laundering case are Aamir Sohail, Umair Fayyaz, Imtiaz Ali Shah, Farasat Ali and Abid Ali Khan.

## Parliament to complete its term: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah Khan, on Monday said that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) was ready for dialogue, as it has always been. Talking to a private news channel, he said that PML-N repeatedly initiated dialogues for the country's betterment and strengthening democracy. He said that PML-N had proposed a charter of the economy as a solution to pull the nation out of the economic crisis.

## Security forces & people are on same page in war against terrorism, Jatak

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak has condemned the incidents of terrorism occurred in different areas of the province in strongest words.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Monday, the Provincial Minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over loss of precious lives in the incidents of terrorism.

He said that the security forces and people are on same page in the war against terrorism.

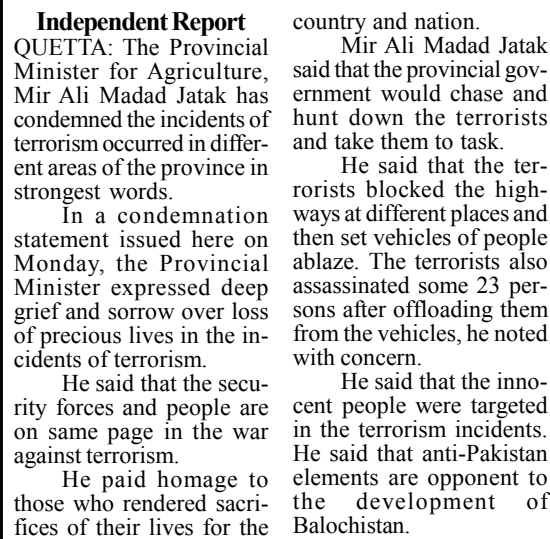
He paid homage to those who rendered sacrifices of their lives for the

country and nation.

Mir Ali Madad Jatak said that the provincial government would chase and hunt down the terrorists and take them to task.

He said that the terrorists blocked the highways at different places and then set vehicles of people ablaze. The terrorists also assassinated some 23 persons after offloading them from the vehicles, he noted with concern.

He said that the innocent people were targeted in the terrorism incidents. He said that anti-Pakistan elements are opponent to the development of Balochistan.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh addressing under trainee officers of National Police Academy Islamabad currently on study tour of Quetta

## PIA to be privatised on Oct 1, says official

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The government has decided to privatise the national flag carrier on Oct 1 this year.

A special meeting of the Standing Committee on Privatisation was held under the chair of MNA Dr Farooq Sattar. The secretary briefed the committee on the latest update.

Privatisation Division Secretary Jawad Paul said in the briefing that it had been decided to privatise the PIA on Oct 1, 2024. The process for the privatisation of the PIA will be completed in September.

During the meeting briefing, it was told that the PIA lost Rs500 billion in the last eight years. The airline had lost Rs80 billion in the last financial year alone.

"The PIA has to make payments of Rs825 billion," he said. The Privatisation Division officials told the committee that no international company participated in the privatisation process.

Senator Bizenjo slams terrorism incidents

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: While strongly condemning the incidents of terrorism in Musakhel, Kalat, Bolan and different areas of Balochistan, the former Chief Minister and Senator, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has stated that assassination of innocent and armless people is cowardly acts. In a condemnation statement issued here on Monday, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has expressed heartfelt grief and

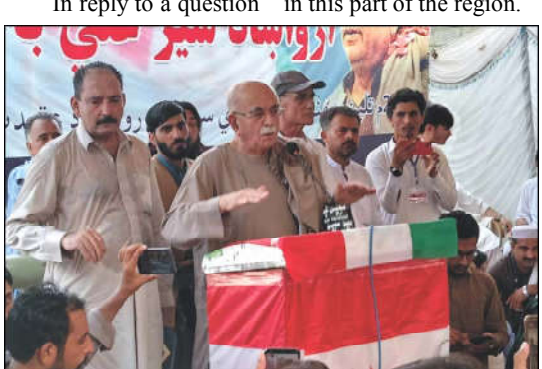
## Funeral prayers of Kalat's martyrs offered

QUETTA (APP): The funeral prayers of the Levies and Police personnel who were martyred by unknown armed men last night were offered at RTC Kalat.

Deputy Commissioner Kalat, Bilal Shabir, SSP Kalat Dostin Dashti, Commandant Kalat Scouts at Khuzdar Col Hafiz Kashif, Wing Commander FC Col Umar Farooq, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Dost Mohammad Langov, Director Operation Balochistan Levies Force Dr. Mirwias, Assistant Commissioner Aftab

Ahmed Lasi, Principal RTC Kalat Sikandar Khan Khajak, QRF Major Ghulam Murtaza Ummrani DSP Manzoor Ahmad, DSP Abdul Rahim, DSP Zubir Ahmad and senior official of Levies and Police forces, political and tribal leaders and the general public attended the funeral prayers. Levies and Police forces paid tribute to the martyrs and prayed for the elevation of the ranks.

The official source confirmed that a police sub-inspector, four Levies officials,



MARDAN: Chairman PkMAP Mehmood Khan Achakzai addressing a public gathering on eve of death anniversary of Sher Ali Bacha

## Jamal condemns terrorist attacks in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani Monday expressed deep concern over the recent acts of terrorism in Musa Khel and Bolan Balochistan and called for immediate and decisive action against terrorists.

In a statement, he emphasized that the time has come for concrete steps to be taken to ensure peace and stability in the country, urging the nation to move beyond mere condemnations to practical measures.

Jamal Raisani condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan, stating that the people of the province have made countless sacrifices for the security and peace of the nation.

"I have carried the coffins of my brother, father, and loved ones on my shoulders, so I am well aware of the pain experienced by the families affected by terrorism," he said.

He said the terrorist incidents in Musa Khel and Bolan have shaken the entire nation, where 29 innocent civilians were brutally killed after their identification cards were checked.

"Identification cards do not mention Baloch, Punjabi, Sindhi, or Pashtun, but the word 'Pakistan.' Terrorists have no religion, ethnicity, or language."

Jamal Raisani described these incidents as cowardly acts and criticized certain elements for attempting to portray these events through a lens of nationalism to present themselves as heroes.

He said that their goal is to spread hatred and discord throughout Pakistan and Balochistan aiming to pit communities against each other. Jamal Raisani urged the nation to unite against terrorism and stressed that the time has come to launch decisive action against terrorists to eradicate terrorism from its roots.



KALAT: Funeral prayers of police and levies personnel who embraced Shahadat during fight with terrorists being offered