

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol XXVI No 07, Safar 22, 1446 AH Wednesday August 28, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

CM, Mohsin Naqvi co-chair special meeting on law & order in Balochistan:

Federal & provincial Govts. agree on effective strategy for bringing sustainable peace in Balochistan

High level meeting decides to get approval of the required funds for improving security situation in province from the Apex committee; new ASPs to be appointed to meet shortage of police officers

Independent Report

QUETTA: The federal and provincial governments have agreed upon devising effective strategy for bringing sustainable peace in Balochistan.

Both the governments have decided to enhance professional capacity of Balochistan police and levies in the province.

The new Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) would be appointed to remove shortage of the police officers in the province.

The Balochistan police

would be provided with modern equipment and other facilities.

These decisions were made during a high level meeting on law and order situation co-chaired by the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

The meeting attended by the provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Shah, Inspector General of Police, Abdul

Khalid Sheikh, and other concerned high ups particularly focused on the law and order situation in backdrop of different terrorist attacks in parts of Balochistan occurred on August 25 and 26.

The meeting also decided to get approval of the required funds for improving security situation in the province from the Apex committee.

Besides the meeting also decided to increase staff and facilities in order to re-

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Cabinet approves Rs 20 b for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, Rs 1.95 b for Reko Diq security

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal cabinet to tackle the recent terrorist incidents across country has approved Rs20 billion for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam on Tuesday.

Held with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in chair, the cabinet meeting discussed a six-point agenda which also focused on economic and political situation of the country.

The federal cabinet also approved Rs 1.95 billion for FC Balochistan to ensure the security of the Reko Diq project.

Additionally, the cabinet reduced its expenses and approved recommendations from the Right Sizing Committee to cut costs further.

Decisions made in recent ECC meeting were also approved by the cabinet.

Four soldiers embrace martyrdom 25 terrorists including ringleader killed in Tirah valley IBOs: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP)

Four soldiers of Pakistan Army, amid demonstration of valour in fighting terrorists, on Tuesday embraced martyrdom while 25 khawarij were killed including ringleader Abuzar alias Saddam in different extensive intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Tirah, Khyber District against Fitna-Al-Khawarij and so called Laskar-e-Islam and Jamat-ul-Ahrar, conducted by the security forces.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, these operations were based on ro-

bust intelligence that had resulted into major setbacks to Fitna Al Khawarij and its affiliates. During these daring and highly successful IBOs being conducted since 20 August 2024, the security forces had so far successfully neutralized twenty-five Khawarij including Kharij ring leader Abuzar alias Saddam, who was killed, while eleven Khawarij were injured.

"The heavy losses inflicted upon Fitna Al Khawarij in these operations is testament to the valor and commitment of Security Forces to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.



QUETTA: A view of labour busy in work on destroys Railway Bridge.

China, US pledge support to Pakistan against terrorism

ISLAMABAD (Agencies)

As the country continues to reel under back-to-back terrorist attacks, the United States and China came out in support of the country, strongly condemning the latest militant forays in Balochistan and pledging support to Pakistan in countering terrorism.

Balochistan witnessed one of the deadliest attacks on Monday that left more than 50 dead, including civilians, police and military personnel in a single day.

The attacks sent shock waves across the country, drawing condemnations from the government and foreign countries.

Condemning the militant attacks, Pakistan's long-time regional ally China extended its support and expressed deep grief over the dastardly attacks in the southwestern resource-rich province, home to major China-led projects such as a port and a gold and copper mine.

A spokesperson for the

Chinese foreign ministry said at a regular press briefing on Tuesday that Beijing strongly condemns the attacks in Pakistan and will continue to give strong support to the country in anti-terrorism action.

"China stands firm against all forms of terrorism. We will continue giving staunch support to Pakistan in its effort to advance counter-terrorism operations, uphold social

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QUETTA: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi alongwith Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti chairing an important law and order meeting.

People of Balochistan are peaceful and patriotic: Conspiracy of weakening State through propoganda not to be let succeeded anyway: CM

Says comprehensive and methodical plan being chalked out to combat threat of terrorism

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that a comprehensive and methodical plan is being chalked out to combat threat of terrorism in the province.

He asserted that we would not let anyone succeed the conspiracy of weakening the State through propoganda on social media.

He said that the anti-State narrative is being infused through social media.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the under trainee Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) of Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) of the 51st course of National Police Academy Islamabad, here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

The participants of course are currently on study tour of Balochistan, who talked about the overall law and order situation of the province, governance and other related matters with the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister on the occasion urged the under trainee police officers to serve Pakistan in better

manner as the Allah Almighty has given them the chance to do so.

He exhorted them not to hesitate from rendering any sacrifice for the country and nation.

He said that the people of Balochistan are patriotic and peaceful. He said that Balochistan has vast area and it's circumstances are also quite difference than other provinces.

He referred to the incidents of terrorism and said that the innocent persons are targeted in these incidents.

He said that the provincial government is putting police and levies force on modern lines so that they may combat terrorism and law and order issues.

He said that the history is witness to that Allah Almighty has given honour to one who has loved Pakistan, and who ever betrayed the country, he got disgrace.

Meanwhile, the participants of course posed questions to the Chief Minister about law and order, projects initiated for welfare of the people of province and capacity building of police.

Mr. Justice Ejaz Swati takes oath as acting CJ BHC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The senior most judge of Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Ejaz Swati took oath as the acting Chief Justice of High Court here on Tuesday.



The judge of High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Kamran Mulakhail administered oath to the acting Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Ejaz Swati at a simple but impressive ceremony held at the court No. 1 of the High Court.

The oath taking ceremony was attended by the judges, Registrar of High court, judicial staff and large number of lawyers.

It may be mentioned here that the Chief Justice High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar has proceeded for abroad.

Commodore M. Khalid of Pakistan Navy promoted to Rank of Rear Admiral

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Commodore Muhammad Khalid has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect.

Rear Admiral Muhammad Khalid got commission in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1995. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi and MS Oceanography from USA, a Pakistan Navy news release on Tuesday said.

The flag officer has done various professional

courses from national and international institutes. He has done Harbour and Coastal Hydrography Course from Italy, Hydrography and Meteorology Advanced Survey Course from UK, Exclusive Economic Zone Protection Officers Course from UK, Pakistan Navy Staff Course from PN War College Lahore, Naval Staff Course from South Africa and National Security and War course from National Defence University Islamabad.



QUETTA: Under trainee officers of Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) of National Police Academy Islamabad meeting with Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

No leniency or talks with terrorists; nation united to root out terrorism: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday categorically announced that the government would neither hold any talks nor show any leniency to the terrorists who were poised to disrupt the country's journey towards progress.

"The time has come to eliminate terrorism. The sacrifices being rendered for the cause will never be squandered. We need to move forward with firm resolve. There is no question of any weakness. We are open to talks with those

who believe in the supremacy of Pakistan's constitution and respect its flag. But there can be no leniency or talks with those who are enemies in the guise of friends. This is a clear message. There are no two opinions on this," the prime minister said addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him.

The prime minister began his remarks by reiterating the condemnation of the terror incidents held in different parts of the country during the last couple of

days killing dozens of citizens and the officers and personnel of the security forces.

The cabinet members also offered Fateha for the victims of terror incidents and Rana Afzaal, the brother of Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, who passed away on Monday.

The prime minister said that it was no secret that the terrorists of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) operating from AF-

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Funeral prayers of martyred soldiers offered

QUETTA (INP)

The funeral prayers of the security personnel who were martyred while fighting with terrorists in different areas of Balochistan were offered at FC Headquarters in Quetta.

According to the ISPR, Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti, Commander Balochistan Corps, IGFC Balochistan (North), IG Police Balochistan and other civil and military officials participated in the funeral prayer.

After the funeral prayers, the dead bodies of the martyrs were sent to their native areas. They will be buried with full military honours.

Fourteen security personnel having fought gallantly made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced martyrdom during operations against terrorists in Balochistan.

According to ISPR, security forces killed twenty-one terrorists involved in numerous heinous attacks against innocent civilians and security personnel in Balochistan.

These cowardly acts of terrorism were aimed at disrupting the peaceful environment and development of Balochistan by targeting innocent civilians, especially in Musa Khel, Kalat and Lasbela Districts.

President for further strengthening strategic cooperation with China

Confers Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) award on Chinese

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has said that China is a trusted and great friend of



Pakistan, and both countries need to further strengthen strategic cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two sides.

He said that both countries enjoyed historic relations, spanning over seven decades, and affirmed Pakistan's resolve to stand with China in view of the changing global scenario.

The president expressed these views while talking to the visiting Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, who along with his delegation, called on him, at Airwan-e-

commander, the president underscored the need for further enhancing military and defence cooperation, people-to-people contacts, and cultural linkages to bring the two countries further closer.

He said that Pakistan was encouraging the learning of the Chinese language which would greatly help promote people-to-people ties.

The president remarked that China Pakistan Economic Corridor was his initiative, envisioned during his previous tenure as the

Continued on page 2

There's more demand of good & true government's officers everywhere: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that there's more demand of good and true government's officers everywhere even today.

The Governor was speaking to the under trainee officers of Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) at the National Police Academy here on Tuesday.

Also present on the occasion were the Course Commander, Daniyal Javed and Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai.

The Governor welcomed the under-trainee Assistant Superintendents of Police on their study tour to Balochistan.

During the course meet-

ing, the matters about development of the basic infrastructure of the province, its geographic importance, promotion of border trade and the steps taken for provision of the basic facilities to the scattered population of the province were discussed.

The Governor exhorted the under-trainee police officers to build such character and credibility they everyone follows you.

He was of the strong view that an able and honest officer can improve the fate of whole area.

He on the occasion appreciated the increasing number of women officers in the police and other departments.

The Governor said that our women are second to

none in intelligence and capabilities.

Referring the role of police, the Governor said that there's key role of police department in elimination of crimes and protection of life and property of the people.

He urged the police officers to use their intelligence and spirit of public service for their interests.

He said we have lot of expectations of good governance from the officers after completion of the professional training as such they should pay focus on their duties remaining above every kind of fear and lust.

In the end, Governor and Course Commander exchanged the commemorative shields.

Women Senators demand iron fist for terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): The women senators on Tuesday demanded the government to take the terrorists to task with iron hands for unleashing unmatched barbarism in the Balochistan province.

Speaking on the Balochistan carnage during the 342nd session of the Senate, Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Senator Sherry Rehman said there was no distinction between terrorists as good or bad as any hostile elements picking up weapons against the state were terrorists and country enemy.

She said the PPPP leadership faced terrorism and violence due to its leadership's strong stance against insurgency in the country. "Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was the only leader who announced to hoist Pakistani flag in Swat during the terrorists' insurgency and was martyred by the terrorists," she added.

Senator Rehman underlined that some 80,000 to

90,000 civilians and numerous soldiers of the armed forces and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) personnel had embraced martyrdom in the war on terror.

Pakistan, she said was alone in fighting a war against terror, and our society was penetrated through Afghanistan by insurgents and consequently, many terror groups emerged with different names at that time.

"Pakistan Armed Forces did the impossible counter-terrorism operations despite having the least knowledge of asymmetric warfare and learned through its experiences.

The then Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani and Gillani and President Asif Ali Zardari took the government seriously on the matter of terrorism and took the opposition and political leadership into confidence. We paid a heavy price in that regard as PPP faced many martyrdoms and Gillani's son was abducted by terrorists," she added. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Senator, Dr

Zarqa Suhawardy Taimur said there was no second thought about taking terrorists to terms with iron hands.

The State and the armed forces of the country, the police force, and LEAs who rendered great sacrifices could easily tackle and were fully capable of controlling and stemming terrorism from the country, he added.

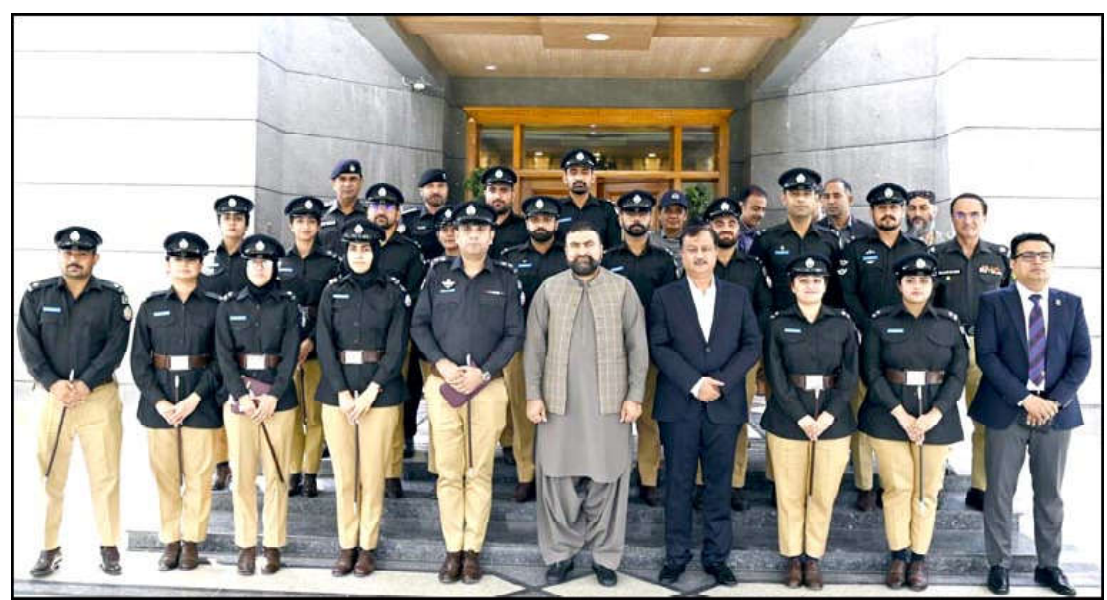
"This is the fifth insurgency in Balochistan and the first had occurred in 1970 and it was 26th August, the death anniversary of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti. BLA an international insurgent organization had launched attacks on 10 districts for 20 hours and kept the security forces engaged," she said. She said the Balochistan massacre was deplorable and the demonstration led by tribal women and girls in Gwadar was also regrettable. She queried that despite these crises why the quarters concerned were not paying heed to the pressing issues of the deprived areas of the country.

President lauds security forces for successful operation in Distt. Khyber

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday appreciated the security forces for their successful intelligence-based operation against Fitna al-Khawarij in District Khyber.

The president said that the security forces, with display of valour, had sent terrorists to hell.

He further paid tribute to Jawans on embracing martyrdom during the operation, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The president said that the operations would continue till the complete elimination of terrorism.



QUETTA: Under trainee officers of Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) of National Police Academy Islamabad photographed with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

No leniency or talks with...

Continued from page 1 ghanistan were behind these terrorist attacks. The government has sensitised the Afghan government on the subject and also taken effective actions against them, he added.

Referring to the killing of passengers in Balochistan on Monday, he said such incidents could not terrorize the people.

"Such unholy designs are just meant to impede the country's progress, ongoing CPEC projects in Balochistan and undermine the relationship between Pakistan and China," he remarked.

He told the cabinet members that the government had assured to provide all-out resources to the armed forces to fight out the terrorists and that the Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Muneer and the armed forces personnel were determined to purge this scourge.

"Inshallah, their nefarious designs will be foiled, provided we identify our enemies and forge unity to eliminate them," he urged.

Calling the recent terror incidents a "moment of reflection", Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated there was no room for terrorists in the country.

He announced that he would visit Balochistan very soon to hold in-depth deliberations on the situation and decide on immediate measures.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed that in view of the larger national interests, all

ministers and institutions should take all possible decisions and initiatives that could save each penny of the nation.

He said that steps were being taken, on priority basis, to further improve governance and bring about institutional reforms in the country.

"We are introducing digitization and smart management of institutions to modernize the country's system and harmonize it in accordance with the international requirements," the prime minister expressed these views while chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet.

In the meeting, the federal cabinet strongly condemned the terrorist incidents in Balochistan province on Monday and the cowardly attacks on unarmed civilians by terrorists.

The cabinet prayed for the eternal peace of Shaheed officers and personnel of the security forces and unarmed civilians who were martyred in these attacks, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

It also directed for taking of complete action against terrorists involved in these incidents after their immediate identification.

The prime minister appreciated the decisions taken by the finance minister, minister for national food security, minister for energy and other relevant ministers and officials for ensuring uninterrupted supply of urea fertilizer for the upcoming Rabi crop.

President for...

Continued from page 1 President of Pakistan.

He said that enemies of Pakistan and China did not want their bilateral relations to flourish, adding the two countries should work closely to overcome shared challenges. Highlighting the importance of Pak-China friendship, General Li Qiaoming said that the friendship between the two countries was unbreakable, adding that both countries needed to work together to fight terrorism.

Earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon General Li Qiaoming in recognition of his meritorious services rendered towards enhancing defence cooperation between Pakistan and China, during a special investiture ceremony held, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PSW holds Entrepreneurship Program in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): The Pakistan Single Window (PSW) in collaboration with CARE Pakistan organized a "Women Entrepreneurship Program on Tuesday in Quetta.

The event brought together more than 60 women traders and entrepreneurs from Quetta and the surrounding areas to provide them information and training on various aspects of cross border trade including use of digital platforms for marketing and B2B connectivity, e-commerce and customs procedures, and access to finance for scaling up businesses for exports.

CARE Pakistan is a well-known nongovernmental organization making sustained efforts to enhance gender justice and economic

empowerment. Since its establishment in 2005 in Pakistan, CARE has focused on equal access to economic resources and decision-making for women and men, disaster response, and gender-focused programming.

Their work, which emphasizes climate and gender justice, aligns with their broader goal of reducing poverty and enhancing self-reliance within vulnerable communities. Mastercard's Center for Inclusive Growth and CARE Pakistan announced the inception of Strive Women, a program that aims to strengthen the financial health and resilience of women-led small businesses in Pakistan and several other markets across the globe.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding command area of big dams of the province

Federal & provincial Govts...

Continued from page 1 solve the issues of passports in Chaman.

Similarly, it was decided that stern action would be taken by FIA for prevention of anti-state activities and propaganda on social media.

In this regard, the Director FIA would monitor the situation while staying in Quetta.

Expressing views on the occasion, Chief Minister Balochistan and Federal Interior Minister said that life and property of general public would be protected by mobilizing all available resources.

They said that the anti-state elements don't want to see the CPEC projects while succeeding. However, no such conspiracy of the enemies would be succeeded, they asserted.

They said that the government, public and security forces have the capability to defend each and every inch of the land. They vowed to foil every kind of conspiracy against Pakistan with mutual unity and consensus.

It may be mentioned here that Federal Interior Minister had reached

Quetta especially to overview the law and order situation in Chaman.

APP adds: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday reiterating the government's resolve stressed the government is committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and there is no need to launch a major operation against terrorists in Balochistan as a single Station House Officer (SHO) can crush them.

"Those who think they could scare us by using such cowardly act of saboteurs and could undermine the government resolve against terrorism are living in a fool paradise as they would soon receive a stern response from the state," he said while addressing a press conference here at Chief Minister (CM) Secretariat flanked by the CM Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

Sharing the government strategy to bring the culprits to justice, he said, "we will have to go for those behind Balochistan unrest, including their masterminds and facilitators. The outcome of our prompt response will soon be visible to all".

He noted, "enough is enough; the government has adopted a concerted approach against miscreants. Even the enemies of Pakistan have realised that they have never received such a harsh response in the past."

The minister deplored that terrorists attacked innocent unarmed civilians in a cowardly manner and in the dark of night. "Yet, our brave forces repulsed bravely and there is no doubt that our law enforcement agencies possess the ability to destroy their network", he said.

The foreign-funded terrorists, worth an SHO, he said and shunned the impression of launching the major operation in Balochistan.

Dispelling the impression of a late reply to the saboteur's acts, the minister said, "our force responded within ten minutes compelling the terrorists to flee".

Mohsin Naqvi said that the aim of his visit to Quetta was that the federal government is standing on the back of the provincial government. "The federal government always stood with the Balochistan government whenever the chief minister sought our help," he remarked.

"Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif directed me to visit Balochistan and ensure that stern action is being taken against the terrorists who took the lives of innocent citizens", he said.

China, US pledge support...

Continued from page 1 solidarity and stability, and protect the safety of the people," Lin Jian said.

He reaffirmed China's readiness to enhance counter-terrorism and security cooperation with Pakistan further and jointly safeguard peace and security in the region.

Similarly, taking the gravity of the situation into account, Washington strongly regretted the deaths of law enforcers and civilians in Balochistan's Musakhail and other areas.

"Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those killed in yesterday's attacks. The

United States will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism," the US embassy in Islamabad wrote on its official X account.

Meanwhile, the European Union also condemned the heinous attacks in the southwestern province of the country.

"Terrorism and violence in any form have no place. They threaten the foundations of democracy. Our thoughts are with those affected [by] this senseless act," the EU Commission Spokesperson Nabila Massrali wrote on X.

Moreover, Germany also extended support by showing solidarity with the attack victims and expressing concern about the "recent surge in violence in Balochistan" that resulted in loss of precious lives.

"Our thoughts are with the families and loved ones of the victims. We hope for a swift restoration of peace and stability in the region," the German Consul General in Karachi.



HUB: Provincial Secretary Industries & PHE Imran Ghichki being briefed by officials during his visit to Special Economic Zone site-4

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Officer Municipal Committee Washuk Invites sealed percentage rate tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023 Government of Balochistan from interested contractor / firms for the works mentioned below: **GRANT IN AID 2023-2024. With 2% Earnest Money & Completion up to 30-12-2024**

S.No	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT WARD DARAG EDHAP / BANGAR MC WASHUK TSE-242508522883	2.40
2	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT KILLI HAJI BASHARAT ULLAH WARD SOLDAN MC WASHUK TSE-242508522933	1.20
3	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT WARD GRESHAMC WASHUK TSE-242508525123	0.90
4	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT WARD KOTIGI/KUMB MC WASHUK TSE-242508525173	0.90
5	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT WARD ALYAN/KOH BUN MC WASHUK TSE-242508525183	0.90
6	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT WARD GUJARI MC WASHUK TSE-242508525773	0.90
7	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT KILLI MIR HAMEED ULLAH WARD GHAREEB ABAD MC WASHUK TSE-242508525813	0.80
8	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT KILLI HAJI JAN MUHAMMAD WARD SHIMSHIMC WASHUK TSE-242508525853	0.80
9	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT KILLI AMAN ULLAH WARD GWASHANK MC WASHUK TSE-242508525883	0.80
10	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT WARD KOTIGI/KUMB MC WASHUK TSE-242508525933	0.80
11	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT KILLI NASIR ABAD MC WASHUK TSE-242508523673	0.60
12	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT WARD DARAG EDHAP / BANGAR MC WASHUK TSE-242508523763	0.60
13	PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR KIT AT WARD SOLDAN MC WASHUK TSE-242508523833	0.60

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with BPPRA Rules 2014. (amendment up to date) **Eligibility:** eligibility Criteria can be seen in bidding documents **Method of Procurement:** Single stage, one envelope. The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of undersigned office. **Bidding / Tender Documents:** Issuance: Tender form / document have issued to original contractor or authorized person from the date of advertisement published in News paper till submission date and time on production of amounting Rs.1,000/- (Non Refundable) as bidding documents charges deposit in shape of Green Challan in the account of Municipal Committee Washuk (4086323079) in National Bank of Pakistan Kharan Branch. **Submission:** Last date for submission of document is 13-09-2024 at 11:00 PM. **Opening:** The tender will be opened on 13-09-2024 at 12:00 PM. Place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be: Address: Office of the Chief Officer Municipal Committee Washuk E-Mail address: taburnid934@gmail.com

Chief Officer
Municipal Committee Washuk
AB No.217/27-8-2024
www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Director Agriculture OFWM Ziarat invites bids from eligible bidders for execution of following works for the years 2024-25 PSDP No. 71 [2024.0003] 2023-24 Tender Fee Rs. 1,000/- in shape of Green Challan form deposited in head of account (CO3136) E/Money 2% of estimated cost in shape of Call Deposit and time limit 30-06-2026 for the work

S#	Name of Work/s	Tender Cost
1	Const. of Water Storage Tanks (33Nos) and Installation of HDPE Pipes (5Nos) PSDP No. 71 [2024.0003]	49,619,650

Procurements shall be made under BPPRA Rules 2014 Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turnover of at least 34,733,755 PKR amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65million) in Relevant Category and Specialized Code CE09(i) (Sewerage Works), CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works) The bidding Firm must submit Company's latest Bank Account Statement or Bank Credit Line Certificate. The issuance date of Bank Account Statement or Bank Credit Line Certificate shall not be older than July 2024 Income Tax Registration certificate is required to be submitted The bidding firm must submit Income Tax Return of 3 subsequent previous years The Bidding Firm must submit Audit Report / Audit Balance Sheet of 3 subsequent previous years The bidding Firm must submit Tender Document Fee Rs. 1,000 PKR **Method of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security of estimated cost in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Issuance of tender Documents:** Tender documents will be issued from the date of NIT published in newspapers till deadline of bid submission. The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed of any working day or downloaded from authority website against TSE No. 242508524053 **Bid Validity Period:** 90 days **Deadline of Bid submission:** The tender should be submitted on 13-09-2024 till 11:00 AM at the office of the undersigned. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM. **Address:** Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management District Ziarat. **Contact No.** 03327856292

Deputy Director
Agriculture On Farm Water
Management Ziarat
PRQ No.658/27-8-2024
www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - ROADS CWPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT LORALAI Invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates CSR 2023 Tender Fee Rs. 1500/- and Bid Security 2% for each work.

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF LEVIES THANA PATHANKOT ROAD LORALAI PSDP NO. 3838 Z2023.1897. TSE-242508528973	17,650,487
2	CONSTRUCTION OF CVD BUILDING AT KILLI OLD MINAR LORALAI PSDP NO. 3551 Z2023.2525. TSE-242508529243	17,539,902

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility Criteria:** Can be seen in the Bidding Document. **Procedure of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** Mentioned in the Bidding Documents. **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 11th September during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** 11th September, 2024 till 10:00 AM. **Tender opening:** Will be on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11th September, 2024 11:00 AM **Address:** B&R office zhub road loralai **Phone no:** 0824410031 **Email:** Ahmeddinrashed@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-BUILDINGS
CW PP&H DEPARTMENT
LORALAI
PRQ No.688/27-8-2024
www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242508527363 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Divisional Forest Officer Duki invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates **Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and Bid Security 2%**

S.No	Name of Work's	E/Cost
1	Establishment of Three Water Sources with Solar at Duki for Cluster Plantation	10,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 7,000,000 PKR Amount in 1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **Procedure of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 10 September, 2024 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The tenders must be submitted latest by 10 September, 2024 till 01:30 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 02:30 PM **Address:** Divisional forest officer duki **Phone no:** 0333787163 **Email:** atataransdo@gmail.com

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
DUKI
PRQ No.685/27-8-2024
www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_balochistan

BISP introduces new banking model to ensure transparency in payments: Rubina Khalid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Tuesday said that a new banking model has been introduced for the transparent payment of funds to deserving women.

This new banking model has been introduced to ensure transparency in payments of funds following the instructions of the President Asif Ali Zardari.

Senator Rubina Khalid was speaking while giving a briefing to the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on ongoing and newly introduced initiatives under the program.

She explained that BISP management is consulting with the State Bank of Pakistan to minimize human intervention, ensuring that women receive their funds without any

deductions.

Senator Rubina Khalid mentioned that savings accounts are being opened for deserving women through the BISP Savings Scheme, allowing aid money to be directly transferred into their accounts.

She also highlighted a new initiative under BISP, which involves a skill development program for deserving women and their family members.

This program will provide training in technical skills according to international standards, enabling them to improve their quality of life and contribute to the country's economy.

She expressed that this initiative would help them graduate from poverty, thereby allowing more deserving families to benefit from the program.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor KP, Faisal

Karim Kundi, stated that the BISP is the largest social safety net aimed at the welfare of the poor in Pakistan.

He emphasized the need to establish BISP offices at the Union Council level to enhance public services.

He also suggested deploying mobile registration vans in remote areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to ensure that deserving women are registered in the program.

Kundi highly appreciated the skill development program and noted that it would promote human resource development, providing employment opportunities abroad for those who complete the training.

He also emphasized the importance of an awareness campaign to highlight the positive impact of the BISP.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani presiding over a Senate House Business Advisory Committee meeting at Parliament House.

Terrorists deserve no concession: Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Parliamentary leader in the Senate, Senator Irfan Ahmad Siddiqui on Tuesday said terrorists do not deserve any concession and factors that provoke terrorism must be dealt with iron hands.

While speaking on the recent terror incidents in Balochistan, he said the recent violence showed hostile elements taking up arms against innocent civilians to shed their blood which was bleak moment for humanity.

Taking to the floor, Senator Irfan called the government for a collective strategy at the Senate to probe the factors responsible for such kind of incidents.

Commenting on the

members of the house's suggestions for talks with insurgents, he said that these elements playing in the hands of the country's enemies must be brought accountable to the constitution of Pakistan and made respectful to the flag of Pakistan.

Irfan said that it was the basic responsibility of the State to provide security to its residents and save their lives while unfortunately during the previous regime the terrorists were brought back and released from the jails that resulted in resurgence of crimes and terrorist attacks.

Siddiqui also called for the implementation of the National Action Plan devised in 2014 after the Army Public School attack for countering terrorism and extremism in the country.

Toshakhana-2 case Bail after arrest petition in respect of PTI founder, Bushra filed

ISLAMABAD (Online): Bail after arrest pleas in respect of PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi have been filed in the court in Toshakhana-2 case.

The bail after arrest pleas has been filed in Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad in Toshakhana-2 case.

Barrister Suleman Safdar and Khalid Rashid Chaudhry advocate filed the petitions.

It is being told that Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi are imprisoned in Adiala Jail on judicial remand. NAB has filed reference against them in Toshakhana-2 case. Allegations of acquiring gifts from Toshakhana illegally have been leveled against them in the reference.

The reference has been filed in AC Islamabad by NAB investigating officer Mohsin Haroon and case officer Waqar ul Hassan.

The new Toshakhana reference filed by NAB comprises 2 volumes.

Earthquake hits Swat and surrounding areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale struck Swat and neighboring regions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday.

According to a private news channel, the quake's epicenter was located near the border of Tajikistan and Afghanistan, at a depth of 110 kilometers.

In response to the tremor, residents evacuated their homes and recited Kalma-e-Tayyaba in fear.

Fortunately, no casualties or property damage have been reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Five workers killed in Humak building collapse

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least five workers lost their lives on Tuesday when the roof of an under-construction building collapsed in the Humak area of Islamabad.

According to police, rescue teams promptly reached the scene soon after the incident, successfully saving two workers trapped under the rubble, reported a private news channel.

Rescue efforts are ongoing to rescue one worker still trapped beneath the debris.



ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan's Ambassador Khazar Farhadov called on Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan.

Azerbaijan envoy, Rana discuss exploring avenues in education, culture, sports

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov called on Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on exploring collaborative avenues in education, culture, and sports, with both sides expressing keen interest in enhancing bilateral relations through youth-centric initiatives.

During the meeting, Chairman Rana Mashood outlined the vision of the PMYP, which is committed to empower Pakistani youth through various initiatives aimed at enhancing their skills, education, and

cultural exposure.

He emphasized the importance of technical education, stating, "The incumbent government places a strong emphasis on equipping our youth with technical skills that are essential for their personal growth and the nation's economic development. Our goal is to prepare them to compete on an international level."

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov responded by acknowledging the pivotal role of youth as an invaluable asset for both nations.

He emphasized the need for continued collaboration between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, particularly in fields that directly impact the younger genera-

tions. "Youth is our most important asset, and it is through their development that we can ensure a prosperous future for our countries," said Ambassador Farhadov.

He said a significant portion of the discussions centered around the potential collaboration between Pakistan's National Volunteer Corps (NVC) and Azerbaijan's Volunteer Network.

Chairman Rana Mashood briefed the Ambassador on the objectives of the NVC, which aims to foster a spirit of volunteerism among Pakistani youth, encouraging them to contribute to social development projects across the country.



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Senate body calls for increased accountability and transparency in national federations and IPPs

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Functional Committee on Devolution, chaired by Senator Dr. Zarqa Suhrawardy Taimur, convened today at the Parliament House.

The Secretary of the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) briefed the Committee on the number of employees and the attached departments of the Ministry, as well as the details of the sports federations registered with the Pakistan Sports Board. He also provided an overview of the Ministry's human resources, including both sanctioned and currently working officers. Additionally, the Secretary reported that there are 44 registered National Sports Federations, with the grants for these federations funded by the Ministry. The committee members also discussed matters related to the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA). Chairperson Senator Dr. Zarqa inquired about the accountability of the head of the federation and emphasized the importance of the inquiries' outcomes. She proposed that the inquiries be conducted

Ayaz pays tribute to brave security forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Tuesday paid rich tribute to the security forces for eliminating 25 terrorists during the operation against Fitna-ul-Khawarij in the Tirah Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Speaker also honored the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the operation. He expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the families of the martyrs.

"The security forces and the people of Pakistan are resolute in eliminating the scourge of terrorism from the country," he said.

"The brave personnel of our armed forces have been fighting the terrorists

Parliamentarian women laud development work in IMCG F/11-3

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation comprising of parliamentarians Madam Asia Ishaque and Madam Rana Ansar on Tuesday visited IMCG F-11/3 and expressed their delight and satisfaction upon witnessing the developmental work in public schools. During their visit, the parliamentarians commended the role of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFE PT) in driving positive change in the education sector. They also appreciated the initiatives taken by Federal Secretary Mohtyuddin Ahmad Wani, which have contributed significantly to the improvement of schools.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Senator Rubina Khalid briefs Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on BISP's newly launched initiatives at BISP headquarters.

Minister urges PTI to discuss charter of economy, public welfare issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Tuesday urged the leaders of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI), to discuss charter of economy and public interest issues.

Talking to a private television channel, he said that PTI leadership is wasting time of the nation by creating political issues.

He said PTI should sit

for talks to strengthen democracy, and charter of economy for accelerating business activity in the country.

In reply to a question about political differences with Pakistan Peoples Party, he said the Pakistan Muslim League-N, has cordial relations with the PPP ruling in Sindh. He appreciated the focus of provincial government on health, education and housing sectors.

He said that Punjab Chief Minister has taken drastic measures for extending relief to public on power bills.

He also asked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to take similar decision for their people to mitigate the sufferings arising due to inflation in the province.

IG reviews performance of Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi held a meeting with Safe City officers at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that the meeting was attended by Safe City Islamabad senior police officers, IT team and technical team. He reviewed the ongoing mea-

Alem Khan condemns terrorism incidents in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Alem Khan has strongly condemned the recent terrorism incidents and target killing in Balochistan.

In a press statement, the minister expressed strong reaction on the killings of citizens belonging to Punjab and said that Pakistan is a state consisting upon four units which cannot be thrown into the fire of terrorism in the name of color, caste and provincialism. He added that target killing by the enemies of peace and destroying the law and order situation in the country cannot be tolerated in any way, dividing the motherland into pieces through provincial hatred is a deep conspiracy against the state of Pakistan.

Abdul Alem Khan expressed firm determination that such elements will not be allowed to succeed and now it is necessary.



should also be further enhanced. Meanwhile the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

Moreover, IG

US Embassy awards \$20,000 in seed funding to women entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) Embassy has awarded \$20,000 as seed funding to women entrepreneurs, participating in its Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) programme.

The winners were selected through a pitch competition, which marked the final activity for the 2024 cohort of AWE participants. The grants are intended to support the growth and development of their businesses.

According to the details, Iman Khan from Peshawar, representing Gricks International, was recognized for her innovative approach in producing building materials from recycled plastic, re-purposing plastic bottles into bricks for reconstructing homes in flood-affected areas, and addressing both housing needs and environmental concerns.

Alishba Sajid from Rawalpindi, representing Cardana Utensils, received funding for her initiative to create eco-friendly, biodegradable plates and utensils as a sustainable alternative to plastic products.

Sahar Munir from Quetta was awarded for her delivery app 'QuickUp' which provides fair and affordable delivery services specifically for women-led businesses in Balochistan.

In addition to these top winners, the US Embassy awarded honorable mentions to Sana Rehman from Quetta, who is addressing a significant healthcare gap in Balochistan through her Physiotherapy Clinic in Khanozai, and Zarmina Sanam from Lahore, whose company, Skill2Success, offers hands-on learning experiences in robotics, coding, and Artificial Intelligence for students aged 5-18. The AWE programme is designed to equip enterprising women with the knowledge, networks, and resources needed to launch and scale successful businesses. This year's cohort included 100 aspiring and established women entrepreneurs who participated in a three-month online entrepreneurship course developed by the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University. Participants also received mentoring from established Pakistani women entrepreneurs and built a strong support network.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Islamic Ideology Council Dr. Allama Raghīb Naemī calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

AG seeks two or three days more from IHC in case of recovery of 2 missing brothers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Attorney General (AG) has sought time to three days from Islamabad High Court (IHC) in recovery of two missing brothers of PTI leader Azhar Mashwani.

AG has requested the court two to three days more to be given and better news will come. Some more time will be needed. Government is doing its job.

He told the matter of missing citizens has been put up before Prime Minister (PM). It is hoped positive news will come.

The court disposed of the recovery petition on return of Faizan, employee in PTI secretariat.

The court also adjourned for hearing the petition regarding recovery of Naeem Ahmad Yasin till Friday.

The case pertaining to

two missing brothers of PTI leader Azhar Mashwani came up for hearing Tuesday in the court.

During the hearing of the case Babar Awan said AG had filed a report in Supreme Court (SC). AG is saying today what he has said this earlier too.

AG said the matter has been brought into the knowledge of PM. One missing worker returned after this. All the job is being done in accordance with spirit of this court.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq remarked we fix this case till Friday. The court was told missing Faizan has returned. AG has sought more time. AG told the matter of missing citizens has been put up before PM. The plea of AG seeking more time is accepted.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Editor-in-Chief Online International News Agency, and Daily Jinnah Mohsin Jameel Baig, and others offers Fateha on the occasion of Rasm-e-Kul, of late Jameel Baig, brother of Mohsin Jameel Baig, at his residence in the Federal Capital.

River Indus continues to flow in medium, low flood: FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that except for River Indus which is flowing in "Medium Flood" in Sukkur-Kotri reach and in "Low Flood" at Guddu Barrage, all other major rivers of the Indus River System i.e. Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej including River Indus in Tarbela-Taunsa reach are discharging normal flows.

According to daily FFC report on Tuesday, Tarbela reservoir is maintaining its Maximum Conservation Level (MCL) of 1550 feet for the last nine. In contrast, Mangla reservoir is currently at an elevation of 1217 feet, which is 25 feet below its MCL. 1242 feet.

According to Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore, yesterday's depression over Southeastern Rajasthan (India) has intensified into deep de-

pression and has shifted South-Southwestwards, now positioned over North Gujarat (India). Another low-pressure Area over Jharkhand (India) is expected to impact central parts of Pakistan starting from 30th August 2024. Trough of Westerly Wave is persisting over North-eastern Afghanistan while Seasonal Low lies over North-Western Balochistan. Light to moderate moist currents from the Bay of Bengal were penetrating into upper catchments of all major rivers while strong moist currents from the both Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea were penetrating into Southern Sindh and adjoining areas up to 10,000 feet.

For the next 72 hours, FFD, Lahore has predicted scattered thunderstorm rain of Moderate Intensity with isolated Heavy Falls over Islamabad.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Wednesday August 28, 2024

Balochistan attacks

Bad news keeps coming from Balochistan. Since Sunday night, in a series of coordinated militant attacks across the province, over 70 people, including security personnel, the assailants and ordinary citizens, have lost their lives.

Starting with the execution-style killing of 23 travellers in Musakhail, the terrorists blew up a railway bridge in Bolan, set several vehicles on fire at a Levies station in Mastung, and gunned down 11 people in Kalat before raiding an FC camp in Bela. This has been the most widespread assault in years. The separatist terrorist outfit BLA has claimed responsibility, maintaining that it had seized control of a big portion of the FC camp and most highways.

ISPR asserted that the security forces and law-enforcement agencies responded immediately to these criminal attacks, especially in Musakhail, Kalat and Lasbela, and killed 21 terrorists in ensuing clearance operations. However, it also said that 10 security forces soldiers and four LEAs personnel were martyred during the operation. These horrific attacks suggest that Baloch militants have intensified their violent campaign against the state and security forces. The army has vowed to bring the "instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts to justice".

Balochistan has been in turmoil for many decades. The last two decades, especially following the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti in an army operation, have seen the emergence of several armed secessionist groups. Strong evidence is said to link some of them to India and other neighbouring countries, who are opposed to the idea of a secure Pakistan.

These groups have targeted security forces, public installations, Chinese interests, unarmed Punjabi workers in Balochistan, and politicians who, as opposed to the militants, believe in a democratic struggle for the political and economic rights of the Baloch. Their violent acts and the killing of innocent people must be strongly condemned. The intensity of these attacks should put the whole country, especially its military and political guardians, on alert.

That said, although kinetic action against those who target the province so mercilessly is necessary, the civil and security leadership must look deeper into the Balochistan question and identify the factors that have intensified the tension between the Baloch and the state. The reasons behind this wave of disaffection that have led young middle-class men and women to protest are well-known; they pertain to human rights violations, poor socio-economic conditions, and the denial of political rights. These factors provide a fertile recruiting ground for terrorist groups on the lookout for angry, frustrated elements to join their ranks. The centre cannot ignore Baloch voices anymore, especially those who condemn violence and want peace and genuine efforts for change. It is only by listening to and cooperating with the people of Balochistan that the terrorists can be eliminated.

Ashraf Jehangir Qazi

Never have India-Pakistan relations been so bad for so long. They barely exist today. In a polarised but interdependent world, with the Domsday Clock ticking towards midnight, this is an unfortunate situation, to put it mildly.

The need for improved relations between these neighbouring nuclear weapons countries, one with the largest population in the world and the other with the fifth largest, should be obvious.

Pakistan, as the smaller of the two countries, has a relatively greater interest in restoring at least a minimum of exchanges and cooperation, and the restoration of informal or indirect discussion on how to address the more serious differences in a mutually acceptable manner.

India, on the contrary, has evinced a more or less complete lack of interest in any substantive interaction with Pakistan. It sees Pakistan as a failing terrorist state with few, if any, options from which it merely needs to protect itself. Ac-

cordingly, it sees no point in entering into discussions with such a state.

Even in Track 2 meetings, these attitudes prevent any serious discussions which could feed back into official policies of the two countries towards each other. Discussions, even when friendly and polite, tend to degenerate into accusations and counteraccusations reflecting official, indeed national, attitudes towards each other. They tend to become zero-sum point-scoring, which eventually becomes uninteresting and a waste of time.

The question arises: how can a broader spectrum of people from both countries, including officials, intellectuals, journalists, business people, all kinds of professionals and specialists, cultural representatives, students, tourists, etc, have greater interaction with each other which could, over time, feed positively into political attitudes towards each other?

In the absence of such a process, discussions on any issue, whether Kashmir, terrorism, water issues, treatment of minorities, increasing trade and invest-

ment, confidence building measures or other items on the agendas of past dialogues, become unfruitful.

So, how can discussions between the two countries be more fruitful? Two conditions need to be met. One, the interlocutors must share an objective which they believe is attainable. And two, the interlocutors should have the capacity to introspect and acknowledge the need to address the concerns of each other.

This is not easy. Recently, when an Indian acquaintance asked how India-Pakistan relations might move forward, I suggested Pakistan might ask itself what it might do to address some Indian concerns, and India needed to similarly ask itself what it might do to address Pakistani concerns. He responded saying India needed to tell Pakistan to forget Kashmir, stop its terrorism, accept it had lost its contest with India, accept India's dominance in South Asia, and accordingly disband its nuclear arsenal. I suggested he may have articulated India's goals but did not seem motivated by any desire to address Pakistan's

concerns. Instead, he was likely to elicit a matching response that India refrain from policies of hegemony, interference, assassinations, genocide, etc. That would, of course, end the discussion.

So, can we move beyond such barren exchanges? To the extent that some accusations may be justified, they should be addressed, even unilaterally. Accordingly, can we fashion a substantive statement on some of the outstanding issues between our countries, including those of core concern, along with agreed recommendations which we might refer to our respective governments for consideration?

Given mutual empathy, not just personally, but also as citizens of estranged neighbouring countries which share so much in common, we might begin to make progress towards overcoming the obstacle of a common but turbulent history which has 'overshaped' our attitudes towards each other. Instead, we might allow more room for what we share in common to inform and broaden our attitudes towards each other.

Such conversations will need to be progressively elevated to Track 2, Track 1.5 and official levels. Can we agree that such a process should get started as soon as possible? If so, can we agree on reviving Saarc, which currently is moribund? Can we revive confidence and security building measures which have been agreed upon, implemented, and cancelled or allowed to fall into disuse? Can we, in today's circumstances, summon the political will, despite the risks, to seriously probe the possibilities for an improvement in relations? Or are countervailing forces just too strong and the will to overcome them just too weak?

A whole new generation of Indians and Pakistanis need to know more about each other and why they feel and think about each other the way they do. They may discover they agree on much more than they thought. Should that happen, addressing each other's concerns may become much less intractable than it seems today.

With exchanges of all kinds, lobbies for mutual understanding and mutual

profit can emerge, especially in bordering regions. Such lobbies are likely to have far more influence than academics, experts and intellectuals in the politics and government decision-making of their countries. Apart from the potential of cross-border trade and other exchanges, Indians and Pakistanis, no matter what the state of their diplomatic relations, remain incorrigibly interested in each other as people — in their art, entertainment and sports.

Coke Studio Pakistan, for example, seems to have more fans in India than in Pakistan. Javelin throwers Arshad Nadeem and Neeraj Chopra momentarily brought our two people closer not just with their outstanding performances in the Paris Olympics, but with their mutual friendship and support — and topping them were their mothers, who described the two champion athletes as their sons. Unfortunately, politicians and governments of both countries, as well as specific interests, are less large-hearted and are more obstacles than facilitators. This is an initial and understandable given. -- Courtesy Dawn

As Modi tries to disown Nehru**Jawed Naqvi**

A cursory glance at Wikipedia shows that Pakistan has had as close a relationship with Ukraine as India ever had, or possibly better, including vital defence ties. In fact, in the late 1990s, shortly after gaining independence, Ukraine sold Pakistan 320 Ukrainian T-80UD main battle tanks in a deal worth \$650 million. According to the Kyiv Post, the deal literally saved Kharkiv Malyshev Tank Factory from bankruptcy.

According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute databases, from 1991 to 2020, Ukraine completed arms contracts with Pakistan with a total value of nearly \$1.6 billion. After war broke out between Ukraine and Russia, Pakistan continued to support Ukraine's "sovereignty and territorial integrity", which is the precise phrase Prime Minister Narendra Modi used as he hugged President Volodymyr Zelensky in widely televised images on India's behalf in Kiev on Aug 23. On the other hand, Ukraine's foreign

minister Dmytro Kuleba, during an earlier visit to Pakistan, thanked the country for supporting Ukraine's stance on its sovereignty and security. India's ace TV journalist Karan Thapar has quoted a host of things that Zelensky told Modi or said of him that breached diplomatic courtesy.

As with India, Pakistan has also been mostly consistent in abstaining on UN resolutions on Russia and has avoided criticising Moscow. So what did Modi do or say in his much-hyped meeting with Zelensky which takes the story forward? What was the point of departure?

In the absence of a clearer official explanation, one is tempted to see the tight hug of Zelensky as a sweetener for the following day's defence talks with the Pentagon team in New Delhi. The two sides upgraded their defence ties on Aug 24, with China in the crosshairs. The package of deals, including intelligence and surveillance support, would have perhaps looked rather odd in the backdrop of the globally watched embrace Modi was locked in with President Vladimir Putin

in Moscow.

In this context, recent events may be deemed instructive. Regardless of the explanation available in official quarters in Pakistan — and allowing for accepting that two events that otherwise looked intertwined were not actually linked, as is so unremarkably claimed — Imran Khan was forced out of power after meeting Putin in Moscow after Russia attacked Ukraine. Likewise, in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wajed was evicted from power and luckily found sanctuary in India days after visiting Beijing.

Another foreign trip of Modi that raised eyebrows in Delhi, although it went largely unnoticed elsewhere, was when he was barely sworn in for a third term. Inexplicably, he dashed off to Rome. The ostensible purpose was to join an audience of Global South invitees to watch the spectacle of a G7 summit. Of the other invitees, not everyone found the time or saw the need to show up.

There were two clips from the Modi visit that offer a telltale record of the spectacular non-event.

One was shown by TV channels close to the prime minister. The other found its way to regale followers of YouTube news channels. The clip played on TV showed a selfie of Modi and his Italian host, Prime Minister Giorgio Meloni, in which he grinned from ear to ear with a likeness to Peter Sellers playing Hurundi Bakshi in The Party. Meloni, on the other hand, had the time of her life by inventing a name for the clip — "Melodi".

The other video showed Modi looking impatient behind a screen, waiting alone to be escorted to his car. Busy Italian officials appeared more focused on the arriving and departing G7 leaders. Here, too, an explanation for the visit has not been easy to figure out. The last trip to Rome by a Pakistani leader shows up a troubling fact for India. It was president Perviz Musharraf in 2004, who signed off the trip to Rome with a declaration with the host, both agreeing to oppose the expansion of the UN Security Council membership, a not so oblique reference to India's aspirations. If

Modi succeeded in changing the Italian stand before or after the Meloni clip, he would deserve to be applauded for a diplomatic breakthrough.

Modi has been slammed at home by political critics for allegedly posing for photo-ops dressed as diplomatic gain. Adding to the problem is the towering presence of his bete noire, Jawaharlal Nehru, on the diplomatic firmament. Modi was hosting senior African leaders at the start of his first tenure as prime minister. He gave them a long spiel about India's historical ties with Africa. It was left to the visitors to remind him of Nehru's legacy in befriending and embracing newly independent countries everywhere.

It was thus that Modi's party manufactured a TV ad promoting him as a diplomatic heavyweight during the parliamentary polls. Agirl, overwhelmed by the alleged return of Indian students from Ukraine, confides to her father: "Usne jang rukwa di, Papa!" (Modi managed to stop the war, father — to pull out the stranded Indian

students from Ukraine.)

The video was an unwitting reminder that it was not Modi who had the confidence of warring rivals to suspend hostilities, but Nehru who had successfully, and creditably for India, helped end the Korean war. India Today magazine went gaga recently. "The crucial role played by the country's first PM is an interesting chapter to revisit as Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Ukraine amid the devastating Russia-Ukraine war. The world has expectations that India, an assertive and diplomatically mature nation, could play a role in bringing about an end to the Ukraine-Russia war."

In the early 1950s, the magazine recalled, "India played a crucial role in the peaceful resolution of the repatriation of prisoners of war, addressing a big humanitarian challenge in the armed conflict in the Korean peninsula."

Seventy-five years later, an Indian Prime Minister is visiting a war-torn nation at their invitation — this time, it's Ukraine in the West." Well!

Development first?**Syed Sikander Mehdi**

Even a cursory review of discussions in Pakistan on the subject suggests that a desperate search for a shortcut to development has been going on for decades. How to attain fast-paced development seems to be the main concern of policymakers and institutions, and not what kind of development and development for whom.

Enthusiasts support the idea of 'development first' and 'development at any cost'. Some suggest, directly or indirectly, that democracy and freedom can wait and a 'transitional government' — a sort of national government, a government run by technocrats, a strong autocratic government — should be established for a period of 10 to 20 years to deliver. The Chinese, Malaysian, Singaporean, South Korean, and, until recently, the Bangladeshi models of development have been cited to justify authoritarian governance and market the narrative of development without freedom.

In the case of Bangladesh, the events following the Dhaka University students' protest against the quota system in government jobs, which led to the toppling of Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's government earlier this month, clearly show that development without freedom is no guarantee of political stability and sustainable development.

Since it emerged as a sovereign country in 1971, Bangladesh has passed through many storms and evolved like a number of other post-colonial societies. Pre-1971, the eastern wing struggled for equal rights and democracy. How-

ever, on attaining statehood, it drifted away from its cherished goals. By and large, its post-independence history remains overshadowed by authoritarian governance, mob violence, successful and unsuccessful military coups, the assassination of political leaders — including Bangladesh's founder Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members in August 1975 and Lt-Gen Ziaur Rahman, the sixth president of Bangladesh, in May 1981 — stifling of the media, rigged elections and rampant corruption. A country created in the name of democracy, freedom, and prosperity for all ended up as a typical Third World country.

However, the long and uninterrupted autocratic rule of Sheikh Hasina Wajed from 2009 to 2024 did transform the country into a roaring economic success. Small wonder, then, that the rise of the country as one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia was noticed worldwide.

What was less noticed, however, was its mediaeval style of politics. The new history of Bangladesh, written on the premises of the universities, colleges and schools of Dhaka and other cities and towns, and on the streets and paddy fields of the country, has revealed that spectacular development without freedom is akin to building a gigantic building structure on a very weak foundation.

In less than a few weeks, the pyramid of power and economy was brought down by a popular uprising. This uprising was not led by any towering opposition leader, nor by the front-ranking, military-supported Bangladesh Nationalist Party, nor by

prominent social reformers and civil society leaders, including Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, who now heads the post-Hasina Wajed government. Led by little-known student leaders, this historic movement rejected the idea of development without freedom.

Amartya Sen, leading Indian economist and Nobel laureate, published an important study in 1999. This study, which is titled Development as Freedom, exercised considerable influence on the international discourse on development and cha---nge. In this study, he puts forward the idea that development is freedom, because it increases the freedom of choice.

The idea of development at any cost, and the Chinese, Ma---laysia, Singapore---an, South Korean and, later, the Bang-ladeshi model of development, seem to have impressed many development experts and policymakers in Pakistan. The viewpoint is quite widespread that rapid development should be attained even if freedoms and rights have to be sacrificed. Being fascinated by the authoritarian brand, many pay little attention to the consequences of the rapidly spreading fascist tendencies in various societies around the world. Worse still, it is little noticed and much less appreciated that countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and US, and several others, have been enjoying sustainable development because of the blending of democracy, freedom, rule of law and development in their political, economic and social system. -- Courtesy Dawn

Man and microbe**Naseem Salahuddin**

The human body consists of trillions of individually living cells that breathe, fight, attack, die, rejuvenate, and replenish. The human cell is a world in itself, with a nucleus housing a DNA coil stretching out to construct protein-building enzymes, which are the building blocks of all organs. Each organ has a defined role and is responsible for its survival. The human body is a marvel of engineering and must be respected.

As an analogy, the microscopic bacterium is a single cell that, too, is a world in itself. Although it has no nucleus, it has its factory of particles whose primary function is to replicate by breaking itself into two, two into four, four into 16, and exponentially into millions — all within minutes. They inhabit our entire gut, from the mouth to the end of the five metres of convoluted intestine. The bugs live their own lives, not harming the host. But, if annoyed by unwholesome ingredients or unwanted competitors, they may revolt.

The battle between humans and microbes is an example of the arms race inherent in biological systems. If vandals threaten a household, the reaction will be to strengthen the walls and lock all entrances. If the intruders have guns, citizens will procure weapons. It is the hour of survival of the fittest.

The bacterium has comparable prowess. If the common bacterium called Staphylococcus aureus penetrates the skin, it may cause boils, abscesses, or septicemia, and must be destroyed with antibiotics. In the 1940s, penicillin contain-

ing a chemical ring of beta-lactam eliminated the Staph. With prolonged use and under pressure, the Staph started to produce an enzyme called beta-lactamase that destroyed penicillin. Scientists strengthened penicillin by adding a radical, but the resilient Staph counteracted with protein PBP2a that resisted the robust antibiotic called methicillin. The battle between Staph and methicillin continues, but Staph is coming ahead.

The same saga upends combat between antibiotics and the typhoid-causing Salmonella, the powerful E. coli, and its close cousins Pseudomonas and Enterobacter, that thrive in wet areas in hospitals and produce enzymes that destroy antibiotics. These tenacious bugs stick to equipment or the hands of doctors and nurses and are transmitted to sick patients, who get sicker with infection in the blood or internal organs. A few years back, infectious disease physicians could destroy bad bugs with conventional antibiotics and restore the patient's health. Today, we play Russian roulette: if the lab reports resistant bacteria, new generations of antibiotics costing Rs5,000-20,000 a day for two to four weeks in a hospital may or may not save the patient's life. No new drug molecules are in the pipeline in the world of pharmaceuticals. Treating deadly microbes is a game of thrones.

Other devious microbes that defy lifesaving drugs, like tuberculosis bacteria and fungi, invade an already weakened body and elude treatment with older drugs. Newer drugs are enormously expensive and toxic, and the humble sufferer has little choice between living and dying. As population and poverty increase in direct proportion, multidrug-res-

istant TB is spreading more fiercely than ever to the marginalised population who can hardly afford nutritious meals and drugs at a monthly Rs20,000 for nine months or longer, in addition to frequent expensive tests.

Sadly, the trend of irrational antibiotics use by doctors originates in medical colleges, where the professor teaches in overcrowded classrooms, wards and clinics, leaving no room for arriving at logical diagnoses, and doctors are left to be brainwashed by pharmaceutical reps who promote their products, offering incentives that influence prescribing habits. Diagnostic laboratories either do not exist or are inept; roadside stores sell medicines randomly. Self-treatment, driven by the desire for quick solutions and without proper medical guidance, is another significant factor. Consequently, drug resistance is rising rapidly and poses a serious public health threat.

Addressing antimicrobial resistance requires a multifaceted approach. Antimicrobial stewardship programs in hospitals and clinics are crucial in guiding the appropriate use of antibiotics. By avoiding antibiotics against viral infections and limiting their use to treat only disease-causing bacteria, we may prolong their effectiveness for many decades.

AMR is not just an individual, local, or national issue. It is a serious global threat. We can only hope to manage and mitigate its impact through concerted action at all levels — individual, institutional, and international. As part of this global community, each of us is responsible for stanching the tide of further resistance by exercising caution in using antibiotics. -- Courtesy Dawn

Murad directs Economic zone authority to attract, facilitate investment

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has decided to activate the Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA) in order to attract investment, facilitate investors, and ensure proper development at the Special Economic Zone.

"We have nine notified special economic zones, including those under the provincial and federal government as well as the private sector, but all of them need to be more productive with necessary facilities.

This he said while presiding over a meeting of the SEZA board at CM House on Tuesday. It was attended by Secretary Energy Musadiq Khan, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary Livestock and Kazim Jatoi, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Burio,

Asif Juma, CEO SEZ Faisal Mujeeb, Rehan Mujtaba, Faizan Ghori and others.

Shah said that the SEZA was responsible for preparing zone applications, selecting developers, and coordinating with federal and provincial authorities to develop infrastructure. "It has to facilitate the availability of public utilities to zone enterprises as a development plan but all this would be possible when it would appoint professionals to carry forward its business," he said.

The meeting was told that there were nine notified special economic zones, SITE Larkana, in Sindh, including Khairpur, Dhabeji, Bin Qasim Industrial Park, Korangi Creek Industrial Park and Nausheroferoze Industrial Park of the federal government and Service Long March, PFB, Armstrong of the private



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over the board meeting of the Special Economic Zone Authority at CM House.

Governor for resolving issues of traders, industrialists on priority basis

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has assured that the present government was committed to addressing the issues of industrialists and traders on a priority basis to boost industrial activity and trade. He made these remarks during a conversation with industrialists from the Federal B Area Association of Trade and Industry.

Governor Kamran Tessori discussed the concerns of the industrialists, who highlighted the urgent need to resolve issues related to infrastructure, water, gas and electricity in the industrial area.

He assured them that he would take up these matters with the relevant authorities to find prompt solutions.

Later on, speaking to the media, Governor emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to enhance trade and suggested transforming friendships with other countries into trade partnerships. He stressed that Karachi, as the economic hub of the country, requires urgent attention to its issues, both present and future.

Kamran Khan Tessori also advocated for a strong and empowered local government system, calling it essential for resolving the city's problems.

He reaffirmed that the doors of the Governor House are always open for both the public and the business community, ensuring that the benefits of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would soon be visible.

In response to a question, Governor Kamran Tessori stated that he is committed to addressing Karachi's challenges and will continue to raise voice for the city in every forum.

CM orders payments via Himmat Cards by September 15

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the care of deserving special persons is responsibility of the state.

The CM participated in a ceremony to sign an MoU (memorandum of understanding) between Department of Social Welfare and Bank of Punjab for the issuance of Himmat Cards (ATM Cards) to 65,000 special people across Punjab, through which Rs 10,500 will be paid to them every quarter.

The chief minister directed the authorities concerned to start payment through Himmat cards by September 15. She said: "Special people are very special to us."

CM Maryam Nawaz was apprised that Himmat Cards will be issued to 40,000 people in phase-I and to 25,000 people in phase-II. She was also briefed that a 30 per cent quota had been reserved for women in the issuance of Himmat Card to deserving special persons. She was briefed that a dedicated helpline 1312 has been set up for the assistance of deserving special persons. The MoU was signed by Secretary Social Welfare Javed Akhtar Mahmood and President Bank of Punjab Zafar Masood. Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Sohail Shaukat Butt, MPA Sania Ashiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Chairman P&D Nabil Awan, DG Social Welfare Anna Munir and other relevant officers were also present.



LAHORE: Members of Professors and Lecturers Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Lahore press club.

AJK Govt channels funds to grassroots to improve public services

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister, Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq on Tuesday highlighted the government's focus on completing development projects promptly and making funds accessible at the grassroots level to enhance public services.

During a review meeting with District Officers in Kuttan Colony, Neelum Valley, the prime minister urged department heads to prioritize public service and perform their duties with dedication.

He stressed that the benefits of allocated funds should reach the community.

The prime minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to completing hydropower projects in AJK within the given timeframe and assured that appointments of administrative officers would be made based on merit to promote good governance.

He also highlighted plans to upgrade road infrastructure to boost tourism and create local job opportunities.

The prime minister instructed the Electricity Department to improve revenue collection, noting that only 22% of residents in Neelum pay their electricity bills, despite affordable rates.

He emphasized the need for community cooperation in timely payments of electricity and water bills and called for actions against defaulters.

The prime minister requested a report on the repairs of the PWD guest house and updates on the Athmuqam water supply scheme within a month.

UNICEF delegation calls on KP Speaker

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of UNICEF led by Country Representative, Abdullah Fadal Tuesday called on Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Babar Salim Swati and discussed operations of UNICEF in the province.

MPA, Taj Tarand, Secretary KP Assembly, Kifayat Afridi, Special Secretary, Waqar Shah and other officials concerned were present on the occasion. The delegation discussed agenda of UNICEF in the province, offered support in formulation of policies relating to special children and women and holding of children parliament on the premises of provincial assembly to celebrate World Children's Day on November 20. The delegation also offered assistance to increase capacity of standing committees.



ABBOTTABAD: Mayor of Abbottabad, Sardar Shuja Nabi exchanging views with Neil Hawkins, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan during meeting held in Abbottabad.

Balochistan carnage signifies decisive action against terrorism

PESHAWAR (APP): The province's tragic events in Balochistan province, which resulted in the brutal killing of over 50 civilians and security forces personnel besides damage to infrastructure, have exposed the barbaric mindset of terrorists and underscored the need for taking decisive action against terrorism.

Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, former Inspector General of Police (IGP) KP, while talking to APP here Tuesday, strongly emphasized that these horrific attacks in Balochistan have validated the government's decision to initiate an anti-terrorism operation i.e. Azm e Istehkam to purge the country from remnant of terrorism.

"The brutal killings of civilians and security forces personnel highlighted that the Azm e Istehkam Operation is extremely necessary and in the country's vital interests," he said.

Condemning the attacks, he said that it was a grim reminder of the terrorists' barbaric intentions and nefarious goals, adding anti Pakistan's forces and rival intelligence agencies were likely to be behind of these terror attacks.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman talking to media persons along with Traders Organization regarding countrywide shutter down strike during his visit to protest camp.

LHC RWP bench Court cannot issue directives on assumptions

RAWALPINDI (Online): Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf of Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench has remarked during hearing of petition against detention of deputy superintendent Adiala jail Rawalpindi the petitioner has no authentic information and the court cannot issue directives to any one on the basis of assumptions.

He further remarked "The case has been registered and there is no such thing therein. Tell the court Muhammad Akram is in whose custody.

The court while declaring reply of CPO Rawalpindi unsatisfactory summoned him again on August 29.

The petitioner along with her son and counsel Imaan Mazaari was present in the court during hearing of case Tuesday.

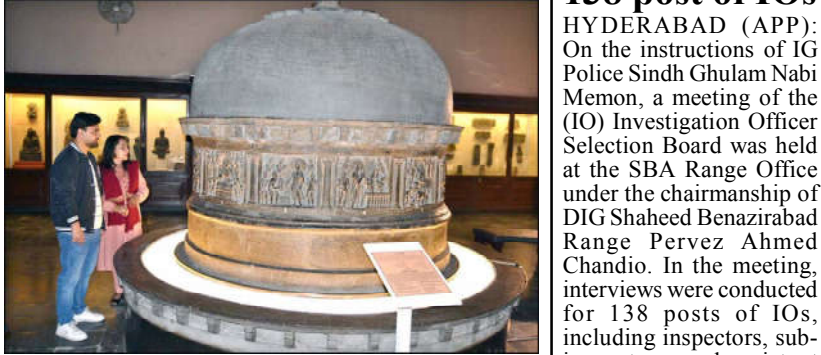
The counsel for the petitioner told the court deputy superintendent is missing since August 14 and police and any other institution is not providing any information of any sort. We suspect Muhammad Akram is in the custody of intelligence agencies.

The court inquired Muhammad Akram is in the custody of which agency so that the court may issue directive to some one because we can issue no directives on the basis of assumptions.

The court further remarked you have no authentic information. Case has been registered and there is no such thing therein. Tell the court Muhammad Akram is under whose custody.

The counsel for petitioner told the court FIR has been registered after hearing of our petition.

The counsel took the plea the petition is maintainable.



LAHORE: Students visiting rare historical cultural artwork and sculptures in the Historical Lahore Museum.

LHC issues notice to federal govt, others on petition against closure of USC

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought reply from federal government and others on the petition against closure of Utility Stores (US).

The petition filed by Utility Stores Association (USA) was heard by Justice Muhammad Raza Qureshi of LHC.

Asif Shahzad Sahi advocate appeared on behalf of petitioner Muhammad Rafiq taking the plea that the petitioner is employee of Utility store since the last 10 years. Utility store is profit earning institution. Utility stores pay Rs 25 billion on account of tax annually. It is earning profit amounting to Rs 2 billion. It is meeting the expenses and paying the salaries on its own. But this institution is being closed under the directives of IMF. The closure of Utility stores will render 11000 persons jobless.

The counsel for the petitioner took further plea that procedure has been worked out for closing the company under clauses 293 to 426 of company act-2017. Any company can be closed under the order of the court or directives of Board of Directors (BOD).

Board of directors have declared utility stores profit earning. The petitioner requested the court to declare null and void letter issued by cabinet division on August 7, 2024. The court should also nullify minutes of August 19 Cabinet division meeting. The court after hearing the stance of the petitioner issued notice.

KP govt announces Rs 10 mln for families of Balochistan martyrs

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has announced a compensation amount of Rs 10 million each to the families of those martyred in recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan. The announcement was made on the directives of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to show solidarity with the people of Punjab and martyrs. Muzammil Aslam, Advisor to the Chief Minister for Finance, said that the provincial government deeply sympathizes with the families of the martyrs. He emphasized that both the government and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who have faced the scourge of terrorism, fully understand the pain and suffering caused by such tragic incidents.

He said that the party's leadership strongly condemned the terrorist attacks and expressed their sorrow and solidarity with the affected families, underscoring their commitment to stand by them during this difficult time. Muzammil Aslam said that terrorist incidents in North Waziristan have also claimed the lives of five individuals.



PESHAWAR: Members of All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union are holding protest demonstration against privatization of electricity companies, at Wapda House in Peshawar.

SMBR says: Comprehensive flood management plan to be developed across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed highlighted the need for a detailed plan to enhance drainage infrastructure and address urban flooding from heavy rains, aiming to minimize inconvenience to residents.

Presiding over a crucial meeting held at the Board of Revenue here on Tuesday, he directed all commissioners and local governments to submit comprehensive reports regarding the statistics of union councils across Punjab. Attendees included Secretary Irrigation Wasif Khurshid, Secretary Local Government Board Rizwan Nazir, Commissioner Lahore Zaid bin Maqsood, Additional Secretary Housing and Urban Development Umar Farooq, commissioners from across Punjab, DG PDMA Irfan Kathia, and MD WASA Ghaffaran Ahmed. During the meeting, Secretary Irrigation Wasif Khurshid briefed the SMBR.



MULTAN: Vehicles passing through rainwater accumulated on the Kalma Chowk Road during heavy monsoon rain in the city.

Two killed, three injured in traffic accident

MULTAN (APP): Two persons of the same family were killed and three others sustained injuries in a traffic accident that occurred near Kheera Chowk area of Multan, tv channels quoting Rescue sources reported on Tuesday.

According to details, a rashly driven bus hit the two wheeler near Kheera chowk area. As a result, two people of the same family died on the spot. The woman and two children were also injured in the same incident.

Rescue and Police team rushed to the site for shifting dead and injured to nearby hospital.



New Election Commissioner KP welcomed with luncheon party

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Shamsad Khan and newly appointed Provincial Election Commissioner Saeed Gul on Tuesday arranged a luncheon wherein all the officers of the Provincial Election Commissioner KP headquarters were in attendance. The KP Election Commission Offices said during the function the Provincial Election Commissioner appreciated the services of Shamsad Khan.

Two youths killed over issue in Swabi

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two youths were shot dead over a dispute in the vicinity of Yar Hussain police station in Swabi district, police informed on Tuesday. Police said the accused called the victims into an empty house and later shot them dead. The dead were identified as Jalal and Adnan, police said and added that both the victims were 22-years-old.

The Yar Hussain police have registered a case on the complaint of the brother of the deceased Jalal and started investigation to nab.

Ahsan calls for utilizing China's expertise, technology in agriculture sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister to China, according to a news release.

During the meeting, participants discussed the possibility of sending provincial experts from the agriculture sector to China for further development and knowledge exchange.

Ahsan Iqbal said the exchange of trade delegations would help build trust between the private sectors of the two

countries, adding Pakistan would raise the issue of easing visa procedures for its entrepreneurs with the Chinese embassy.

He also mentioned that Pakistan was utilizing all available resources to ensure the safety of Chinese investors and officials.

The minister reiterated the federal government's commitment to providing all possible facilities to private

investors and taking necessary steps to remove obstacles hindering foreign investment, ensuring a conducive environment for trade and investment.

He directed the relevant authorities to complete and submit a framework for the transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan within a week, outlining the standards and outcomes required for the quality and success of industrial sectors.

Chairman Prime Minister's Steering Committee on Gem & Stones and Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a meeting in Islamabad.



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KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurates 25th Expo of ITCN Asia 2024.

Sindh Governor inaugurates ITCN Asia-2024 Expo

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurated the 25th edition of the ITCN Asia 2024 Expo. The three-day event features 500 stalls set up by various national and international companies. The expo has attracted 80,000 registrations, with 25,000 participants attending on the first day.

Governor Kamran Khan Tessori visited several stalls and reviewed IT products on display.

He emphasized that the event serves as a unique platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and exploring the latest trends in technology. He further added that the event would provide

valuable insights into the future of technology.

Governor Tessori expressed his commitment to making the province a hub for information technology, stating that significant efforts are already underway. Currently, 50,000 young individuals are enrolled in advanced IT courses at Governor House. Plans are in place to expand these courses to Hyderabad and, eventually, to the entire province.

Later, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori also visited the B2B Business Corporate Lounge set up under the ITCN, where the organizers briefed him on its features and objectives.

Pak apparel exports to China increase by 5% in 2024

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's exports of men's and women's apparel to China have been increased by approximately five percent reaching over \$18.03 million in the first seven months of the year, said the latest data from General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, Ghulam Qadir highlighted the growing popularity of Pakistani apparel in China, attributing this trend to the superior quality and competitive pricing of the products. He also emphasized Pakistan's strategic advantage in land

trade with China, coupled with the zero-tariff benefits under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA).

"In the first seven months of 2024, Pakistan exported \$13.10 million worth of men's clothing to China, while women's apparel exports stood at \$4.93 million. These figures mark an increase from the same period last year, when men's clothing exports were \$12.65 million and women's were \$4.66 million," Qadir told the China Economic Net (CEN). Further breaking down the statistics, he said Pakistani men's clothing exports to China totaled \$28.66 million in 2023.



FAISALABAD: Labourers busy in unloading flour bags from delivery truck.

U.S partners with KP to organize land fair

PESHAWAR (APP): The Government of the United States has partnered with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (GoKP) to organize a "Zameen Mela" (Land Fair) supporting economic growth and development here at a local hotel on Tuesday.

The event was aimed to encourage public interest in land registration in the Merged Areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), showcase the more accessible and simplified land registration process, and highlight the growing opportunities in the

province's real estate market.

Following the merger of KP and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas, the KP government and development partners are re-imagining land registration and real estate and driving economic development.

The Zameen Mela brought together key players from the real estate industry, government, media and local communities to discuss and promote land registration and investment in these areas.

PM orders to hold consultation with traders at all levels: Naem Mir

LAHORE (APP): Tajir Dost Scheme Chief Coordinator Naem Mir said on Tuesday that

Prime Minister had ordered to hold consultation with traders at all levels. According to official sources, the Federal Board of Revenue Chairman had invited representatives of traders for dialogue at 3:00 pm today. He said, "We want to hold consultation with traders organizations before issuing new amended SRO." He further said that all objections on Tajir Dost Scheme were removed.

Naem Mir said that representatives of traders must show responsibility and present their case on table.

He said that all applicable proposals would be welcomed, adding that meaningless protest would yield no good results for the country and traders. There was no sense of strike when state was ready to talk, he added.

PSX loses 486 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 486.82 points on Tuesday, showing a negative change of 0.62 percent, closing at 78,084.24 points against 78,571.06 points on the last working day.

A total of 591,511,522 shares were traded during the day as compared to 512,337,206 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 17.177 billion against Rs 18.894 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 436 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 163 of them recorded gains and 222 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 51 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 74,333,884 shares at Rs 11.57 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 47,382,319 shares at Rs 1.26 per share and Nergycico PK with 43,914,580 shares at Rs 3.98 per share.

Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.56.87 per share price, closing at Rs 625.57, whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum Company Limited with a Rs 50.90 rise in its per share price.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Umer Farooq, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Government pledges to lead the country towards progress: Ali Pervaiz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Thursday that the government pledged its commitment to steering the country towards progress.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the government, took difficult economic measures to put the country on the right track.

He said we are making significant progress and will soon overcome the relevant issues.

Export of footwear increases 2.62% in July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of footwear from the country witnessed an increase of 2.62 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding last year.

The country exported footwear worth US\$ 11,793 million during July 2024 as opposed to the export of US\$ 11,491 million during July 2023, showing growth of 2.62 percent, according to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among the footwear

products, the exports of leather footwear witnessed a decrease of 1.24 percent, from US\$ 9,570 million to US\$ 9,452 million during the month under review.

The canvas footwear exports also decreased by 43.64 percent by going down from US\$ 0.286 million last year to US\$ 0.161 million, the PBS data revealed.

However, the exports of all other footwear rose by 33.31 percent to US\$ 2,180 million from US\$ 1,635 million same month last year. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports of footwear decreased by 21.92 percent.



HYDERABAD: WAPDA employees under the banner of All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union (CBA) take out a rally "Day of Demands" for the acceptance of their demands outside Press club Hyderabad.

Senate body on petroleum discusses gas supply cessation to captive power plants

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum on Tuesday held detailed discussions regarding the cessation of gas supply to captive power plants, a move outlined under the current government policy.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Umer Farooq. Senator Mohsin Aziz highlighted that industries have invested in power plants with 50% efficiency to meet their energy requirements.

The Director General of Gas reported to the committee that 1,180 captive power plants were operational across the country, consuming 358 million cubic meters per day (mcmd) of gas.

These plants were established under the 2005 government policy, with 797 located in Sindh.

It was pointed out that a proposal from the Petroleum Division

suggested transferring these plants to the national grid.

However, the Petroleum Division has not advocated for shutting down these plants; instead, the Power Division recommended that these plants be closed.

The Power Division argued that transitioning the industrial sector to grid power would eliminate capacity charges on the electricity grid. Currently, no subsidies are provided for gas supply to captive power plants.

Senator Mohsin Aziz expressed concerns that the caretaker government lacked the authority to take decisions on this matter, while Senator Abdul Qadir criticized the caretaker administration for increasing gas prices three times.

Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik addressed the committee.

Govt maintains zero tolerance policy towards power pilferage: Awais

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Tuesday reiterated that the Federal Government and the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) had maintained a zero-tolerance policy towards electricity theft and their facilitators.

Presiding over a high level meeting at Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) headquarters, he emphasized the importance of 100% recovery of dues from both government and private consumers.

He assured full support of the Federal Government, the Ministry of Energy, and Law Enforcement Agencies to the IESCO in this regard.

He instructed IESCO CEO Muhammad Naem Jan to ensure the immediate delivery of the relief of Rs 14 per unit announced by the Punjab government to domestic consumers.

He stressed that any delay in this process would not be tolerated and that the entire relief distribution would be closely monitored to ensure

transparency in this regard.

Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari further highlighted that consumers were the most valuable asset of any organization, and the provision of quality and timely services, accurate meter readings, and prompt bill delivery ought to be ensured.

He also mentioned that the complete eradication of electricity theft was possible through adopting modern technology in the power sector.



MULTAN: Farmer women busy in cutting grass in the field for their animals.

PSO reports profit of Rs. 15.9 billion in FY24

ISLAMABAD (APP): PSO has showcased impressive financial performance and strategic prowess in a challenging market, reporting profit of Rs 15.9 billion in Fiscal Year 2024, a press release issued on Tuesday said.

At a meeting held here on Tuesday, 2024, the Board of Management reviewed the group's performance for the financial year ended June 30, 2024.

Defying economic headwinds, including slow market growth, currency fluctuations, and geopolitical uncertainty, PSO achieved a profit after tax of PKR 15.9 billion, reinforcing its status as the country's trusted energy partner. The Board of Management has also announced a dividend of PKR 10/- per share, representing a 100% payout for the financial year 2023-24.

Furthermore, PSO's subsidiary, PRL, delivered

a robust performance with a profit after tax of PKR 4.1 billion and gross revenue of PKR 403.6 billion. On a consolidated basis, the group achieved a profit after tax of PKR 18.3 billion, translating to an Earnings Per Share (EPS) of PKR 39.

In the intensely competitive white oil market, the company expanded its market share to 51.6% share, exceeding its previous record and solidifying its position as the market leader.

PSO's success is primarily driven by its exceptional motor gasoline performance, which saw a notable 1.6% increase in market share, strengthening its hold to 45.8%.

Despite adverse challenges, PSO proactively captured a 53.2% market share. The company continued to dominate the aviation fuel industry, achieving a remarkable 99.1% market share. Similarly, in fuel oil

SARGODHA: Mechanics busy in repairing vehicle's engine in workshop at Tiwana Park.

13 countries' Honorary Consul Generals briefed on investment in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Honorary Consul Generals of 13 countries called on Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, here on Tuesday.

In the meeting, investment opportunities in Punjab were discussed. The Provincial Minister informed the Honorary Consul Generals about the possibilities of investment in various sectors of Punjab.

He said that there is a very favorable environment for domestic and foreign investment in Punjab and investors in Special Economic Zones have

special privileges including 10-year income tax exemption and one-time facility to import machinery without import duty.

He added that industrial estates have the best industrial infrastructure, while the process of transition of industrial estates to solar energy has also been initiated.

Chaudhry Shafay said that a Garment City on 630 acres area is being built in Quaid-i-Azam Business Park, Sheikhupura and this city would be completely on solar energy. Foreign investors in Garment City

Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 18, including 8 children, Palestinians say

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Palestinian officials say Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 18 people, including eight children.

The Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, said three children and their mother were killed in an airstrike late Monday in the Tufah neighborhood of Gaza City.

It said three other people were missing after the strike.

Another strike late Monday hit a building in downtown Gaza City, killing a child, three women and a man, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

In southern

Gaza, a strike on a home early Tuesday killed five people, including a man, his three children as young as 3 years old and a woman, according to a casualty list provided by Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, where the bodies were taken.

Another airstrike early Tuesday flattened a home west of Khan Younis, killing at least four people, including a child, according to Nasser Hospital, where the dead were taken.

Footage shared online showed residents digging through the rubble.

A man carried a wounded child to an ambulance, while two others carried a dead body wrapped in a blanket.

Palestinian health officials do not say whether those killed in Israeli strikes are civilians or fighters.

Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and accuses Hamas of putting them in danger by fighting in residential areas.

But the military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

Gaza's Health Ministry says Israel's offensive has killed over 40,000 people in Gaza.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 people.



Iran's new foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, welcomes Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani ahead of their meeting in Tehran.

Zuckerberg says Biden admin pressured Meta to 'censor' Covid-19 content

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the Biden administration had pressured the company to "censor" Covid-19 content during the pandemic, apparently referring to White House requests to take down misinformation about the coronavirus and vaccines.

In a letter dated August 26, Zuckerberg told the US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee that he regretted not speaking up about this pressure earlier, as well as other decisions he had made as the owner of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp around removing certain content.

In July 2021, President Joe Biden, a Democrat, said social media platforms like Facebook "are killing people" for allowing misinformation about coronavirus vaccines to be posted on its platform.

Taliban promise to enforce morality law 'gently'

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban authorities said on Monday a recently ratified morality law would be enforced "gently", after the international community and Afghans voiced concern over new restrictions.

Women must cover completely and not raise their voices in public, according to a 35-article law announced on Wednesday by the justice ministry. It imposes wide-ranging stipulations from behaviour to dress and social interactions.

Indian police fire teargas at hundreds protesting over Kolkata doctor's rape, murder

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Police in India fired teargas and water cannon to disperse hundreds of protesters marching in the eastern city of Kolkata on Tuesday to demand the resignation of a top state minister in the wake of a gruesome rape and murder of a trainee doctor.

Protesters led by university students broke through the iron barricades set up on the route of their march to the West Bengal state secretariat, television footage showed, resulting in a baton charge by the police, who had earlier declared the protest illegal.

The August 9 attack on the 31-year-old doctor has caused nationwide outrage, similar to the widespread protests witnessed after a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in New Delhi, with campaigners saying women continue to suffer from high levels of sexual violence despite tougher laws.

A police volunteer has been arrested for the crime and the federal police have taken over the investigation.

No intention to increase ME tensions, says Iran

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran does not seek to increase Middle East tensions, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani, adding that its response to the killing of the Hamas chief in Tehran would be "definite and calculated".

Iran blames Israel for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on July 31, which Araghchi was quoted by Iran's state media as saying was "an unforgivable violation of Iran's security and sovereignty".

Russian attacks on Ukraine kill 5 in second day of major strikes

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia launched missile and drone attacks targeting scores of Ukrainian regions and killing at least five people, officials said on Tuesday, a day after Moscow's biggest air attack of the war on its neighbour.

Two people were killed when a hotel was "wiped out" by a missile in the central city of Kryvyi Rih, regional officials said. Three died in drone attacks on the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Tuesday that Kyiv would retaliate against Russia for its attacks. He asked allies to consider joint air defence operations and provide long-range capabilities after Russia pummelled Ukrainian energy infrastructure with more than 200 missiles and drones on Monday.

During Tuesday's attack, Ukraine downed five out of 10 incoming missiles and 60 out of 81 drones, the air force said.

The Ukrainian air force lost track of 10 more drones that have likely come down somewhere on its territory, it said. It said that one more crossed into Belarusian territory; 10 more were still flying around in Ukraine's airspace on Tuesday morning.

The Russian defence ministry said its forces had carried out a high-precision weapon strike on Ukraine overnight, the Interfax news agency reported. Moscow denies targeting civilians since launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, although thousands have been killed.

Iran's supreme leader opens door to negotiations with United States over Tehran's nuclear program

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader opened the door Tuesday to renewed negotiations with the United States over his country's rapidly advancing nuclear program, telling its civilian government there was "no barrier" to engaging with its "enemy".

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks set clear red lines for any talks taking place under the government of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and renewed his warnings that America wasn't to be trusted. But his comments mirror those around the time of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Tehran's nuclear program greatly curtailed in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Yet it remains unclear just how much room Pezeshkian will have to maneuver, particularly as tensions remain high in the wider Mideast over the Israel-Hamas war.

"We do not have to pin our hope to the enemy. For our plans, we should not wait for approval by the enemies," Khamenei said in a video broadcast by state television. "It is not contradictory to engage the same enemy in some places, there's no barrier."

Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, also warned Pezeshkian's Cabinet, "Do not trust the enemy."

Khamenei, 85, has occasionally urged talks or dismissed them with the U.S. after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the deal.

UN forced to halt humanitarian operations in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations said on Monday it had been forced to halt its humanitarian operations in Gaza due to a new Israeli evacuation order for the Deir al-Balah area, a senior UN official said.

"We are not operating today. As of this morning, we're not operating in Gaza," the official said, adding that since the start of the war the UN has sometimes had to "delay or take a pause." "This is not a decision that we're saying we're stopping to operate, but practically we cannot operate," the official said.

According to the official, the UN "had relocated most of our personnel in our operations" to Deir al-Balah following a Rafah evacuation order several months ago.

The Israeli military had told people on Sunday to "evacuate immediately." "We need to find solutions," the UN official said. "And if it means that we need to anchor down for 24-48 hours and reset, we do that. But we're not leaving."

"Right now the challenge is to find a place where we can reset and effectively operate."

Israel's military struck the Gaza Strip on Monday a day after truce talks in Cairo coincided with a major but brief cross-border escalation involving Hezbollah in Lebanon.

In the latest flare-up between Israel and Hamas-led Hezbollah, the Lebanese group on Sunday launched rockets and drones in retaliation for a top commander's killing as Israel carried out air raids the military said thwarted a larger attack.

Israel swiftly revoked a state of emergency declared early on Sunday, and Hezbollah said its operation was "completed".

On the ground, witnesses and AFP correspondents reported air strikes and shelling in Gaza City and other parts of the besieged Palestinian territory overnight and Israel's military said it had struck fighters in the south.

Over 300,000 still in shelters as floods ease in Bangladesh

Monitoring Desk
FENI: River waters in low-lying Bangladesh are receding after days of deadly floods but 300,000 people are still in emergency shelters requiring aid, disaster officials said on Sunday.

The heavy floods, which killed at least 18 people in Bangladesh, have added to the challenges of a new government that took charge this month after a student-led revolution.

Rescue teams, including joint forces of the army, air force and navy, are helping those forced from their homes and bringing aid to those who have lost everything, disaster management minister Faruk-i-Azam said.

"The flood situation is improving as the flood water started to recede," the minister said.

More than 307,000 people are in shelters and more than 5.2 million have been affected by the floods, the ministry said.

"Now we are working to restore communication in the affected areas so that we can distribute relief food," Azam said.

"We are also taking steps so that contagious diseases don't spread." Ordinary Bangladeshis have been crowd-funding relief efforts.

The floods add to the woes of a nation still reeling from weeks of political turmoil that culminated in the toppling of autocratic leader Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India by helicopter. She was replaced by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mohammad Yunus, who is heading an interim government that faces the monumental task of charting democratic reforms ahead of expected new elections.

Highways and rail lines were damaged between the capital Dhaka and the main port city of Chittagong, making access to badly flooded districts difficult and disrupting business activity.

Monsoon rains cause widespread destruction yearly but climate change is shifting weather patterns and increasing the number of extreme weather events.

The South Asian nation of 170 million people is crisscrossed by hundreds of rivers and has seen frequent floods in recent decades.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy holds a press conference, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

PM Starmer says fixing UK problems will take time

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 maneuvers" 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

IAEA chief Grossi says there is risk of nuclear incident in Russia's Kursk region

Monitoring Desk
KURCHATOV: U.N. nuclear agency chief Rafael Grossi said after visiting Russia's Kursk nuclear power plant on Tuesday that there was a risk of a "nuclear incident" and the situation was serious.

Russia says the plant has been repeatedly attacked by Ukrainian forces that are just 40 km (25 miles) away after carving out a slice of Russian territory this month. Ukraine has yet to respond to the accusations.

Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told a news conference that the plant was extremely fragile because it had no protective dome.

He said the site was currently still operating very close to normal conditions, but this meant that the situation regarding its security was even more serious.

At least 30 dead, many missing after dam bursts in eastern Sudan

Monitoring Desk
ARBAAT: Surging waters have burst through a dam, wiped out at least 20 villages and left at least 30 people dead but probably many more in eastern Sudan, the United Nations said on Monday, devastating a region already reeling from months of civil war.

Torrential rains caused floods that overwhelmed the Arbaat Dam on Sunday just 40 km (25 miles) north of Port Sudan, the de facto national capital and base for the government, diplomats, aid agencies and hundreds of thousands of displaced people. "The area is unrecognisable. The electricity and water pipes are destroyed," Omar Eissa Haroun, head of the water authority for Red Sea state, said in a WhatsApp message to staff.

One first responder

Tunisian president shuffles cabinet ahead of presidential vote

Monitoring Desk
TUNIS: Tunisian President Kais Saied announced on Sunday a broad cabinet reshuffle of 19 ministers that included those for defence, foreign affairs and the economy, ahead of a presidential election on Oct. 6.

The presidency said in a statement that Khaled Shili would be the new defence minister and Mohamed Ali Nafti the foreign affairs minister.

Saied earlier this month sacked Prime Minister Ahmed Hachani, replacing him with Kamel Maddouri, the social affairs minister.



Palestinians evacuate patients from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip following renewed Israeli evacuation orders for the area.

Korea's birth rate drive struggles to sway 'YOLO' generation

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: As South Korea scrambles to halt the sharp decline in its birth rate, policymakers are having a hard time convincing many in their 20s and 30s that parenthood is a better investment than stylish clothes or fancy restaurants.

Asia's fourth-largest economy plans to launch a new government ministry dedicated to demographic challenges after years of incentives failed to ease the baby crisis.

But for Park Yeon, a 28-year-old fashion Instagrammer and aspiring singer, spending choices are guided mostly by her appetites for clothing and travel, leaving little budget for marriage and babies.

"I'm all about YOLO (you only live once)," said Park as she sold her Supreme T-shirts at a thrift fashion festival in Seoul's high-fashion enclave of Seongsu-dong.

India's green energy wind drive hits desert herders hard

Monitoring Desk
JAISALMER: Whirring wind turbines in India's Thar desert supply critical green energy for the world's most populous nation, but those living in their shadows say it comes at their expense.

It illustrates the hard balance faced as India, the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter, scrambles to boost its non-fossil fuel capacity to stem the rising impacts of climate change.

"The big companies have come here and built the windmills, but they're useless to us," said 65-year-old livestock herder Nena Ram, describing an age-old farming system upended by the giant turbines.

The country is suffering increasing devastation from heatwaves, floods and droughts, events that climate scientists say are exacerbated by rising global temperatures.

But those from areas used for renewable energy production say their needs have been sacrificed for the greater good. In western Rajasthan state, where most of the Thar desert lies, that includes the loss of grazing lands and damage to sacred groves called "orans". The desert oases, protected by the community for centuries, collect water critical for their livestock-based economy of camels, cattle and goats. But herders say heavy construction trucks damage the water sources.

Captain of sunken Lynch family yacht put under investigation, source says

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italian prosecutors have placed under investigation the captain of the superyacht that sank off Sicily last week in a storm, killing British tech magnate Mike Lynch and six other people, a judicial source said on Monday.

James Cutfield, a 51-year-old New Zealand national, is being investigated for manslaughter and shipwreck, the source said, confirming earlier reports by Italian media.

Being placed under investigation in Italy does not imply guilt and does not mean formal charges will necessarily follow. Notices to people under investigation need to be sent out before authorities can carry out the autopsies on the bodies of the dead.

The decision was made after Cutfield was interrogated for a second time. Reuters has been unable to contact Cutfield.

It is still unclear whether other members of the crew or other people will also be put under investigation along with the captain.

The British-flagged Bayesian, a 56-metre-long (184-foot) yacht, was carrying 22 people when it capsized and sank on Monday within minutes of being hit by a pre-dawn storm while anchored off northern Sicily.



Rescuers stand at a site of a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine.

President calls for addressing Balochistan's security challenges

PM for identification, strict action against terrorists involved in Balochistan's incidents

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday stressed upon taking of all possible steps to improve security situation in Balochistan and called for effective measures for complete elimination of terrorists.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti who called on him to discuss the security and law and order situation in the province, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was briefed on the recent incidents of terrorism in Balochistan and discussed proposals for maintaining law and order in the province.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed for taking of all possible steps to improve law and order situation in Balochistan province, besides identification of terrorists and initiation of strict action against them.

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti called on the prime minister to brief him on the security and overall situation in the province, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister said that yesterday's terrorist attacks in Balochistan were cowardly acts which could not be justified, adding the brave security forces foiled the designs of terrorists by sacrificing their lives.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Pakistan believes in power of digital inclusion: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday said that Pakistan believes in the power of digital inclusion, where technology catalyzes equitable and sustainable growth.

The partnership between HEC, PERN, and APAN will help create a vibrant community, he said while addressing the 58th Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) meeting.

He commended the Asia Pacific Advanced Network, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and the Pakistan Education and Research Network for their efforts in advancing technological collaboration across the region.

Chairman Senate said that over 50% of the population in our region still lacks access to the internet thus hindering true progress and development. He said that our challenges and opportunities are increasingly interconnected, requiring a unified and collective response, however, the way forward lies in pooling our resources, enhancing synergies and building robust partnerships.

He observed that in the realm of cyber security, Pakistan is aware of the critical importance of safeguarding the digital infrastructure. "As cyber threats continue to escalate globally, with a 38% increase in cyber-attacks in 2023 alone, we are taking proactive measures to strengthen our cyber security", he remarked.

Highlighting the significance of green technology, he also expressed Pakistan's dedication to promoting eco-friendly innovations that balance technological advancement with responsibility to protect the planet for future generations.

Referring to the active role of the legislature, the Chairman Senate apprised the participants that Pakistan's Parliament, particularly the Senate, remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing technological growth as a cornerstone of national progress.

"Our focus is on shaping policies that promote innovation, build digital infrastructure, and support research initiatives across the country" he stated.

The legislative efforts, he observed, are designed to create a robust framework that supports the development of cutting-edge technologies while ensuring that the rights and privacy of our citizens are protected.

He said that our journey toward becoming a paperless chamber is well underway, with significant steps being taken to digitize all processes. This shift aims to ensure that our work is more transparent, efficient, and accessible.

He informed that steps have been taken to develop internal digital communication mechanisms, including the creation of a comprehensive dashboard.

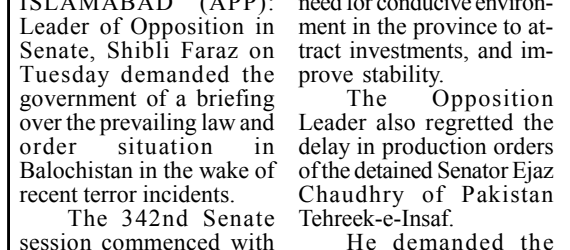
Ishaq Dar says: No one allowed to perpetrate violence in name of nationality

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the House, in the Senate, Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said that no one could be allowed to perpetrate violence in the name of nationality as Balochistan is an essential part of Pakistan and the Parliament must collectively devise a way forward to overcome prevailing unrest in the province. Speaking on the recent terrorist incidents in Balochistan, he said that every Pakistani was sad over the bloody violence and the matter was discussed in detail in the cabinet, adding the interior minister had reached Balochistan to examine the ground situation while Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif would visit Balochistan to review the law and order situation within two days.

Ishaq called for the in-depth happening of the issue and suggested to form a committee of the House to probe the matter.

The Leader of the House further stated that the State had collectively adopted the policy of operation of Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad to counter the terrorism after the Army Public School attack in 2013 and law and order situation improved but unfortunately during the recent past the terrorist brought back and released from jails resultantly increase in crimes and terrorist attacks.

The senator added that there was a need to think above the politics of Pakistan and resolve the country's problems being faced. He seconded the resolve of Chief Minister Balochistan that no one could be allowed to carry out violence in the name of nationality.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Nausherwani meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Senate Opposition demands update on Balochistan situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of Opposition in Senate, Shibli Faraz on Tuesday demanded the government of a briefing over the prevailing law and order situation in Balochistan in the wake of recent terror incidents.

The 342nd Senate session commenced with Deputy Chairman, Senate, Syed Ahsan Ali Zaidi in chair as the House offered fatiha for the deceased who lost their lives in Balochistan incidents. Senator Kamran Murtaza of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (JUIP) led the prayer.

Sensor Shibli Faraz said the situation in Balochistan needed to be addressed through effective measures and the government should take the House into confidence on the matter.

He emphasized the need for conducive environment in the province to attract investments, and improve stability.

The Opposition Leader also regretted the delay in production orders of the detained Senator Ejaz Chaudhry of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

He demanded the government to probe the incidents and address the issues of Balochistan on priority.

Minister for Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar said during the previous regime, selective use of production orders' law was employed.

However, he said, Senator Ejaz Chaudhry was arrested in many cases registered under criminal procedure laws and under judicial custody as per the court orders.



NASEERABAD: A large number of local people, including the commander of FC 72 Wing, Colonel Malik Muhammad Siddique, along with senior civil and military officials, attend the funeral prayer of the Ghulam Muhammad Qum Khosa, a brave FC personnel, martyred in the war against the enemies of the country in Bolan area was buried with full military honors in his native Goth Nasruddin Khosa.

War against terrorism is war of every Pakistani: Interior Minister assures every possible cooperation for peace in Balochistan

Chief Minister Balochistan maintains handful elements involved in terrorism; steps being taken to ensure law and order in province

Independent Report QUETTA: The Federal Minister Interior, Mohsin Naqvi has assured to the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti that the federal government would extend every possible cooperation to the provincial government for establishing peace in the province.

The Federal Interior Minister was in meeting with the Chief Minister here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

reached Quetta to overview the law-and-order situation in the province particularly in backdrop of certain terrorism incidents and attacks in different parts of the province.

They paid rich tributes to those martyred in different terrorism incidents and offered fatiha for the departed souls of martyrs.

Speaking to the Chief Minister, Federal Minister strongly condemned the incidents of terrorism in the province.

He expressed solidarity with the bereaved families of those martyred in the incidents of terrorism.

Mohsin Naqvi said that the war against terrorism is the war of every Pakistani.

The Chief Minister on the occasion said that handful of miscreants are involved in terrorism in Balochistan.

However, more steps are being taken to ensure law and order situation in the province, he maintained.

Gwadar faces collective punishment as government fails to provide electricity

Independent Report GWADER: The All Parties Alliance Gwadar has expressed concern over the prolonged electricity crisis in the region, stating that the government has failed to provide electricity to the people.

The alliance criticized the government for its inability to address the issue, despite claims of progress. They argued that the people of

Gwadar are being collectively punished and that the government's promises have proven to be false. The alliance demanded that the government provide electricity from the national grid, citing the presence of power generation projects in the region. However, KESC officials expressed helplessness, citing the long transmission line as a major obstacle.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani addresses during the inaugural ceremony as chief guest of 58th Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) Meeting held in Islamabad.

Journalist Bachal Ghancho assassinated in Mirpur Mathelo

Our Correspondent MIRPUR MATHELO: Unidentified armed men shot and killed journalist Bachal Ghancho in the Raunti area of Mirpur Mathelo. Ghancho, a representative of a private news channel, was attacked while on his way to his agricultural land. He was shot multiple times and died on the spot. His body was

shifted to the Taluka Hospital in Ubauro for necessary procedures and later handed over to his heirs. The incident sparked outrage among journalists, who staged a protest and sit-in outside the SSP Mirpur Mathelo office, demanding the arrest of those involved in the murder. Journalist leaders, including Azam Sohriani, Latif Laghari,

National Party delegation meets DG Fisheries

Independent Report GWADAR: A delegation of the National Party, led by Provincial Fisheries Secretary Adam Qadurbakhsh, met with Director General Fisheries Balochistan Imran Bangulzai. The delegation included senior National Party leaders Mubeen Abdullah Qadir Baloch and Omar Kalanchi. The delegation apprised the Director General of the issues faced by fishermen,

stating that with the start of the season, trawlers from Sindh have entered the Balochistan sea, causing damage to marine life and threatening the livelihoods of local fishermen. They demanded increased patrols, arrest of illegal trawlers, and establishment of new fisheries stations in various areas to prevent illegal fishing. The delegation emphasized that 90% of the local population's livelihood

NP announces support for shutter down strike

Independent Report KECH: The district spokesperson for National Party Kech issued a statement saying that the party fully supports the shutter down strike called by the Central and Provincial Traders Association and the Makran Union on August 28. The spokesperson said that the recent artificial electricity crisis in Makran has caused immense suffering for the people and has completely paralyzed the business community. Therefore, the party supports the complete shutter down strike against inflation, electricity crisis, and taxes.

Secretary refuses to disclose IPP contracts in senate committee hearing

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Secretary of Water and Power has declined to present contracts with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) during a Senate committee meeting, sparking concerns over transparency.

The Senate Functional Committee on Devolution, chaired by Senator Zarqa Taimoor, held a session to discuss the IPP agreements. The committee chair questioned the Secretary about the details of these contracts and the payments made to the IPPs.

We cannot nourish IPPs: Hafiz Naem

LAHORE (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman while announcing to make strike success has said we cannot nourish IPPs.

"If IPPs forego annual capacity charges then bills will be reduced, he said this while addressing protest camp of traders on Hall Road Lahore.

The costly bills have ruined national economy and industry. Claiming about shares of Sharif family in IPPs he said we cannot upbring IPPs.

Today historical strike will be observed in the country.



QUETTA: President National Party, MP Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Pak-Oman BPC review bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 8th session of Pakistan-Oman Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) held in Muscat on Tuesday comprehensively reviewed all aspects of bilateral cooperation including political relations, trade and investment, security and defence, culture, health and consular matters.

Additional Foreign Secretary (Middle East), Ambassador Shehryar Akbar Khan and the Chief of GCC and Regional Neighborhood Department, Ambassador Sheikh Ahmad bin Hashil bin Rashid Al Maskari of Foreign Affairs of Oman, led their respective sides, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

The BPC also discussed Pakistan-Oman cooperation at multilateral fora.

Noting the importance of Joint Ministerial Commission, the two sides



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Central Leader, Ghulam Nabi Marri addresses during the condolence reference on the occasion of the 18th death anniversary of Shaheed Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, held in Quetta.

Step afoot to provide health facilities in district Kohlu: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kohlu Aqil Karim Baloch on Tuesday said that several measures were being taken to provide healthcare facilities to the people at the district headquarters hospital.

He expressed these views while visiting the district headquarters hospital Kohlu. The DC also inspected to different wards of DHQ and checked the attendance of paramedical staff.

He also inquired about the health of patients and the provision of medical facilities.

The DC was briefed regarding the district head-

quarters hospital and its matters by the concerned doctor. Expressing his satisfaction on the presence of paramedical staff, he said that district administration was striving to provide basic amenities including quality health facilities to people on timely in the area. He also assured paramedical staff that he would take possible steps to address their issues in order to improve the quality of health services for the patients. Meanwhile, DC Karim Baloch also inspected Levies Check post at Tumpoo Cross and examined the attendance of the Levies personnel.

agreed to hold the 8th session at an early date in Islamabad.

The two sides also agreed to further elevate bilateral trade volume and to enhance investment cooperation.

The Omani side was invited to invest in agriculture, minerals and Information Technology under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The Omani side expressed support for the First Pakistani Business Expo to be held in Muscat on 13-14 October 2024. It also welcomed Pakistan's decision to give visas on arrival to Omani nationals.

Regional and global matters of mutual concern were also discussed.

Additional foreign secretary (Middle East) appreciated the Sultanate of Oman for its persistent and principled support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Floodwaters claim life in Mastung

Independent Report MASTUNG: A tragic incident occurred in the Dasht tehsil, 13 miles away, where a tractor was swept away by floodwaters due to heavy rainfall, resulting in the loss of one life. Acting swiftly on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Mastung, Syed Samiullah Agha, and Assistant Commissioner Dasht, a rescue team led by SHO Abdul Malik Kurd, comprising Defedar Akhtar Muhammad, Abdul Manan Bangulzai, Abdul Rahim, and Shadi Khan, rushed to the scene. The team successfully recovered the body and the tractor, and handed over the deceased to their heirs. The authorities have launched an investigation into the incident.

PNS Yarmook conducts exercise with Oman Navy Ship in Gulf of Oman amid RMSP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) YARMOOK on Tuesday conducted Passage Exercise with Royal Navy of Oman Vessel (RNOV), AL SEEB during Regional Maritime Security Patrol in the Gulf of Oman.

The exercise was aimed to develop synergy and mutual understanding between the two navies while demonstrating interoperability to undertake Joint Operations in the region. Earlier, PNS YARMOOK also visited Muscat, Oman, where Commanding Officer called on military leadership of Oman and discussed matters of mutual interest, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Secretary Info stresses need to provide facilities to male & female students in sports sector

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Information Department, Imran Khan has stated that there's least representation of the province in sports sector, so there is a need to provide necessary facilities and opportunities to the male and female students in this sector so as to fill the gap.

The Secretary Information was speaking on occasion of the inauguration of girls throw-ball coaching camp set up by the Balochistan Throw Ball Association here on Tuesday. The Secretary said that the participation of female students in sports of modern era other than is welcoming. He said that the government would ensure every possible steps to motivate students for taking part in the sports and ex-

tra-curricula activities.

The female students would be provided necessary opportunities so that they may represent the province at the national and international level.

Also present on the occasion were the Secretary of Throw Ball Association, Naem Akhtar, Technical Director, Manzoor Sarpara, Chief Coach, Kamran Siddiqui, Coordinator

Muhammad Ayub Khilji and other office bearers of the association besides the students of schools and colleges. The Secretary Information said that there's no dearth of talent in our students what's needed is to provide proper guidance and training so that they may demonstrate good performance in the games at the provincial, national and international levels.

