

# Independent

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Vol. XIV No. 212 Reg. mails-B/ID-445 Thursday September 12, 2024, Rabi-ul-Awwal 07, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

## PM Shehbaz, Bilawal discuss political situation PPP leadership expresses full confidence in govt's policies, initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says Pakistan People's Party is an important ally, which has always supported the government's every step to strengthen national economy. He was talking to a delegation of Pakistan People's Party, which called on him in Islamabad today under the leadership of party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. During the meeting, overall political situation of country came under discussion. The Prime Minister appreciated the proposal of "Charter of Parliament" presented by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the Parliament saying that it will further strengthen democracy and the Parliament. The PPP delegation commended the economic policies of the government to strengthen the country's economy. The PPP delegation also expressed full confidence in the government's policies and initiatives, which was welcomed by the Prime Minister. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, PPP leaders Syed Naveed Qamar and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab and Attorney General were also present in the meeting.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah along with Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Iqbal and others paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his death anniversary

## Death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 76th death anniversary of the father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed with due solemnity on Wednesday, with the pledge to follow his teachings and golden principles of "unity, faith and discipline". The day dawned with special prayers in mosques and other worship places for eternal peace of the departed soul and for peace and prosperity of the country. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah served as leader of All-India Muslim League from 1913 until Pakistan's creation on August 14, 1947. He passed away on September 11, 1948, shortly after achieving freedom for the nation. Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television are broadcasting special programs today to pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam for his unmatched services for freedom of Pakistan. Solemn tributes were paid to the great leader for his pivotal role in the creation of Pakistan. In Karachi, Quran Khawani and Fateha Khawani were held at the Mazar-e-Quaid, where people from all walks of life gathered to honour his memory. Political leaders and officials also paid their respects by visiting the mausoleum. Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed away on September 11, 1948, just over a year after achieving independence for Pakistan. His vision and dedication to the cause of Pakistan continue to inspire generations. His death anniversary serves as a reminder of the ideals of unity, faith, and discipline that he left for the nation.

## Royal Saudi Naval Forces delegation calls on Pakistan Navy CTF-150 in Bahrain

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) delegation, led by the newly appointed RSNF Maritime Component Commander, Commodore Othman Oqab Al Zahrani, met with Commodore Asim Sohail Malik, the current Commander of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150), in Manama, Bahrain. The discussions focused on CTF 150's ongoing operations aimed at disrupting illicit activities in the Arabian Sea and ensuring maritime security in the region, a Pakistan Navy news release said. During the meeting, both commanders shared their perspectives on regional maritime security challenges and explored potential avenues for collaboration between CTF 150 and the upcoming RSNF Maritime Component Command to maintain security and stability in the region. They also reaffirmed the excellent relationship between the two navies, emphasizing their shared commitment to fostering regional peace. A comprehensive briefing on CTF 150 operations was given on the occasion, the RSNF delegation engaged with the entire Pakistan Navy team currently leading CTF 150 and exchanged views on viable options to counter contemporary maritime security challenges.



BAHRAIN: Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) delegation, led RSNF Maritime Component Commander, Commodore Othman Oqab Al Zahrani called on CTF 150 Commander Asim Sohail Malik of Pakistan Navy Bahrain.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, Syed Naveed Qamar and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab and Attorney General were also present in the meeting

## Govt, opposition reach consensus on "Charter of Parliament"

16-member committee formed to oversee parliamentary proceedings more effectively; NA Speaker suspends Sergeant at Arms for negligence in security duties; Issues production orders for PTI MNAs

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): In an important development, the government and opposition reached a consensus on the proposal for a "Charter of Parliament," while a 16-member committee has been formed to oversee parliamentary proceedings more effectively. The motion, put forward by Information Minister Atta Tarar, was approved by the Lower House of the Parliament. The committee is tasked with submitting a detailed fact-finding report on the incidents of September 9 to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ayaz Sadiq, as soon as possible. Speaking in the assembly, the minister assured that the committee would have equal representation from both the government and opposition. He also addressed the recent concerns about arrests made inside the Parliament building, clarifying that no individuals were detained within the premises and video evidence supporting this claim is available in the Speaker's office. "In the past, Asad Qaiser was frequently criticized from here. Now, we are providing transparent evidence that no one was taken from within the house," Tarar stated. Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of the National Assembly, emphasized his commitment to uncovering the truth behind the September 9 incident, asserting that it is crucial to maintain the honor of Parliament. "The demand from government whips was that they represent two-thirds, while the opposition is one-third. The opposition must have its voice here in Parliament," Sadiq remarked. In response to a security lapse on the night of the September 9 incident, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq took swift action by suspending Sergeant-at-Arms Ashfaq Ashraf along with four other officials for four months due to their negligence in ensuring the security of Parliament. A four-member committee has also been set up to investigate the security failures in detail. Additionally, five Capital Development Authority (CDA) officials, including two electricians involved in cutting off the power supply to the Parliament House on the night of the incident, were suspended for their role in the disruption. Meanwhile National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq issued production orders for 10 arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNAs to attend the assembly session. These parliamentarians include Sher Afzal Marwat, Amir Dogar, Ahmed Chatta, Zain Qureshi, Zubair Khan, Waqas Akram Sheikh, Owais Haider, Ahmad Ali Shah, Naseem Ali Shah, and Yousuf Khan. The orders direct that the detained members be delivered to the Sergeant-at-Arms before the session starts and returned to police custody afterward. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar confirmed that all detained MNAs will attend the session.

## Fazal rejects govt's claim of support for constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has rejected government claims that his party supports proposed constitutional amendments, stressing that no opposition party, including JUI-F, will back any legislation that contradicts the Constitution or democracy. According to Express News, Fazlur Rehman met with senior politician Muhammad Ali Durrani at his residence in Islamabad late on Wednesday night. Fazlur Rehman, reaffirming his party's opposition stance, stated, "JUI-F will remain part of the opposition, and no opposition party will support any legislation that undermines the Constitution or democracy." He criticized the government, saying, "The government's existence and actions are against the interests of the people. The power should come from the public, and we will not allow anyone to steal the mandate in the future."

**No member arrested within premises of Parliament: Tarar**  
ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaulah Tarar, said on Wednesday that CCTV footage confirmed that no member of Parliament was arrested within its premises. Responding to a point raised by PTI's Ali Muhammad Khan, he said, that all records related to the arrest were available in the Speaker's chamber. He said that the arrests took place outside the Parliament building.

**Govt asks SC to release dams' fund amount**  
ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal government on Wednesday demanded release of dams' funds amount collected for construction of Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams from the Supreme Court. "We have submitted a miscellaneous petition,"

Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman said in the case heard by a four-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. "The amount of the dams' funds should be released to the federal government and Wapda," AAG pleaded to the court.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the Finance Division.

## Armed Forces, CJCSC, services chiefs pay homage to Maj Aziz Bhatti (NH)

duty, unshakeable resolve, and supreme sacrifice will always be remembered and revered. His heroic actions inspired countless others to follow in his footsteps, upholding the highest traditions of valor and sacrifice. Armed Forces of Pakistan salute Major Aziz Bhatti's memory, honoring his legacy which continues to motivate and inspire generations of soldiers to defend the nation with honor and distinction. We also pay tribute to the families of our martyrs, who have borne the brunt of their loved ones' sacrifices with courage and resilience. Let us pay our respects to Major Aziz Bhatti, Nishan-e-Haider, and all our martyrs, who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of Pakistan.

**Amna Baloch assumes charge as Pakistan's 33rd Foreign Secretary**  
ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Amna Baloch on Wednesday assumed the charge as the 33rd Foreign Secretary of Pakistan after her predecessor Ambassador Syrus Sajjad Qazi relinquished the office on attaining superannuation. A veteran diplomat, Ambassador Baloch has held several important assignments both in Islamabad and Pakistan's diplomatic missions abroad.

## Govt. creating balance between resources, expenditures to avoid debt quagmire: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said the incumbent government was making its best possible efforts to create a balance between available resources and existing expenditures aimed at avoiding the debt quagmire. "Without creating this balance, it will be impossible to come out of it, if stuck," the minister said in a televised address during a meeting he chaired on projects executed under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP). He said if the development budget relied on borrowed money, it was the responsibility of everyone to ensure its transparent utilization, without allowing any leakage or misuse. Ahsan Iqbal directed all Principal Accounting Officers to exercise zero tolerance against any leakage or misuse of the resources allocated for development projects. "Funds must be utilized for their intended purpose," he stressed.

## Dar calls unity among all political parties for strengthening democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday called for unity among all the political parties for the strengthening of democracy and the Constitution, warning that ongoing political conflicts could undermine the respect of the parliament. Speaking in the National Assembly on point of order, Ishaq Dar highlighted that political engagement is essential, but red lines should not be crossed. Welcoming Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's proposal, he said the government fully endorsed the proposal to form high-powered committee of the Parliament so that a policy can be evolved to take the country forward with collective wisdom. Ishaq Dar recalled that discussions for the Charter of Democracy (CoD) began in February 2002 between the PPP and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. Despite a history of bitterness between the two parties, Ishaq Dar said that they signed the CoD in May 2006 to restore the constitution and strengthen democracy. Deputy Prime Minister said the charter was subsequently endorsed by all major political parties, including Imran Khan's party at the time. Ishaq Dar stressed that continuous internal conflicts among parties could tarnish the dignity of the parliament, adding that just because production orders were not issued during the previous government does not mean they cannot be issued now. He supported the idea of the committee in question and urged for an open examination of how Pakistan's economy, which was the 24th largest in the world in 2017, fell to the 47th position by 2022.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, calls on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division.

## ECC consider funds to Rs 238.42 million, for wheat subsidy Schemes 2015-16

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Wednesday considered a proposal for the provision of funds amounting to Rs 238.42 million, for clearing arrears of wheat subsidy schemes 2015-16, by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (NFSR). ECC took into account the recommendations of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, and directed the Ministry to arrange the funds through the available budgetary resources and settle the long pending claims, said a press release issued here. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet met today to review and approve several key proposals across various sectors. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee today. The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Petroleum Mussadiq Masood Malik, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Privatisation and Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Governor SBP, and Chairman SECP, Federal Secretaries, and senior officers from concerned Ministries and Divisions.

## Govt. creating balance between resources, expenditures to avoid debt quagmire: Ahsan Iqbal

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ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal, presiding over the annual review meeting of the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2023-24.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Dark turn

Recent developments, seemingly orchestrated by certain powerful quarters, have demonstrated a disturbing lack of regard for both public representatives as well as parliament. As a result, there is now renewed concern on both sides of the political divide that the historic disequilibrium in the distribution of state power may be becoming increasingly more pronounced.

Those making the decisions should not overlook the long-term implications of their actions. The precedents being set are likely to have lasting effects, particularly on the nation's youth, and will help perpetuate economic and social instability well beyond the current political cycle.

Historically speaking, attempts to silence political dissidents through coercion and force have never worked as intended. Indeed, most have yielded disastrous results, especially when evaluated from the perspective of national unity. Instead of heeding this lesson, our institutions seem intent on making matters worse. The nation seems to be in dangerous territory, and it is up to the political leadership to steer it towards calmer waters.

It should worry every civilian leader how the scope of political violence and victimisation seems to be growing broader. What transpired in Islamabad over the weekend and after should give at least the old guard within the more established political parties some pause.

First, the city's administrative authorities were given carte blanche to prevent and disrupt a routine political gathering that would not have posed any imminent threat to the government if it were simply allowed to proceed unhindered. Then, the police were pushed into a confrontation with the attendees of the said political gathering based on the latter's failure to observe a draconian new law minted by parliament just days earlier. Finally, the same law was put to use to initiate a new crackdown on the PTI leadership, some of whom were picked up from parliament in ugly scenes reminiscent of dictatorial takeovers in the past.

The PTI's leaders may have gone overboard in their speeches on Sept 8. They could not keep their pent-up frustrations in check when they ought to have been more circumspect while expressing themselves. However, to use this as a pretext by law enforcers to arrest public representatives, briefly 'disappear' a provincial chief executive, and even raid Parliament House, as some reports suggest, is a worrying low. It was particularly unforgivable that all this happened on the watch of parties which do not tire of talking about the 'supremacy' of parliament.

The only consolation was that, on Tuesday, representatives from all major political parties united in demanding that the National Assembly Speaker take strict action. It is hoped that the pushback will come from the institution as a whole and that politicians from across the divide will see this as an opportunity to repair relations with each other.

Prolonged stand-off

Touqir Hussain

Historically, India-Pakistan relations have moved within a narrow bandwidth, mostly between a looming conflict and an ominous peace. A sense of tension and expectancy was always in the air, but dialogue was never taken off the table. But the current state of relations is unique. The two countries are simply not on speaking terms. There is no dialogue, nor a desire for it.

How did we get here? Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Pakistan policy began with high-visibility peace overtures, including the invitation to his swearing-in, and the theatrics of visiting Nawaz Sharif in Lahore in December 2015. He knows the power of the visual for modern media. After exciting the international media about prospects of peace in the region and conjuring an illusion of Modi as a peacemaker, he pulled the plug on the 'peace initiative' by using the January 2016 Pathankot incident as an excuse. The move at once highlighted the militancy issue and Pakistan as a spoiler, and stitched the two. The accusation became India's standard playbook in its campaign to isolate Pakistan.

India, which had already become America's crucial partner in balancing China, was now an important ally in containing Pakistan. Supporting India in its regional hegemonic ambitions and its policy of making terrorism the core issue between India and Pakistan suited Washington. America's own relationship with Pakistan was becoming adversarial because of Islamabad's strategic relationship with China, unhelpful role in the failing Afghanistan war, and the alleged association with

terrorism about which the US had its own concerns. With Indian and American policies on Pakistan beating to each other's rhythm, the forward policy of PM Modi's first term became the aggressive nationalism of the second term. In a clear break from India's past defensiveness, he responded militarily to the Pulwama incident. It worked domestically as Pulwama and the earlier incidents involving militants had triggered an enormous emotional response from the Indian citizenry, providing strong support for Modi's national security policies. And abroad, it helped highlight Pakistan as having provoked the Indian military response and thus being responsible for inciting the risk of conflict in the region, a nuclear flashpoint.

The Indian PM's muscular policies were given a strategic framework when S. Jaishankar became the external affairs minister in 2019. Besides dovetailing with America's geopolitics and India's regional ambitions, the Pakistan policy gave India a card against Beijing, and was a useful tool in electoral politics. And by doubling down on Pakistan's diminished international status, India managed to dictate its own view of Kashmir to the West and even to Pakistan's friends in the Middle East, muting their response to Kashmir's annexation. India's Kashmir strategy seems to be working. But the policy of isolating Pakistan has reached a dead end. Trying to isolate Pakistan and not talking had made sense, but why is India still not talking? India knows Pakistan would insist on talking about Kashmir, which they do not want. It wants to convince the Kashmiris that Pakistan is no longer

relevant to their future and they better reconcile to the new realities on the ground. Some Indian scholars feel India is following a 'minimalist' approach towards Pakistan, getting involved only when absolutely necessary like securing the Feb 2021 ceasefire. Limited relations, they believe, provide stability. At least they keep one side of the border calm so that India can concentrate on relations with China.

In any case the dilemma remains how to resume the dialogue. India has maintained that terrorism and talks do not go together. Though this is not really a precondition, it puts the onus of seeking the dialogue on Pakistan. How-ever, Pakistan will not talk unless India's Aug 5, 2019 actions are reversed. But Jaishankar has recently reiterated that "So far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, Article 370 is done". How to break the deadlock? India might at some point restore Kashmir's status. It would not change its control of the occupied territory but might give Pakistan a reason to resume talks, provided both sides come to a conclusion that it is time to do so. India knows Pakistan wants trade more than it does. And India may have its own reasons to talk. There is hesitancy on both sides for now. India faces neither an incentive nor a compulsion to talk, and Pakistan may feel — given India's constraints on the relationship — the benefits will be limited and not worth the political cost. So the status quo continues which benefits India and does not hurt Pakistan. Only strong reasons for dialogue on both sides will move the needle. -- Courtesy Dawn

Electoral meddling

Mahir Ali

"The American people," the US attorney general Merrick Garland declared recently, "are entitled to know when a foreign power engages in political activities or seeks to influence public discourse." He was pontificating in the context of a well-publicised pushback against Russian 'influence campaigns' in connection with November's presidential election.

Russia was widely seen as a culprit eight years ago, after its hackers reportedly passed on concealed Democratic National Committee (DNC) documents to WikiLeaks, in facilitating Donald Trump's 2016 triumph. The hitherto secreted emails showed how hard the Democratic Party establishment had striven to derail the campaign of Bernie Sanders, the socialist alternative who might have defeated Hillary Clinton in the primaries and proved a more formidable challenge for Trump.

Clinton won almost three million more votes than Trump, so perhaps the biggest culprit in the outcome that year was the uniquely American concept of the electoral college, which can easily be counted among the various deformities that diminish America's much-ballyhooed democracy.

Unlike 2016, when the mainstream media lapped up the DNC revelations, there has been a reticence to publicise the contents of what purportedly Iranian hackers threw up after virtually infiltrating Trump's campaign and leaking internal documents. In a mafia-like omerta, the contents remain concealed. The mainstream focus has been on the hack rather than its revelations, notably about Trump's obnoxious running mate J.D. Vance.

China has also been cited as a source of cyber campaigns, notwithstanding

ing Xi Jinping's vow at his summit with Joe Biden last year that Beijing would steer clear of interference. It's worth pointing out, though, that even if the allegations against Iran and China can be substantiated, they are unlikely to be on the same side as Russia. Moscow might see Trump as an asset in the context of its invasion of Ukraine, but there's little reason for Beijing and Tehran to be on the same page, notwithstanding the broad convergence of views on foreign policy between the political rivals in America.

Nowhere is this more evident than on the policy towards Israel, which has lately revolved around mild admonitions against the ongoing genocide in Gaza and ethnic cleansing in the West Bank, while providing the Netanyahu regime with the means of mass murder. Kamala Harris represents continuity with the Biden tendency of shedding a few crocodile tears and pretending that a Washington-sponsored ceasefire is imminent, and then blaming the failure to secure it on Benjamin Netanyahu's intransigence and Hamas's obduracy.

Handwringing over the genocide is meaningless as long as the US goes on providing the means of conducting it. The extension of Israeli Defence Forces operations into the West Bank could be seen as both a reflection of the IDF's failure to obliterate Hamas in Gaza and the intention of the nation it represents to conquer all of historical Palestine. Some Israelis even harbour ambitions of establishing Jewish settlements in southern Lebanon — hence the desire, it seems, to provoke yet another war with Hezbollah.

Unabashedly Israeli-affiliated groups in the US remain determined to ensure that anyone sympathetic to the idea of justice for Zionism's victims, whether on campuses or in Congress, is silenced. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) poured millions of dollars this year into what became the most expensive Congressional primary campaigns, contributing to the defeats of incumbents such as Jamal Bowman and Cori Bush, thereby ho-ping to ensure that the humanitarian impulse towards empathy for Palestinians is diminished in the next House of Representatives. The Democratic establishment colluded with the Zionist tendency to deny the numerous 'uncommitted' dissidents a platform at the party's national conference last month.

Unrelenting interventions in US politics by AIPAC and its ilk are not considered foreign interference in mainstream US political discourse. Sure, it can be argued that while Russia, Iran and China are considered adversaries, Israel is the tightest of allies, hence its motives are not malign. But could any other close friend of Washington — from Canberra to Riyadh — get away with similar efforts to shift the dial? The negative answer is, perhaps, blowing in the wind. Back in the 1950s-60s, Israeli efforts managed to tame American Jewish organisations that were appalled by the parallels between European antisemitism and the Nakba. Zionists have yet to find the means of subduing the wrath of younger generations of American Jews who are horrified by what is being done in their name. So far, though, they can count on the blind bipartisan support of the American establishment as the killing goes on. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

FM reaffirms commitment for homegrown economic agenda

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a homegrown economic agenda, centered on comprehensive institutional reforms across key sectors of the economy.

The minister made these remarks during a meeting with Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki who called on him at the Finance Division.

The minister emphasized that structural reforms were pivotal for ensuring sustainable economic growth and stability, forming a cornerstone of the government's policy agenda. He expressed deep appreciation for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's consistent economic support to Pakistan, while highlighting the renewed interest shown by Saudi investors in pursuing joint ventures and business collaborations with Pakistan's private sector.

recalled his productive meetings with Finance Minister of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Al-Jadaan and CEO of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad during his visit to Washington in April this year. He further noted the significant outcomes of the high-level business delegation's visit from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan in May, aimed at exploring investment opportunities, expanding bilateral cooperation, and scaling up partnerships across diverse

sectors. During the discussion, Senator Aurangzeb outlined Pakistan's positive economic trajectory, citing key indicators such as currency stabilization, reduced inflation, a surge in remittances, prudent management of the current account deficit, and foreign exchange reserves sufficient to cover two months of imports. On the occasion, Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki commended the government's efforts in implementing structural and institutional reforms.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, in a meeting with Vice Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China, Ling Ji on sidelines of the SCO Ministerial Conference.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshwani in a group photo with District Accounts Officer. Provincial Finance Secretary Babar Khan is also present.

New legislation to unlock IT sector's potential: Afnan

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N Senator Afnan Ullah Khan Wednesday assured that the government is committed to the IT sector's growth and development and is working diligently to introduce necessary legislation to address digital challenges and promote IT exports.

In an exclusive talk with a private news channel, PML-N Senator Afnan Ullah Khan has announced that the government is set to introduce new legislation aimed at unlocking the full potential of the IT sector, adding, this move is

expected to boost IT exports, create jobs, and drive economic growth. Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan has introduced a bill to regulate artificial intelligence (AI) in Pakistan. The Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill, 2024, aims to provide a framework for the development, deployment and use of AI technologies in the country. The bill will be debated and discussed in the Senate and National Assembly, he said, adding, the bill will be open for public consultation to gather feedback and suggestions from stakeholders.

President SCCI visits National Security and War Course at NDU Islamabad

SIALKOT (APP): President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik addressed the participants in the National Security and War Course at the National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad.

During the session, President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik shared Sialkot's inspiring journey from a local hub to a global leader in sports goods, surgical instruments and leather products.

Govt setting up 'Economic Zones' to boost business activity: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday said that incumbent government was establishing 'economic zones' in different parts to boost business activity in the country.

"We are working to promote industrial sectors and for this, all necessary steps are being taken to achieve the objectives," he said while talking to a private television channel.

In reply to a question, he said International Monetary Fund didn't raise any condition regarding economic zones. Commenting on constitutional amendment, he said, "we should have a required number of voters in the Houses to bring amendment." "We hope that leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazal ur Rehman would support the government to bring legislation and amendment," he added.

Cars' sale up 27% during July-August

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sale of cars during the first two months of the current financial year 2024-25 increased by 27.70 per cent compared to the same months of last year, a recent data released by Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) said.

According to the data, as many as 12,274 cars were sold during the months under review as opposed to 9,611 units in the same months of last year. The breakup figures showed that 1,863 units of

Honda Civic and City were sold during July-August 2024-25 compared to the sale of 700 units during July-August 2023-24. Toyota Corolla and Yaris cars sales increased by 22.18 per cent as it went up to 2,671 units from 2,186 units in the previous year. Suzuki Swift's sales also rose by 40.52 per cent as its sales surged from 755 units to 1,061 units this year. Sale of Suzuki Cultus declined to 227 units during the first two months of the current year, whereas during the same months last year.

Indonesia ready to negotiate FTA with Pakistan to promote trade liberalization: Hindiarta

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma, Charge d'Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy on Wednesday said that Indonesia is ready to negotiate a free trade agreement (FTA) with Pakistan, which will promote bilateral trade liberalization and enhance the business volume.

In order to narrow the trade gap between Indonesia and Pakistan, the business community and chambers of commerce

from both sides have to engage and promote bilateral economic and trade integration and also stress for exchanging of business delegations and market awareness by the chambers on both sides have to be done regularly, he said.

He highlighted the rich history of friendship and cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan during a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(ICCI) and a meeting with its President, ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari.

Kusuma stressed the importance of utilizing the existing Indonesia-Pakistan Preferential Trade Agreement and working towards a Free Trade Agreement. The Charge d'Affaires praised ICCI's contributions to fostering economic linkages between the two nations and invited members to attend the 39th Trade Expo Indonesia from October 9-12.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Seven ships, MSC Surabaya-VIII, Maersk Nyassa, Maersk Hartford, MSC Capetown-III, Da Heng Shan, Simaisma and Al-Diab-II scheduled to load/offload Container, Bitumen, LNG and LPG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Enpro Elengy Terminal and Sui Southern Gas Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile two more ships, Ab Serena and Lusail with Chemicals and LNG are arrived at outer anchorage port on Wednesday.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 634 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 634.94 points, a negative change of 0.80 percent, closing at 78,651.80 points against 79,286.74 points on the last working day. A total of 532,732,689 shares were traded during the day as compared to 509,490,385 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 14.735 billion against Rs.13.763 billion on the

last trading day. As many as 333 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 114 of them recorded gains and 209 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 10 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 80,930,490 shares at Rs 1.52 per share, Pak Elektron with 42,596,524 shares at Rs.26.85 per share and Waves Home Appliances with 34,023,632 shares at Rs.9.42 per share.

## Government determines to strengthen the ties between government, media: Saleem

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that he is determined to strengthen the relationship between the government and the media. Addressing other issues including harassment of women, drug use and political polarization in universities is a priority. He expressed these views during a meeting with beat reporters from electronic media at Governor House Lahore today. People's Party Central Punjab Information Secretary Shehzad Saeed Cheema and Secretary Records and

Events Ahsan Rizvi were also present. Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan further said that no organization can work effectively alone. He said that the People's Party has always talked about reconciliation and promoted constructive politics. Governor Punjab expressed that he will play the role of a bridge between the People's Party and the Muslim League (N). He said that the doors of Governor's House are open for people with different views. Governor Punjab while criticizing the actions of PTI advised them to

abandon the old behavior and adopt a reasonable approach. Governor Punjab praised the participation of the people in the recent celebration of Milad held at the Governor House. Governor Punjab said that collective efforts are needed to improve the country's conditions. He said that the politics of chaos and fighting is not in the national interest. While discussing the reorganization of the People's Party in Punjab, he said that he will meet with the leadership of Central Punjab in the near future to discuss the organizational issues.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with beat reporters from electronic media at Governor House.

## Governor Kundi signs summary for de-notification of Advisor Mashal Azam

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, signed the summary for the de-notification of Advisor Mashal Azam Yousafzai of the provincial cabinet on Wednesday.

from the provincial cabinet over poor performance and other charges.

The Governor has approved the removal of Mashal Azam Yousafzai from her position as Advisor to the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, has asserted that the land belonging to the province's universities will not be sold under any circumstances.

This statement was made during a discussion with a delegation from Mardan led by Mayor Himayatullah Mayar.

Governor Kundi criticized the current administration, accusing it of incompetence for attempting to sell university lands.

He emphasized that the provincial government has exhibited extreme mismanagement, noting that there is no provincial Higher Education Commission (HEC) in KP.

Following the Governor's approval and signature, the summary has been sent back for further processing.

Sources in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said that the Advisor to Chief Minister on Zakat, Ushr, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Mashal Azam was ousted

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an intelligence-based operation conducted at a courier office in Lahore, ANF recovered 37 kg ice from a parcel containing ladies' handcrafted footwear booked for Australia.

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PESHAWAR: Former Federal Minister for State Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi and Former MNA Mehmoond Hayat meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

## PHC intensifies crackdown, seals 970 quackery outlets

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) has ramped up its anti-quackery campaign, conducting raids on 4,705 treatment centres across Punjab and sealing 970 illegal healthcare facilities. The raids, carried out over a six-week period, targeted a variety of establishments, including clinics, laboratories, and aesthetic centres, according to a PHC spokesperson on Wednesday.

changes, likely in response to the PHC's stringent measures. Meanwhile, 2,945 healthcare establishments were placed under surveillance, as they were found to be run by qualified professionals at the time of the raids. "This ongoing initiative underscores the PHC's commitment to safeguarding public health and ensuring that only qualified and licensed professionals deliver healthcare services in Punjab."

Among the facilities inspected, 633 centres had undergone business

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## Health Minister says: No compromise on quality, transparency in hospital revamping projects

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring quality and transparency in the ongoing hospital revamping projects.

on the progress of revamping projects at General Hospital, Services Hospital, and Yaki Gate Hospital in Lahore. Contractors involved in the projects have been directed to complete their work within the stipulated time frame to avoid delays.

Chairing a meeting at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education here on Wednesday, the minister emphasized the importance of completing these projects on a priority basis to enhance patient care in government hospitals.

"We are making every effort to ensure the projects are completed on time, without compromising on quality, so that patients receive the best facilities in government hospitals," said the minister.

## 5.7 magnitude earthquake jolts parts of Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) received initial reports about the earthquake from all districts of Punjab.

## CM Maryam reviews law, order in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz presided over a special meeting here on Wednesday to comprehensively review law and order situation in the province.

social elements. She said police should be able to take proactive action without waiting for a crime to be committed.

The CM said, "Protecting the life and property of people of Punjab is my foremost responsibility. We will do whatever is necessary to safeguard public life and property."

She added attackers of police check posts should be given such a stern response that they do not dare to attack again.

The CM directed the authorities concerned to take indiscriminate action against criminals and anti-

CM Maryam Nawaz said police patrol should be arranged between police check-posts and directed the police officers to ensure foolproof security on Eid Milad-un-Nabi by visiting the scholars themselves.

## ANF recovers 37 kg Ice from consignment booked for Australia

LAHORE (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an operation managed to recover 37 kg ice from a consignment booked for Australia.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an intelligence-based operation conducted at a courier office in Lahore, ANF recovered 37 kg ice from a parcel containing ladies' handcrafted footwear booked for Australia.

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## KP to reward tax fraud Identifiers with cash to curb tax evasion

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has announced that it will offer cash rewards to individuals who report or identify tax fraud in the province, while keeping their identities confidential.

Regulations to provide legal cover for this reward system, aimed at encouraging public whistleblowers, are in the final stages of development and will soon be implemented as part of efforts to combat tax evasion and fraud with the help of citizens.

Addressing the KPRA officers, he emphasized that strict action will be taken against those found guilty of tax fraud or evasion based on citizens' reports.

He also announced that individuals who report such fraud will be rewarded with a cash prize, the amount of which will be decided soon.

## 19 dead, 1,353 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Nineteen people were killed and 1,353 others injured in 1,302 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 570 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 783 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 756 drivers, 44 underage drivers, 146 pedestrians, and 470 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 264 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 278 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique chairs special meeting at Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department.

## International News

## Kamala Harris puts Donald Trump on defensive in fiery US presidential debate

**Monitoring Desk**  
PHILADELPHIA: Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris put Republican Donald Trump on the defensive at a combative presidential debate on Tuesday with a stream of attacks on abortion limits, his fitness for office and his myriad legal woes, as both candidates sought a campaign-altering moment in their closely fought election.

Harris' own crowds, said, "My rallies, we have the biggest rallies, the most incredible rallies in the history of politics."

A former prosecutor, Harris, 59, appeared to get under the former president's skin repeatedly, prompting a visibly angry Trump, 78, to deliver a series of falsehood-filled retorts.

He then pivoted to an unsubstantiated claim that Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, are "eating the pets" of residents.

At one point, she brought up Trump's campaign rallies, goading him by saying that people often leave early "out of exhaustion and boredom."

The candidates clashed over issues such as immigration, foreign policy and healthcare, but the debate was light on specific policy details.

Trump, who has been frustrated by the size of

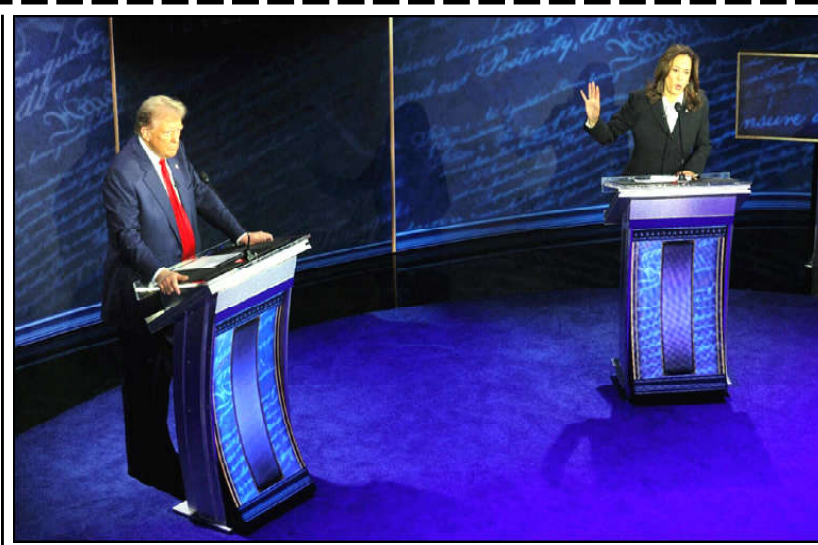
Instead, Harris' forceful approach succeeded in putting the focus on Trump, leaving her allies jubilant and some Republicans acknowledging Trump's struggles.

election denialism and immigrants eating our pets," said Marc Short, who served as chief of staff for Trump's former Vice President Mike Pence.

Online prediction market PredictIt's 2024 presidential general election market showed Trump's likelihood of victory declining during the debate, to 47% from 52%.

Trump, who has spent weeks launching personal attacks on Harris including racist and sexist insults, largely avoided that pattern during the debate's early moments but quickly became agitated under Harris' offensive.

Trump missed an opportunity to stay focused prosecuting the case against Biden-Harris on the economy and border, and instead took her bait and chased down rabbit holes on



Democratic presidential nominee, US Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during a presidential debate hosted by ABC as Republican presidential nominee, former US President Donald Trump listens, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US.

## US, allies sanction Iran for 'supplying missiles' to Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Western powers on Tuesday announced fresh sanctions on Iran for supplying Russia with short-range missiles for imminent use against Ukraine, calling it a dangerous escalation of the conflict that threatened European security.

The sanctions targeted 10 people and six companies for their involvement in supporting Iran's defence sector, and identified four vessels involved in "enabling Iran's delivery of weapons components and weapons systems," the US Treasury department claimed.

## North Korea's Kim vows to make his nuclear force ready for combat with US

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to redouble efforts to make his nuclear force fully ready for combat with the United States and its allies, state media reported Tuesday, after the country disclosed a new platform likely designed to fire more powerful intercontinental ballistic missiles targeting the mainland US.

ballistic missiles to Moscow. The sanctions targeted 10 people and six companies for their involvement in supporting Iran's defence sector, and identified four vessels involved in "enabling Iran's delivery of weapons components and weapons systems," the US Treasury department claimed.

Kim has repeatedly made similar pledges, but his latest threat comes as outside experts believe Kim

will perform provocative weapons tests ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November. In recent days, North Korea has also resumed launches of trash-carrying balloons toward South Korea.

## Tehran did not deliver missiles to Russia, foreign minister says

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran's foreign minister said on Wednesday that Tehran had not delivered any ballistic missiles to Russia and sanctions imposed on Iran by the United States and three European powers would not solve any problems between them.

## Maldives ministers quit over Modi jibe

**Monitoring Desk**  
MALE: Two Maldivian ministers resigned on Tuesday, months after their suspension following a furious spat with India for alleged "derogatory remarks" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Blinken and Lammy arrive in Kyiv as Ukraine pushes for long-range strikes against Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy arrived in Kyiv on a joint visit Wednesday, as Ukraine presses the West to allow it to use long-range missiles against Russia.

tion" of the war. For months, Ukraine has been requesting approval to use long-range weapons from the United States and Western allies to strike targets in Russia, and is expected to press harder given Russia's latest reported weapons acquisition.

The top diplomats reached the Ukrainian capital by train hours after the U.S. presidential debate during which Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Trump sparred over the 2 1/2-year war in Ukraine.

"If we are allowed to destroy military targets or weapons prepared by the enemy for attacks on Ukraine, it would certainly bring more safety for our civilians, our people, and our children," Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said at a news conference in Kyiv on Tuesday. "We are working towards this and will continue to push for it every day."

## EU fears Israeli-occupied West Bank becoming a 'new Gaza'

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: The European Union's top diplomat Josep Borrell warned on Tuesday that increased violence in the occupied West Bank since the Israel-Hamas war erupted meant it risked becoming "a new Gaza."

Without action, the West Bank will become a new Gaza," Borrell said. "And Gaza will become a new West Bank, as settlers' movements are preparing new settlements," he told the meeting. "The international community deplores, feels, and condemns, but finds it hard to act." Israeli settler attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank hit a record in 2023, according to Israeli rights group Yesh Din, and the European Union has said last year saw the most settlement building permits issued in decades. Some 490,000 Israelis live in the West Bank, in settlements which are illegal under international law, alongside three million Palestinians.

Violence in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967 and is separated from the Gaza Strip by Israeli territory, has flared alongside the war that began after Palestinian group Hamas attacked Israel on October 7.

Borrell said Israel was opening "a new front... with a clear objective: to turn the West Bank into a new Gaza—in rising violence, delegitimising the Palestinian Authority and stimulating provocations to react forcefully." Israel was also "not shying away from saying to the face of the world that the only way to reach a peaceful settlement is to annex the West Bank and Gaza," Borrell added at a ministerial meeting of the Arab League in Cairo.

## Mobile Registration Vans operational to facilitate BISP beneficiaries of remote areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Wednesday said that the Mobile Registration Vans are being utilized to facilitate the registration of eligible individuals in remote areas of Pakistan. During her visit to the BISP Zonal Office in Skardu, she interacted with deserving women and briefed them about the programme. She also listened to their concerns and instructed BISP staff to address these issues promptly. The women welcomed Senator Khalid and expressed their gratitude for her commitment to resolving their problems.

Senator Khalid also participated in a tree planting campaign by planting a sapling at the BISP Skardu office.

She conducted a thorough visit to the office and met with BISP employees. BISP Director for the Central Zone, Gilgit, Haider Murtaza, and Director for

the Skardu Zone, Wazir Asrar Haider, briefed her on BISP operations in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Additionally, she visited the Dynamic Registry Center established at the Skardu Office. There, she addressed the women who had come for registration, clarifying that there is no registration fee for the Benazir Income Support Programme.

She emphasized that 8171 is the only official number used by BISP for communication, and any messages from other numbers are fraudulent. She advised contacting the BISP helpline at 0800-26477 to report any issues.

In a media interaction later, she explained that the purpose of her visit was to raise awareness about the challenges faced by deserving women.

She highlighted that the Benazir Income Support Programme is working to economically empower women in line with the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma

Benazir Bhutto. She underscored the significance of the Benazir Kafalat, Taleemi Wazaif, and Nushonuma programs in improving the lives of impoverished households.

Senator Rubina Khalid also announced the launch of the Benazir Skills Training Program, which aims to teach various skills to deserving women and their children according to local and international standards.

She noted the high global demand for skilled labour and revealed that currently, 9.3 million families benefit from the Kafalat programme.

The number of eligible families and the stipends provided under Kafalat are being increased.

She mentioned that following special instructions from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, a new banking model has been introduced to ensure that funds are distributed to deserving women in a dignified and transparent manner.



ISLAMABAD: A high-level Chinese business delegation call on Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam here at ministry.

## Lawmakers penalizes Necrophilia with a dead body

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior was convened today under the chairmanship of Senator Shahadat Awan at the Parliament House. Senators Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui and Samina Mumtaz Zehri, along with representatives from relevant departments, were also present.

The committee was scheduled to review various Private Members' Bills; however, due to the absence of the bill movers, these bills were deferred.

Amidst deferral of most bills, the committee unanimously approved the "Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2024,"

introduced by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri. The bill aims to address a legal gap concerning necrophilia. It seeks to establish a clear legal stance against the act of necrophilia—defined as sexual assault on a deceased body—by penalizing it under relevant criminal laws. This move reflects a commitment to uphold the sanctity of the dead in accordance with Islamic teachings. The bill was passed with amendments proposed by the ministry.

Additionally, Public Petition No. 5873, which addressed a complaint against the NADRA Mega Centre in Karachi, was resolved.

## Senate takes major step towards digitalization with new e-filing system

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: The Senate of Pakistan has taken a leap ahead by introducing an E-Filing system, part of its initiative to become a paperless institution. As a pilot testing phase, E-filing has been deployed in the Transport, Admin, Printing and Publication branches of the Senate Secretariat.

After the pilot testing, the E-Filing software will be launched in other branches of the Secretariat. Secretary of the Senate, Syed Hasnain Haider, has commended the efforts of IT officials in achieving this

milestone and has urged for the digitalization of the Senate to be completed as soon as possible.

This move is expected to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and reduce the environmental impact of traditional paper-based processes. The successful implementation of E-Filing represents a crucial step towards a more modern and transparent legislative environment.

Senior officers of the Senate Secretariat also attended the launching occasion of E-Filing system.



ISLAMABAD: Project Director (AMI), Mohsin Raza Gilani, briefing on implementation of IESCO advances metering infrastructure at IESCO AMI Operational Center, Sector G-10 Markaz.

## IGP holds Open Court

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Inspector General (IG) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Kutchery at the Central Police Office.

During the Khuli Kutchery, IG listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives on the spot for their resolution, a police spokesman said. Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that resolving citizens' issues on merit was top priority, he said.

He said negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated.

The IG said any citizen facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Kutchery, he said. Ali Nasir Rizvi further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office, he added.

## IHC summons IG over inaction in missing citizen Faizan recovery case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court's (IHC) Justice Babar Sattar has summoned the Inspector General of Islamabad Police after expressing frustration over the lack of progress in the investigation of missing citizen Faizan's recovery. The hearing was held on a petition filed by Faizan's father, Usman Khan, represented by lawyers Imaan Mazari and Hadi Chattha. State

counsel and police officials were also present in court.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel informed the court that Faizan was released on Monday morning. The court then questioned the police on whether any investigation had been conducted to determine who had taken Faizan and where he had been. The police admitted that no investigation had been com-

pleted yet, though a video had been uploaded.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of progress, the court inquired about the source of the video upload, to which police officials responded that they were in contact with IT experts. Justice Sattar, visibly displeased, remarked that four days had passed, yet no meaningful investigation had been done.

## IWMB to dismantle restaurants on Pir Sohawa Road, restore public access to ridge inside MHNP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Before large restaurants were built on the ridge on Pir Sohawa Road in the heart of Margallah Hills National Park (MHNP), the breezy hill top with great views of the city was visited freely by the public.

The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) intends to restore this hill top to free public access.

"The buildings will be dismantled from September 12<sup>th</sup> and the area around them rewilded and re-integrated into the natural landscape that surrounds them

as per the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan," am IWMB news release said.

IWMB has notified an implementation committee comprising Govt officials from the District Administration, Islamabad Police, Capital Development Authority, Ministry of Climate Change and restoration experts and concerned citizens who have set up an enforcement task force. Machinery and labor provided by CDA will dismantle the restaurants including the removal of debris.

A restoration model for the hill top has been approved by members of the committee and an architect will be hired. The hill top will be transformed into an open air space that promotes both public engagement and wildlife conservation. The plan is to create a Margallah Viewpoint that enhances public enjoyment while promoting awareness of indigenous flora and fauna. For this there will be: Installation of comfortable benches for visitors to relax and enjoy the scenic views.

Planting of local flora

to support biodiversity and create a natural habitat for wildlife. Installation of educational displays featuring indigenous wildlife species to raise awareness about local biodiversity.

A water harvesting system will be installed along with a reservoir to promote sustainable water use and management. The retaining walls of the terraces will remain but concrete inside will be removed for plantation. There will also be a small Emergency Response Facility with an area for quick response and first aid services.



Senator Shahadat Awan presides over a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior at Parliament House Islamabad.

## Engr Amir Muqam says Pakistan, China share long-term partnership based on mutual cooperation, interests

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam said that Pakistan and China share a comprehensive partnership, built on trust, economic cooperation, security collaboration, cultural exchange, infrastructure development and global coordination. This was stated by him while talking to a high-level Chinese business delegation, comprising Xinjiang

Iron Brothers Co Ltd with four other prominent Chinese business entities which called on him here at ministry on Wednesday. Senior and renowned Economist, Mr Yuan Jianmin headed the delegation along with members representing various business enterprises.

Secretary Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry, Additional Secretary Kashmir Affairs and GB Khalid Ali Raza Gardezi and

Joint Secretary Gilgit Baltistan Council Sudhir Khan Khattak were also present on the occasion. The delegation was warmly received by Ministry officials.

Talking to the delegation, Engr Amir Muqam said that China share a border of approximately 595 km with Gilgit Baltistan. He said the border region has significant economic and cultural importance, with trade and cultural exchanges between the two regions dating back centuries.

## IG honors female police athlete; pledges to provide better opportunities

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, met with the

said that Constable Umaira Sheraz success highlights her strength of perseverance and dedication to outstanding performance.



promising athlete of Islamabad Police, Umaira Sheraz, in his office.

On this occasion other senior police officers were also present.

The IG Islamabad appreciated the lady constable for achieving remarkable success in marathon running and awarded her with commendation certificates and a cash prize. He

Constable Umaira Sheraz is a positive face of Islamabad Police. She has not only brought recognition to Islamabad Police in the field of sports but also serves as a role model for women. He further added that Islamabad Police will provide all possible facilities to empower women and enable them to play a positive role in society.

## Musadik Malik says: Women must receive their rightful inheritance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, on Wednesday emphasized the importance of ensuring that women receive their rightful share of the inheritance.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Malik highlighted the importance of treating women with the same respect as men and ensuring they are granted their due inheritance rights.

He praised the pivotal role women play in the progress, prosperity, and development of the coun-

try, adding that women should be afforded equal opportunities in all spheres of life, including their legal inheritance rights.

"The women of this country are playing a key role in its development, and they deserve their full legal rights, just like men," the minister said.

He said that the state has a responsibility to create opportunities for the younger generation, adding that he personally ensures that his daughter will receive her full share of the inheritance.



ISLAMABAD: Blue Metro service denied entry of students, causing delays in reaching home.

## IFA seals ketchup unit; discards over 1000 kg sauces, 100 kg ketchup

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) Dr. Tahira Saddique led by a food safety team (FST) has conducted a raid at a ketchup production unit in Model Town.

During the operation, the IFA seized over 1,000 kilograms of sauces, 100 kilograms of ketchup, 130 kilograms of apricot sauce, and 82 kilograms of illegal additives.

The authority immediately sealed the unit after discovering violations of food safety regulations.

Talking to APP, Dr Tahira Saddique said that the IFA has intensified its efforts to combat the production and sale of unsafe food products. A recent raid uncovered serious viola-

tions at a ketchup manufacturing unit in Model Town, leading to significant seizures and the closure of the unit.

She said that the ketchup did not meet the required standard of brix, a key indicator of sugar content in the product. The investigation revealed that the ketchup and sauces were being produced using powdered apricot paste mixed with banned colors, raising concerns about consumer safety.

The raid also uncovered a range of other health risks. Inspectors found insects in the storage drums, as well as broken floors and non-food utensils being used in the production process, further compromising the hygiene of the products, she added.

## Even if 10 or 20 people are killed, attacking Parliament is not acceptable: Achakzai

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Chairman of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, has stated that even if ten or twenty individuals were killed the use of their deaths as a pretext to attack Parliament is unacceptable.

Achakzai was commenting on the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawmakers from the National Assembly premises.

The arrest took place over violations during PTI's rally in Islamabad on Sunday, including the deviation from a previously agreed route, breaching commitments, attacking Islamabad police, exceeding permitted timings, and delivering anti-state speeches.

The Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief on Wednesday criticised the recent action taken by security forces. He stated that verbal remarks could

not constitute as a justification for any attack on Parliament.

Speaking in the assembly, Achakzai condemned the manner in which certain remarks were made, particularly those by Ali Amin Gandapur.

He argued that such comments, no matter how provocative, do not justify an assault on Parliament.

Achakzai emphasised that even the loss of life should not be used as a rationale for violating the parliament's sanctity.

He affirmed his support for upholding the Constitution, empowering Parliament, and ensuring all institutions remain within its bounds.

Minister Khawaja Asif also weighed in, stating that there is no justification for the attack on Parliament.

He highlighted that the desecration of Parliament affects everyone.



ISLAMABAD: An illuminated view of Bari Imam bazaar decorated with colorful lights in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW), in the Federal Capital.

## UN urged to probe extrajudicial killings in IIOJK as Indian brutality continues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The UN Human Rights Council has been urged to adopt a resolution to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to probe the ongoing extrajudicial killings by Indian troops with impunity in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Indian troops martyred two more youth in a staged encounter in Nowshera area of Rajouri district this week, on September 9, 2024. A few days ago, on September 6, 2024, the report cites the case of Mohammad Manzoor from Surankot, Poonch, who died from injuries sustained during his torture by Indian troops, a report released by APHC media office.

blood. Manzoor was abducted on the night of August 10-11, 2024, and subjected to severe torture, with Indian troops threatening his family with dire consequences if they spoke out against the custodial torture. The report also mentions the cases of Pakistani prisoners in Indian jails who have become victims of Indian troops' bloodlust, including Muhammad Ali Hussain, who was martyred in a staged encounter in Arnia area of Jammu on August 17, 2022, and Zia Mustafa, who was killed in a fake encounter in Poonch forests in October 2021. Since 1989, 96,347 Kashmiris have been killed, including 7,348 in fake encounters and custodial deaths, in IIOJK. The report condemns the Modi regime's granting of extensive powers to its brutal army to unleash bloodshed in IIOJK.

The report highlights the ongoing brutality of Indian forces, who often detain innocent youth under the pretext of links to resistance fighters, subject them to severe torture, and then murder them in cold