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A functional House must for a functional country: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that a functional Parliament was imperative for a functional country.

Speaking in the National Assembly on a point of order, he said that the Parliament was responsible not only to legislate but also create a conducive environment. "The cycle of protest rallies must end, with the focus shifting towards serving the people and safeguarding their rights."

He asked Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to form a high-powered committee of the House to help restore its prestige and further improve its functioning.

Referring to the students seated in the galleries, he said in the wake of ongoing political situation

they might have concerns about the country's future. In a democratic country, being a parliamentarian was a matter of prestige and honour, but many of them would not aspire to become politicians, he added.

"Though politics has become a curse, but it will still help create employment opportunities for the youth, besides providing economic justice and good governance if practiced passionately. The country, which is currently facing multiple crises, will lead the region when today's children will be grown up."

He stressed that without establishing the supremacy of Constitution, no institution could function, and for that the members of the House must maintain a working relationship. Bilawal said the gov-

ernment was constantly engaged in firefighting as the opposition continued to make a hue and cry instead of doing their duty of holding the former accountable.

If the opposition members claimed that the government's economic or security policies were flawed, then they must propose solutions, he added.

Side by side raising the matter of their imprisoned leaders, the opposition must also take up more pressing issues being faced by the people such as unemployment, inflation, education, health, and terrorism, he added. Their chief minister did no service to the people of his province (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) by abusing the media persons and opposition, and threatening the Anti-Terrorism Court judges, he added.



Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Syed Naveed Qamar and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab were also present in the meeting in Islamabad.

Govt respects views, proposed amendments to IRSA Act: Murad Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that provincial government will respect the views of the assembly members and the people of the province regarding the proposed amendments to the IRSA Act, just as it did in the case of the Kalabagh Dam.

He said this while talking to the media after offering dua at Mazar-e-Quaid. He was accompanied by Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Tessori and his cabinet members.

The CM stated that the opinions of the assembly members and the people of the province would be sincerely respected regarding the proposed amendments to the IRSA Act. Murad Shah said that the assembly has passed a resolution regard-

ing the proposed amendment in the IRSA Act which is the reflection of the public opinion.

"Sindh assembly has already passed a resolution for the implementation of the 1991 water accord", he said.

Shah said that due to climate change, the region has received more than average rains which have damaged road infrastructure all over Sindh. The coastal districts of the province like Badin, Sujawal and others have been inundated, he said. Similarly, on the left bank of the river, the hill torrents in Khirthar Range have also caused damage to the entire infrastructure, he said and added that the government machinery was assessing the damages caused by the rains so that the necessary reconstruction could be carried out.

Discussing Karachi,

the CM stated that Karachi Mayor through a letter had requested sanction of special funds to repair the damaged infrastructure in the city. He mentioned that he would release the funds but expressed concerns that the defective drainage system could keep damaging the roads again and again.

"I have directed the mayor to develop a plan and the feasibility of improving the city's drainage system to permanently resolve the issue", he said.

Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah said that on the 76th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he along with his cabinet visited Mazar-e-Quaid to honour his memory and contributions. "This annual tribute serves to recognize the founder of Pakistan and his significant role in the nation's establishment," he said.

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.



KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, in a meeting with a delegation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa journalists.

Thar Coal possesses potential to address energy issues of Pakistan: Sharjeel Memon

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, on Wednesday, said that Thar Coal as the most viable solution to country's energy woes, on Wednesday said that \$2 billion project of Sindh government was producing over 3500 MW electricity.

The minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa journalists here, said that Thar Coal, a visionary power project of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto that was realized by President Asif Ali Zardari, possesses a long-term potential to resolve Pakistan's energy crisis. Besides, Sindh government has initiated a solarization project to address the energy crisis and Solar systems will be provided to 200,000 families,

he said and added that the wind power plant is a major project of the Sindh government, and there are plans to build a solar park as well.

Highlighting public sector healthcare services in Sindh which according to him were benefiting not only residents of Pakistan but also of other countries, Sharjeel Memon said "In Sindh, no health or identity card is required for treatment—hospitals serve everyone, from all across Pakistan." Millions of people were receiving free treatment at the NICVD, equipped with the CyberKnife technology and Gambat Hospital offers free liver transplants while Sindh government provides a grant of Rs 5 billion to Indus Hospital as well, he added.



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

Monsoon floods damaged schools, disrupted education in Sindh: UNICEF

ISLAMABAD (APP):

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on Wednesday said that monsoon floods in Sindh had forced thousands of children out-of-school, as Pakistan struggled with recurring extreme weather events disrupting education and putting young lives at risk.

"Children in Sindh are facing serious setbacks on their education due to extreme weather conditions, with 230,000 students impacted by school closures caused by severe monsoon floods", UNICEF's representative in Pakistan, Abdullah Fadil said.

The floods have swept through southern Pakistan, damaging over 1,300 schools, and fully destroying 228 of them. In addition, more than 450 schools are not operational because they are surrounded by floodwater, according to recent data from Sindh's Education Department. The immediate consequence is that many children are missing out on their education. Sindh is no stranger to such climate-related disruptions. The government has already announced an education emergency, with 26.2 million children out-of-school nationwide.



KARACHI: Government officials pray inside the mausoleum of the founder of the nation Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah to mark his death anniversary in Karachi, Pakistan. The 76th death anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed throughout the country with reverence and solemnity.

Jashan-e-Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) event to be held at Governor House: Tessori

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori Wednesday announced that a grand event would be held at the illuminated Governor House to mark 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, and an open house for the public.

He made these remarks while chairing a meeting at the Governor House to review the arrangements for 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal. Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail also attended the meeting, along with religious scholars Maulana Kaukab Okarvi, Jameel Rathore, Shahid Ghori, Shabbir Abu Talib, Bilal Saleem Qadri, Maulana

Sarwat Ejaz Qadri, Mufti Muhammad Nazir Jan, Ahmed Raza, Maulana Yaqoob Attari, Maulana Adil Attari, Maulana Muhammad Akbar, Muhammad Naveed Abbasi, Abdul Qadir Noorani, and Allama Ashraf, among others.

The meeting assessed the arrangements for processions, gatherings, and rallies scheduled for the auspicious occasion.

The Governor Sindh directed the authorities concerned to ensure cleanliness, security arrangements, and the repair of roads, as well as the drainage of sewage water, ahead of the celebrations.

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.

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.

Minister for Irrigation Balochistan, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Minister for Irrigation, Sindh, Jam Khan Shoro, members of the provincial cabinet, members of the Balochistan assembly and secretaries of Irrigation of both the provinces.

The IRSA accord and stance of both of the provinces were presented in the meeting.

It was decided in the meeting that the committee formed by the Chief Minister would prepare viable proposals after consultation with the Provincial Ministers for Irrigation of Sindh and Balochistan on its final review report.



QUETTA: Sindh Irrigation Minister, Jam Khan Shoro along with Balochistan Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani addressing a press conference.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti forms committee to resolve water distribution issues between Sindh and Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has formed a committee for resolving the water issues between Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

The Committee would comprise the administrative secretaries of Irrigation of Sindh and Balochistan besides the members of IRSA.

The Chief Minister was presiding over an inter-provincial meeting of Sindh and Balochistan on the issues of water distribution between the two provinces, here at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by the Provincial

Minister for Industries and Commerce, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, Wednesday, said that all possible measures were being taken for development of industrial zones in the province on the directives of Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The minister, while talking to different delegations who called on him here, said that Sindh government has always stood



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori along with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and Ulama talking with mediemen about 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal.

Home Minister pays tribute to Quaid-e-Azam on 76th death anniversary

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar honored the legacy of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the 76th death anniversary of Pakistan's founder. Speaking on the occasion, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar emphasized the importance of observing this day with devotion and respect as a national duty.

He highlighted that Muhammad Ali Jinnah was given the title of "Quaid-e-Azam" by Maulana Mazaruddin in 1937. Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar praised Jinnah's dynamic leadership, under which the Muslims of India achieved their goal of a separate homeland, Pakistan.

Measures underway for development of industrial zones: Sindh Minister

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Industries and Commerce, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, Wednesday, said that all possible measures were being taken for development of industrial zones in the province on the directives of Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The minister, while talking to different delegations who called on him here, said that Sindh government has always stood

by the people in difficult times and it was striving to resolve issues of public at all levels.

He said that Sindh government during its previous tenures carried out record development works across the province and it will come up to the expectations of people.

The government was facilitating the private sector to ensure creation of employment opportunities in the province.



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

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

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 en-

sure 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 Jamaal 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 Noshervani 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, Engro 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. The Governor has approved the removal of Mashal Azam Yousafzai from her position as Advisor to the Chief Minister.

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 from the provincial cabinet over poor performance and other charges. 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.

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. 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. The meeting focused

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. "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. Director General PDMA Irfan Ali Kathia said that there are no reports of any loss of life or property in Punjab due to the earthquake. District administration, Rescue and other related organisations are present in the field. In other districts of Punjab, including Lahore, the magnitude of the earthquake was recorded at 5.7. The epicentre of the earthquake was Dera Ghazi Khan Shadiwala.

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. 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." The CM directed the authorities concerned to take indiscriminate action against criminals and anti-social elements. She said police should be able to take proactive action without waiting for a crime to be committed. She added attackers of police check posts should be given such a stern response that they do not dare to attack again. 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

RAWALPINDI (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.

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.



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. Among the facilities inspected, 633 centres had undergone business

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."



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

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. This was revealed by

the Advisor to the Chief Minister of KP for Finance, Muzammil Aslam, during his visit to the headquarters of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA). 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.

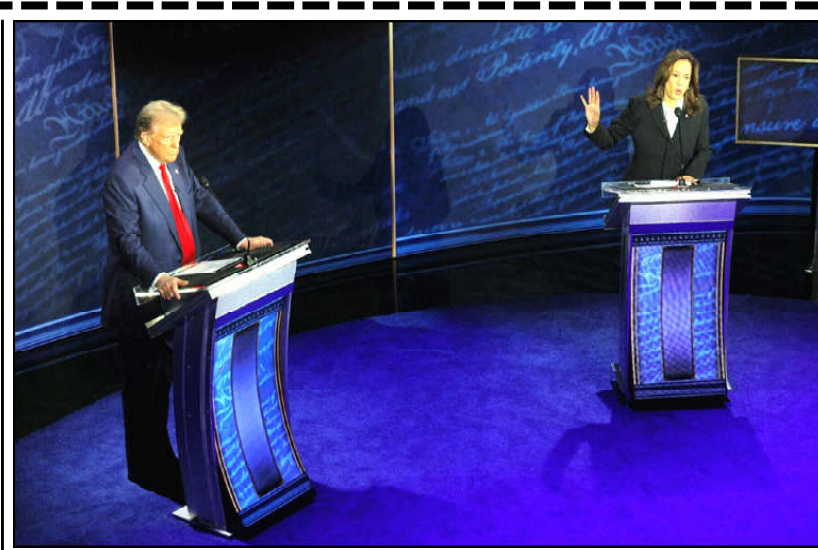
International News

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

Harris' own crowds, said, "My rallies, we have the biggest rallies, the most incredible rallies in the history of politics." He then pivoted to an unsubstantiated claim that Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, are "eating the pets" of residents. The candidates clashed over issues such as immigration, foreign policy and healthcare, but the debate was light on specific policy details. Instead, Harris' forceful approach succeeded in putting the focus on Trump, leaving her allies jubilant and some Republicans acknowledging Trump's struggles. "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

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%. Harris' odds improved to 55% from 53%. In a sign of confidence in the debate's outcome, Harris' campaign challenged Trump to a second debate immediately. 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.



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.

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. 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. Blinken traveled from London, where he accused Iran of providing Russia with Fath-360 short-range ballistic missiles, calling the move a "dramatic escalation" 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. "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."

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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." 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. He accused "radical members of the Israeli gov-

ernment" of trying to make it "impossible to create a future Palestinian state", which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and several cabinet members have painted as a threat to Israel. Some Israeli ministers have recently called to increase military operations in the West Bank. "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.

Kremlin warns of escalation if US allows Kyiv to hit Russia with long-range missiles

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin told the West on Wednesday that any decision to allow Ukraine to strike Russia with long-range Western missiles would deepen what it called the direct involvement of the US and Europe in the war and would trigger a response from Moscow. The warning came as senior Ukrainian government officials pressed US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British foreign minister David Lammy, on a joint visit to Kyiv, to allow Ukraine to fire long-range US ATACMS missiles and British Storm Shadow cruise missiles at targets deep inside Russia. Washington has previously been reluctant to supply Ukraine with long-range weapons over fears that this could escalate the

2-1/2-year-old conflict, but there are signs its stance may be shifting. US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday his administration was "working that out now" when asked if he would lift restrictions on Kyiv's use of missiles such as ATACMS. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Moscow suspected a US decision to let Kyiv fire such missiles into Russia had already been taken and that there would be a response if that happened. "It (our response) will be an appropriate one," said Peskov. "The involvement of the United States of America and European countries in the conflict over Ukraine is direct, and each new step increases the degree of this involvement," he said.

Israeli airstrikes on Palestinian territories kill dozens more

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Israeli strikes on Palestinian territories have killed more than two-dozen Palestinians on Wednesday, according to local officials. They say an Israeli airstrike killed five Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, and at least 20 people, including 16 women and children, were killed in the Gaza Strip. Gaza's Health Ministry says Tuesday's strike on a tent camp in an Israeli-designated humanitarian zone killed at least 19 people. The Health Ministry says over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the Israel-Hamas war began. It does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count. The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million.

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 United States unveiled fresh sanctions against more than a dozen firms and individuals in Iran and Russia in response to what it called Tehran's "escalatory" decision to send 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. "Today, the United States and our allies are taking concerted action in response to Iran's reckless decision to proliferate ballistic missiles to Russia."

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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. "Once again, US and E3 act on faulty intelligence and flawed logic. Iran has NOT delivered ballistic missiles to Russia. Period... Sanctions are not a solution, but part of problem."

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. 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. In a speech marking the 76th founding anniversary for his government on Monday, Kim said North Korea faces "a grave threat" because of what he called "the reckless expansion" of a U.S.-led regional military bloc that is now developing into a nuclear-based one.

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. President Mohamed Muizzu suspended three ministers in January for their remarks, including one calling Modi a "clown". The now ex-ministers had criticised Modi following his visit to promote the Indian territory of Lakshadweep, a cluster of atolls just north of the Maldives.

CM Sindh for proper arrangements to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presided over a joint meeting of religious leaders and the administration and decided to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi with traditional respect and reverence on 12th Rabul Awal (September 17).

He directed that all government buildings be illuminated for the occasion.

CM Shah directed the administration and the police to make necessary arrangements for celebrating Eid Milad-un-Nabi in consultation with the religious scholars/ulemas. He also urged the Ulemas to cooperate with the administration.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Zia Lanjar, Riaz Shah Shirazi, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Adl IG Karachi Javed Alam Odho.

The ulemas who also attended the meeting include Haji Hanif Tayyab, Allama Kokab Noorani, Mohammad Jan Naeemi, Allama Shah Abdul Haq Qadri, Maulana Yakoob Turabi, Allama Muzaffar Shah, Dr Jameel Rathore, Akbar Dars and others.

The religious leaders/ulemas brought up concerns about the repair of roads and drainage, continuous power supply, and effective security. The Chief Minister (CM) acknowledged that heavy rains had damaged the roads and that emergency repairs were not feasible but reassured that his government was working on a comprehensive overhaul.

Shah instructed the water board and KE to ensure proper water and power supply to the mosques. He also directed Commissioner Karachi, Hassan Naqvi, and Additional Inspector General Karachi Javed Odho to provide foolproof security for the Eid Milad-un-Nabi procession and coordinate its time and route with the ulemas. The ulemas expressed their gratitude to the CM for his support and cooperation.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a joint meeting of religious leaders and the administration regarding the arrangements of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, held at CM House in Karachi.

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 areas 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 Fi-

REAP Facilitation Cell set up at Governor House

KARACHI (APP): REAP Facilitation Cell was established at Governor House to address the issues of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan on priority basis.

The cell has been established on the directions of the Governor Kamran Khan Tessori following the recent REAP awards ceremony where he had announced the formation of the cell.

A three-member committee comprising senior officials from the Governor House was also formed to look into matters of the cell.

The committee will ensure that the challenges faced by exporters are resolved, including matters about government policies.

Furthermore, the committee will work towards removing all obstacles hindering rice exports, Governor House press release said.

PTI Sindh raises alarm over deteriorating state of govt schools

KARACHI (INP): In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Muhammad Rizwan Niazi, Additional General Secretary of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh, has expressed serious concerns over the deteriorating state of government schools in the province. The letter highlights key issues that are severely impacting the quality of education for children, urging immediate government intervention.

Niazi pointed out the alarming shortage of textbooks in government schools across Sindh, which has been raised by both parents and educators. He noted that the unavailability of essential learning materials is disrupting students' academic progress. He stressed the importance of timely textbook provision for the intellectual growth of students, warning that any delay directly affects education standards.

In addition to the textbook shortage, Niazi drew attention to the lack of school furniture in many districts, where students are forced to sit on the floor due to insufficient desks and chairs. He criticized this state of affairs for creating an environment that is not conducive to learning and undermining the dignity of students, negatively affecting their focus and morale.



KARACHI: Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG), Zubair Motiwala along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, held at KCCI premises in Karachi.

KU symposium Mpox focuses on creating mass awareness

KARACHI (APP): With the population burst and climate change, the world is facing challenges of viral epidemics and only knowledge-based progress can lead us out of these challenges, Dow University's Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mohammad Saeed Quraishi said on Wednesday.

He expressed these views while addressing the symposium on Mpox: evolution and clinical management, jointly organized by the Department of Microbiology of the University of Karachi and the Association of Microbial Sciences at the KU's Chinese Teachers Memorial Auditorium.

The DUHS VC Professor Dr Saeed Quraishi stressed to students to create mass awareness and to take maximum benefit of this symposium. He mentioned that mass awareness can help us resolve such large challenges faced by the health sector.

8th Boss meeting of Electrical Engineering department held

SUKKUR (APP): The 8th Board of Studies (BoS) meeting for the Department of Electrical Engineering was convened on Wednesday at Sukkur IBA University.

The meeting was chaired by Head of the Electrical Engineering Department, Dr Sharjeel Afridi.

Dr Kashif Hussain Memon, Head of EE Accreditation, along with other faculty members from the Department of Electrical Engineering, actively participated and provided input on each agenda item.

Two external experts including Dr Abdul Rehman Abbasi, Deputy Chief Engineer at KINOPE Karachi, and Dr Toufique A.

Tree plantation seminar held at SMBB Medical University Larkana

LARKANA (APP): SMBB Medical University Larkana organized tree plantation seminar at the Arja campus of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University Larkana on Wednesday.

The chief guest in the seminar was the Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agricultural University, Tando Jam, Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, while the seminar was presided over by Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah.

The speakers included Sindh Agriculture University experts Prof. Noor Nissa Memon and Prof. Inayatullah Rajpar. District Forest Officer Mr Arshad Haider also attended the Seminar. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri while addressing the seminar said SMBBMU is the first university of Sindh which has organized the seminar.

He said the goal is to plant 1 crore trees in Sindh. But taking care of the plants is more important than planting trees.



KARACHI: An illuminated view of a mosque located in Karachi named Kinzul Eman, decorated with colorful lights in connection with upcoming Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) celebrations.

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

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

DC Larkana visits polio campaign drive in Larkana

LARKANA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa declared children as the architects of the future and said they have to play their role for the development and prosperity of the country.

He expressed these views on Wednesday during his visit to the transit points of the ongoing polio campaign in Tulkas of Baqrani and Dokri. On this occasion, he also took information from the polio teams about the ongoing campaign and instructed them to go to Dardar to help children up to 05 years of age.



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

Gulshan-e-Iqbal TMC, Help in need signed MoU for green avenue initiative

KARACHI (APP): TMC of Gulshan-e-Iqbal and Help In Need, a renowned social welfare organization, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to launch the Green Avenue Initiative in Gulshan Town here on Wednesday.

The signing ceremony was attended by Chairman of Gulshan Town, Dr. Faoud Ahmed, and CEO of Help In Need, Hamid. The MOU marks a significant commitment to enhancing green spaces and promoting a healthier urban environment in Gulshan Town.

The Green Avenue Initiative aims to revitalize and expand green areas, fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly atmosphere in the town. This collaborative effort between TMC Gulshan-e-Iqbal and Help In Need demonstrates a shared vision for a cleaner, greener, and healthier community.

Dr. Faoud Ahmed expressed his enthusiasm for the project, stating, "This initiative is a crucial step towards creating a more livable and sustainable environment for our residents. We are proud to partner with Help In Need to make this vision a reality."

CEO of Help In Need, added, "We are committed to support initiatives that benefit the community and promote environmental stewardship. The Green Avenue Initiative is a testament to our shared values and dedication to creating positive change."

The signing of this MOU marks the beginning of a new chapter in the journey towards a greener and more sustainable Gulshan Town.

Two killed, one injured in Sarjani traffic accident

KARACHI (APP): Two persons including a woman were killed in a traffic accident that took place near Sarjani area of Karachi, tv channels quoting rescue sources reported on Wednesday.

According to details, a rashly driven truck hit a car and motorcycle near Sarjani area of Karachi.

As a result, two persons including a woman died on the spot. One person was also injured in the same incident. The driver of the truck fled from the scene after hitting the car and motorbike.

Police reached the spot and shifted the dead and injured to nearby hospital. Police have also started search operation to arrest the driver of the truck.

Rich tributes paid to Quaid-e-Azam on 76th death anniversary

SUKKUR (APP): Contribution at the fullest potential and dedication help achieve the big goals in life was proved in letter and spirit by the Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah by getting a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent. These views were expressed by people belonging to different walks of life on the occasion of the death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam on Wednesday. In his comments Senior Politician Advocate Syed Shafiq Ali Shah quoted the comments of Quaid-e-Azam.

PM assures maximum facilitation of sportsmen to bring laurels to country

Says Government to unveil a comprehensive plan soon to promote football

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday assured the government's all-out support to the sportsmen to facilitate their participation in international contests and enable them to bring laurels to Pakistan.

The prime minister, talking to the office bearers of the Pakistan Mixed Martial Arts Federation and athletes at the PM House, appreciated the Pakistani athletes for winning 12 medals in the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation Championship held here.

The delegation comprised President of Pakistan Mixed Martial Arts Federation Umar Ahmed, champions Eman Khan and Bano Butt, Brave Combat Federation winners Rizwan Ali, Zia Mashwani and Ismail Khan.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chairman of PM Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan, Coordinator to PM Romina Khurshid Alam, Badar Shehbaz and relevant senior officers were also present.

"Pakistan's biggest asset is its talented youth. I wish the Pakistani players to keep bringing laurels to Pakistan globally in the international contests. You are a great asset to Pakistan. Your talent gives immense satisfaction for Pakistan's bright future," the prime minister remarked. He assured that the government would extend all-out cooperation to mixed martial arts as the promotion of sports was among its priorities.

Recalling his contributions to the sports while being Punjab chief minister, he mentioned the establishment of the Pakistan Sports Endowment Fund and ensuring transparency in the selection process of the sportsmen. "Being the prime minister, this is my responsibility to extend maximum support to the players to make them participate in international competitions".



SKARDU: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson, Senator Rubina Khalid interacts with a beneficiary woman during her visit at BISP Zonal Office in Skardu.

Govt asks Supreme Court 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. "The State Bank had opened an account under the supervision of the supreme court," government counsel said.

"How many funds are deposited in the dams' funds account," Chief Justice of Pakistan questioned. "There are around 20 billion rupees in dams' funds," Wapda lawyer Saad Rasool replied.

Pakistan, EU vow to combat religious intolerance, extremism

ISLAMABAD (APP): European Union's Special Envoy for the Promotion of Religion and Belief Frans van Daele on Wednesday called on Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain to discuss the growing global concerns over religious intolerance, terrorism, sectarianism, and the promotion of peace and interfaith harmony.

During the meeting, both the dignitaries expressed their commitment to collaborate in combating religious intolerance and fostering a peaceful future.

Minister Salik highlighted Pakistan's dedication to protecting the rights of minorities, stating that a comprehensive policy on interfaith harmony had been formulated and submitted to the Federal Cabinet for approval.

He emphasized that Pakistan was resolute in promoting religious tolerance.

"Over 700 scholars representing various religions and sects have endorsed the Paigham-e-Pakistan document," the minister said, adding that "no individual is permitted to take the law into their hands in the name of religion".



HYDERABAD: Members of HDA Labour Union are holding protest demonstration against non-payment of their salaries, at Hyderabad press club.

SMBBMU organises tree plantation seminar

SUKKUR (APP): A Tree Plantation seminar was organized at the Arja campus of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University Larkana on Wednesday.

The Chief Guest in the seminar was the Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agricultural University, Tando Jam, Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, while the seminar was presided over by Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah.

The speakers included Sindh Agriculture University experts Prof. Noor Nissa Memon and Prof. Inayatullah Rajpar. District Forest Officer Mr Arshad Haider also attended the Seminar. Addressing the seminar, Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri said SMBBMU is the first university of Sindh which has organized a Plantation Seminar, which highlights the vision of the VC Prof Nusrat Shah. He said if each student plants one tree, there will be 200 trees on the campus. He said the goal is to plant 1 crore trees in Sindh. But taking care of the plants is more important than planting trees because if we had done that there would be enough trees in the world.

Speaking on the occasion, VC Dr. Nusrat Shah said this is a unique seminar as normally we do many plantation activities but this is the first time that our university has organized an educational activity. Our university is a medical university and we realize that trees are a symbol of health.