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CM Sarfaraz Bugti forms committee to resolve water distribution issues between Sindh and Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has formed a committee to resolve 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 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.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. PPP leader Syed Naveed Qamar and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab are also present

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.



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

Health Dept says: 5th case of mpox virus detected in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): A new case of mpox virus has been detected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday, raising the toll of contagious infection in the province to five.

According to a press release issued by Health Department, a 33 years old individual arrived in Pakistan on September 7 via Islamabad International Airport after travelling from a Gulf country.

The patient then traveled to Peshawar and was referred to Khyber Teaching Hospital from a private clinic.

The hospital's medical team collected samples and sent them to the Public Health Reference Lab, which confirmed the presence of the Mpox virus today, adds the press release.

The patient has been quarantined at home in Lower Dir, where he is under the District Health Officer (DHO) surveillance.

The patient's condition is improving and his family has been educated about preventing the spread of infection.

Meanwhile, KP Health Minister, Syed Qasim Ali Shah raises concern over screening at Islamabad Airport where the patient was not detected with mpox infection. In his video message, Health Minister highlighted that over 66,000 people have been screened at various entry points in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Out of 17 suspected Mpox cases, five have been confirmed so far, with the fifth case being reported and confirmed today.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over an inter-provincial meeting of Sindh and Balochistan on the issues of water distribution between the two provinces

PM Shehbaz, Bilawal discuss political situation

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.

Meena Majeed Baloch appointed as Advisor to CM on Sports & Youth Affairs

QUETTA: The Member Provincial Assembly, Ms. Meena Majeed Baloch has been appointed as the Advisor to Chief Minister on Sports and Youth Affairs with immediate effect.

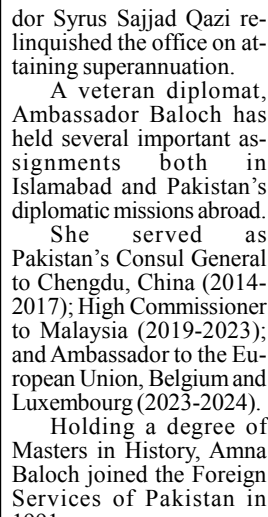
This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department on Wednesday.

According to the notification, the Governor Balochistan has appointed Ms. Meena Baloch as the Advisor on advice of Chief Minister.

Ms. Meena Baloch would have the status of Provincial Minister till further orders.

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 Ambassa-



dor 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.

She served as Pakistan's Consul General to Chengdu, China (2014-2017); High Commissioner to Malaysia (2019-2023); and Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg (2023-2024).

Holding a degree of Masters in History, Amna Baloch joined the Foreign Services of Pakistan in 1991.

No excuses acceptable for delay in public health projects: GoB decides to establish modern Institute of Cardiology, build new Trauma Center in Quetta city

Chief Minister announces establishment of Balochistan Institute of Cardiology on model of NICVD Sindh; gives deadline of January 15, 2025 to Provincial Health Department for inauguration; approves release of funds for speedy progress on vital project

Independent Report

QUETTA: In an important development in health sector, the Government of Balochistan has decided to establish a modern Institute of Cardiology and build new modern Trauma Center in Quetta.

The decision to this effect was made in a meeting chaired by the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on the performance of Health Department here at the CM's secretariat on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by the Provincial Minister for Health, Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali, spokesman of pro-

vincial government, Shahid Rind, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Hafiz Abdul Basit, Secretary Health, Muhammad Saleh Baloch, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon, Special Secretaries Tariq Hussain, Mujeeb Rehman Qamrani, Technical Member and Additional Secretary Communications, Mukhtiar Ahmed, Director General of Health, Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail, Managing Director Trauma Center, Dr. Arbab Kamran Khan.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister an-

nounced that Balochistan Institute of Cardiology (BIC) would be established on the model of NICVD, Sindh.

He said that free medical treatment facilities would be made available for every rich and poor in the 120-bedded hospital to be established for treatment of cardiac patients.

The Chief Minister on the occasion approved immediate release of the for speedy implementation on the project.

He directed to the Health department to inaugurate the BIC on January 15, 2025 any way.

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QUETTA: Balochistan Irrigation Minister Sadiq Umrani and Sindh Irrigation minister Jam Khan Shoro addressing a joint press conference at CM Secretariat.

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.

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."

QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nausherwani presiding over a review meeting regarding Finance Department



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 ar-

Continued on page 2



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

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 government 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.



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

Royal Saudi Naval Forces delegation calls on Pakistan Navy CCTF-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 (CCTF 150), in Manama, Bahrain.

The discussions focused on CCTF 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.

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.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, assuring all possible measures for the promotion of the football game in the country, announced that the government would soon unveil a comprehensive plan in this regard.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Pakistan's Street Child Football Team which represented Pakistan in the Norway Cup 2024, also asked the authorities concerned to fully restore the departmental sports and present a report, according to a PM Office press release.

He said the fabulous performance of the street child football team manifested the fact that the Pakistani youth had the potential to prove their mettle globally if given ample opportunities.

The delegation comprised Captain Muhammad Adeel, top scorer Muhammad Kashif, team manager Syed Muhammad Awaiz, Executive Director of Muslim Hands Syed Javed Gillani, Director Global Operations Arsalan Nusrat, and Communication Director Muhammad Rehan Tahir.

Terming the players as the bright stars of Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the Pakistan Street Child Football Team was bringing fame to the country.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in separate group photos along with a delegation of the Mixed Martial Arts Federation and Pakistan Street Child Football Team, which represented Pakistan in the Norway Cup 2024 U-17 Category

Tarar proposes special committee to create awareness about women's inheritance rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday suggested the formation of a special parliamentary committee, including members from the opposition, to raise awareness and tackle the implementation issues surrounding women's inheritance rights.

Responding to a calling attention notice about the non-enforcement of court orders concerning women's legal share of inheritance in the Islamabad Capital Territory, he urged the chair to notify a committee comprising members from both the Senate and National Assembly. He fully supported Nafesa Shah's suggestion to include Senate members in the committee and requested that the process be expedited.

The minister said, that

his ministry will launch awareness campaigns to educate the public in this regard. He said that Islam mandated inheritance rights for women.

He said that officials from National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and the Revenue Board would also be invited to participate in the committee's discussions.

He said that dowry has no place in Islam or inheritance law, and pointed out the need to change societal mindsets that deprive women of their legal inheritance rights.

"It is unfortunate that women continue to be denied their rightful inheritance. To change this mindset, we must address the cultural barriers," Tarar said. "We must accept that women deserve their rightful inheritance. When this house raises its voice, the mindset will change."

Economic projects in participation of Afghanistan move forward to practical implementation

ISLAMABAD (PR): On 11 September 2024, a number of events related to the practical implementation of large-scale energy, transport and infrastructure international projects implemented with the participation of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan took place on the Turkmen-Afghan border.

The National Leader of Turkmen people, Chairman of the Halk Maslahaty Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov participated in the events personally.

In the morning, the National Leader of Turkmen people arrived at the border checkpoint "Islim-Cheshme" of Serhetabat town of Tahtabazar province of Mary region, where he was met by key officials.

Some time later, Acting Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Afghanistan Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund arrived to the place as well. In accordance with noble Turkmen traditions, bread and salt were offered

to the Afghan guest.

Then, Chairman of the Halk Maslahaty Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov had a meeting with Acting Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Afghanistan in the conference hall built at "Islim-Cheshme" checkpoint.

After talks held in a friendly setting, the parties took part in the ceremony dedicated to the opening of the railway bridge of Serhetabat-Turgundi railroad, laying the foundation of "Shatlyk-1" gas compressor station in Mary region, as well as launching of the construction of the Serhetabat-Herat section, which is an important part in the implementation of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Transnational Gas Pipeline Project (TAPI) and the Serhetabat-Herat fiber-optic communication line, entitled "Arkadagyn Ak yoly" (Bright Path of Arkadag).

The events also included the launch of works on the construction of a

warehouse complex in the "dry port" of the Turgundi railway station and the Turgundi-Sanabar section of the first phase of the Turgundi-Heart railway, as well as the commissioning of the "Nur-el-Jahad" power plant located in Herat province of Afghanistan as part of the first phase of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) power transmission line project.

President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov addressed the participants of the events via videoconferencing.

It is important to note that Turkmenistan is actively participating in the global efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Today's events serve yet as another proof of Turkmenistan's commitment to developing a modern energy security architecture and sustainable transport for regional and international economic growth.

marked.

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, Ahad 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.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting to review progress of government affairs

Govt, opposition reach consensus....

Continued from page 1 rests 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 re-

marked.

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Senator Sherry pays homage to Quaid-e-Azam

ISLAMABAD (APP): PPP Senator Sherry Rehman paid rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his death anniversary and encouraged Pakistanis to reflect on Jinnah's vision and work towards a more inclusive, tolerant and democratic society. In her message with a private news channel, Senator Sherry underscores the critical need for unity and collective effort to overcome the challenges that have held Pakistan back.

By putting aside differences and working together towards a common goal, Pakistanis can unlock their nation's full potential and create a brighter future, she added.

Senator Sherry Rehman

reaffirmed her commitment to carrying forward the struggle for a peaceful, prosperous, and egalitarian Pakistan as envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

She vowed to continue working towards a society where every citizen has equal opportunities and rights. Rehman believes that empowering the youth is crucial for Pakistan's progress. By inspiring and mentoring young minds, she hopes to create a ripple effect of positive change that will resonate throughout the nation.

Her goal is to equip future generations with the skills, knowledge, and values necessary to build a brighter future.



GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Hamood-ur-Rehman presiding over a meeting to review performance of departments regarding development of city and people welfare

PSB allocates over Rs. 1bn to federations, athletes over past 5 years

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has disbursed over one billion rupees funds to various sports federations and athletes over the last five years, according to financial details released by the board. The data, covering the fiscal years from 2019/20 to 2023/24, shows that the majority of the funds were allocated in the last two years.

According to PSB documents, more than 500 million PKR was distributed to federations and athletes in the fiscal year 2023/24, followed by over 420 million in 2022/23. In contrast, just 42.5 million PKR was allocated in 2019/20, with 69.5 million in 2021/22 and 41.25 million in 2020/21.

The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) received over 103.6 million PKR in the last five years, including more than 59 million in the previous fiscal year alone.

The Athletics Federation was granted over 100 million PKR during this period, while the Volleyball Federation received 100 million in 2023/24, with a total of 115 million in the last five years.

The Athletics Federation of Pakistan was awarded 70 million PKR in 2023/24, the Netball Federation received 70 million PKR over five years, and the Taekwondo Federation received 60 million during the

same period. Additionally, the Tennis Federation was funded with 48.6 million PKR.

Other allocations included 50 million PKR for the Squash Federation, 26.5 million for the Rifle Association, 30 million for the Boxing Federation, 24.7 million for the Pakistan Billiards and Snooker Association, and 37.5 million for the Cycling Federation over the past five years.

SBP to announce Monetary Policy today

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will announce the Monetary Policy on Thursday, September 12, 2024 following the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee. The central bank, in a statement issued here, announced that a meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of SBP will be held on September 12 to decide about the Monetary Policy. The MPC will review the overall financial and fiscal situation, major economic indicators, data of different sectors and major developments taken place since the announcement of the previous monetary policy.

GoB decides to establish...

Continued from page 1 He also announced to inaugurate new Trauma Center on December 15, 2024. In this context, he directed to expedite the progress on project. He said that no excuses are acceptable for delay in implementation on the projects of public health welfare projects. He warned that if the BIC was not inaugurated by the given date, then the concerned high ups should consider themselves to be suspended.

He on the occasion expressed anguish over poor state of affairs of the divisional headquarter hospitals in the province saying that the divisional headquarter hospitals are in mess. As a result of which, every serious patient of the road accident is brought to

the provincial hospital, he regretfully pointed out.

He was of the strong view that precious lives can be saved if the hospitals and trauma center are functional at the division level.

He also said that the burden of patients can be reduced on the hospitals and only Trauma Center in Quetta by providing quality healthcare facilities at the local level.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is determined to provide quality health facilities to the people of Balochistan. He (Chairman PPP) also desired to implement the viable projects to meet the requirements of energy and health in the province, Chief Minister added.



FAISALABAD: Captains of five cricket teams unveil Champions' Cup trophy at Iqbal Stadium for one-day Champions' Cup to be played from September 12 to 29, 2024.

Asian Champions Trophy: Pakistan defeat Japan 2-1 to register first win

Sports Desk MONGOLIA: Pakistan on Wednesday defeated Japan 2-1 to register their first win of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy at the Moqi Hockey Training Base in Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, China.

The first goal was scored by Nadeem Ahmed in the first quarter but later it was equalised as Japan scored a goal in the second quarter. In the 10th minute of the second quarter, Sufyan Khan scored a goal to restore Pakistan's lead which was enough to secure a win. It must be noted that Pakistan's first two games ended in a draw. The Green Shirts' clash against South Korea on Monday ended in a 2-2 draw after they failed to defend their two-goal lead.

South Korea took the lead by scoring a goal in the second quarter, which remained intact until the third quarter. Pakistan's team could not score any goals up to the third quarter and was losing by one goal. However, in the fourth quarter, the Pakistan team made an impressive comeback, with Hanan Shahid scoring two quick goals.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242509546943 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Project Director, PMU ASPIRE, School Education Department GOB invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	Construction of Schools package 21 District Dera Bugti	42,905,119

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 30,000,000 PKR Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE09(i) (Sewerage Works), EE04 (Low Voltage Installation). Bidder must have Specialized Code of CE 11 (General Building Works) and CE11 (Infrastructure Development Works) The bidder must have completed 03 Similar Assignments/Works (Building in nature) under public sector in last 1 year and each of the three work orders/contracts shall amount to 60% of the estimated Cost of the Package. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee/Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 26 September, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 26 September, 2024 till 11:00 AM Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under- signed at 12:00 PM Address: H. No 74-A Chaman Housing Scheme Quetta Phone no: 0812864295 Email: zahoor22@gmail.com

Project Director PMU ASPIRE School Education Department GOB
AB No.283/11-09-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dpr.balochistan

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Assistant Director Local Government & Rural Dev Dept. District Zhob is pleased to invite sealed percentage based as per the rates of CSR-2018 (amended up-to-date) from interested firms/suppliers/contractors through B-PPRA having valid registration with PEC, FBR, and BRA for the following SDGs works. Bid security in the form of Deposit at Call is 03% estimated cost as per bidding documents for under mentioned schemes while completion time is till 30th June 2025.

S.NO	NAME OF SCHEME	E.COST
1	Provision of Home Solar System in Killi/Vialla/Mirbaz/Cialla/Sherak Killi/Brunji/Killi/Khozakzai/Killi/Nareza/Killi/Omzak/Killi/Safi/Kote/Miralkhail/Killi/Zama Killi/Zai/Killi/Sheikhan/Shekhan/Newabad/Killi/Maryama/No.1-2-3 Killi/Jalga/Batozai/Malak/Asmat/Ullah/Kakar/Khurasan/Qamar Dini/Ashewat/Main/Zhob Area District Zhob (Off Grid Areas) TSE-242509546663	37.00 M
2	Provision of Solar Bore in various Villages of District Zhob. TSE-242509546693	48.00 M
3	Provision of Solar Bore in various Villages of District Zhob. TSE-242509546773	37.00 M

METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: The Procurement shall be made in accordance with Baluchistan Public procurement regulatory authority (BPPRA) rules-2014 (amended up-to-date). Single Stage - Two Envelope procedures will be followed for this open competitive bidding. Tender/bidding documents can be obtained from the office of undersigned on submission of tender fee of Rs.2000/- (non-refundable), deposit via Green Challan in A/C 4175124535 NBP ZHOB in the favor of undersigned. The same bidding documents can also be downloaded from B-PPRA website. The name of firm(s) and address must be clearly mentioned on the Green Challan along with written application on the letter head of the firm(s). Bid Validity period is 90 days. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF BIDDER: Bidding firms must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in category C-5 or above along with specialized codes as per bidding documents. The bidding firms must be registered in FBR and BRA and their names must be in Active Tax Payer Lists (ATL). Only one bid can be submitted against one (01) NTN (B-PPRA Rule 25-3). Firm(s) must submit fresh No Blacklisting and No Litigation declaration/certificates on 100/-Pkr attested affidavit. Representative(s) of bidding firm(s) must submit Fresh Power of Attorney on 100/-Pkr attested affidavit mentioning the specific scheme on which he/she want to participate. BID(S) SUBMISSION & DEADLINE: The Technical and Financial proposal(s) by bidding firm(s) must be submitted on the B-PPRA against respective TSE No. Before or On 26 Sep 2024 till 1.00 Pm. BIDS(S) OPENING: The "Technical Bid(s)" will only be opened afterwards. TERMS & CONDITIONS: (1) Bid not accompanied along with call deposit will be rejected. (2) Bidding documents received after specified date and time will be rejected. (3) the conditional and telegraphic bid(s) will not be accepted. (4) Bidding documents from Blacklisted Firms will also reject. (5) Bidding documents having overwriting or cutting will be rejected. (6) Unsigned bidding Documents by bidder will also be rejected. (7) Erroneous bidding documents submitted by the bidder(s) will be also rejected. ADDRESS: Office of The Assistant Director LGRD Zhob

(Assistant Director) Local Government & Rural Dev Dept Zhob
PRQ No.1005/11-09-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dpr.balochistan

LAND ACQUISITION

"SECTION-IV UNDER LAND ACQUISITION ACT 1894"
"WIDENING OF QAMBRANI ROAD (OLD MASTUNG ROAD QUETTA)"

Whereas it appears to the Deputy Commissioner/ Collector, Quetta District that land measuring 3028 Sft. Bearing Khassas Nos. 202, 198, 322, 410 situated in Mahal Chakul Muhammad Murad, Mahal Karaz Yar Muhammad Mouza Sirki, Mahal Chakul Muhammad Murad Saddar-I, Tehsil City, District, Quetta, Mahal Sirki Kallan, Mouza Sirki, Tappa Saddar-I, Tehsil City Quetta (details given in the schedule appended below) is needed to be acquired by the C&W Department, Gov't of Balochistan for public purpose "widening of Qambrani Road (Old Mastung Road) Quetta" it is hereby notified that the land in the locality (details can be seen obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours), is likely to be acquired for the aforesaid purpose.

2. This Notification is made under Section 4 of Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (1 to 1894), to all whom it may concern.

3. In exercise of the powers conferred by the said Section, the Deputy Commissioner / Collector, Quetta District, is pleased to authorize the officers, their servants and workmen for the time being engaged in undertaking work on the subject land to enter upon and survey the land in the locality and do all other acts, required or permitted by the said Section.

4. Any person having interest in the land who has any objection to the acquisition of the above mentioned land may, as given under Section 5(A) of the said Act, file objections in writing before the Deputy Commissioner / Collector, Quetta District, within Thirty Days (30) of the publication of this notification.

Deputy Commissioner/Colector
Quetta
PRQ No.1007/11-09-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dpr.balochistan

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 Kafalaat, Taleemi Wazaif, and Nashonuma 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 Kafalaat programme.

The number of eligible families and the stipends provided under Kafalaat 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,"

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.



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

Exhibition celebrating cancer survivors' artistic journeys continues

Imran, Ambreen Rashid Khan, Nafisa Athar, and Shrosh Anwar showcasing their powerful journeys through art. Fatima Salman, inspired by her own cancer battle in 2019, launched the Connecting Dots series to provide a platform for cancer survivors to express their experiences. The first exhibition in January 2024 received wide acclaim at the Shakir Ali Museum in Lahore. This second installment features emotional and inspiring artworks, with a special video tribute

to artists who lost their lives to cancer. A book titled "My Cancer Journey" was also launched by Shirin Gheba Najib in which she described her journey of fighting cancer, the emotional traumas, and her determination and struggle towards recovery. The exhibition was inaugurated by Former Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division, Jamal Shah on Tuesday who praised the works of the artist and said that all these wonderful human beings are informed contributors.

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 12th 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," said 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.

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.

High-level Chinese business delegation calls on Minister Amir

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level Chinese business delegation, comprising Xinjiang Iron Brothers Co Ltd with four other prominent Chinese business entities held meeting with Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam here at ministry on Wednesday.

The delegation was led by Mr Yuan Jianmin (Senior & renowned Economist) 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. The delegation was warmly received by Ministry officials.

Federal Minister 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.

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

He said that investing in GB can benefit both China and Pakistan, fostering economic growth, regional connectivity and a stronger partnership.

The delegation showed keen interest in construction of GB Special Economic Zone.

Brake failure: bus passengers critical injured

ISLAMABAD (APP): A devastating accident occurred on Motorway M2 at Salt Range area near Kallar Kahar on Wednesday where

passenger bus experienced brake failure and in result of collision with a roadside wall, at least seven people including a minor girl were critically injured.

According to the information, rescue officials said that passenger bus was traveling to Faisalabad when it experienced brake failure and rammed into a roadside wall on Motorway M2, a private news channel reported.

Rescue teams arrived at the scene and shifted the wounded persons to Trauma Center Kallar Kahar.

Missing boy reunited with parents

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Sabzi Mandi police station team reunited the missing boy with his parents.

An ICT Police Public Relation Officer said, a citizen submitted an application at Sabzi Mandi police station and stated that his son namely Sharif Khan had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members.

He said upon receiving the application the police team registered a case and immediately started the investigation.

The police team used technical and human resources and succeeded to trace the missing boy Sharif Khan and reunited him safely with his family, he said.

The parents appreciated the police team's efforts and thanked the Islamabad Capital Police for immediate assistance, he added.

Citizens are urged to dial the emergency helpline "Pucar-15" or report via the "ICT-15 app"

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

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

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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.

Minister Naqvi pays tribute to Quaid-e-Azam on 76th birth anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the 76th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi delivered a heartfelt tribute, reflecting on the enduring legacy of the nation's founding father. In a statement released on Wednesday, Naqvi emphasized Jinnah's pivotal role in shaping the destiny of Pakistan through his steadfast determination, integrity, and visionary leadership.

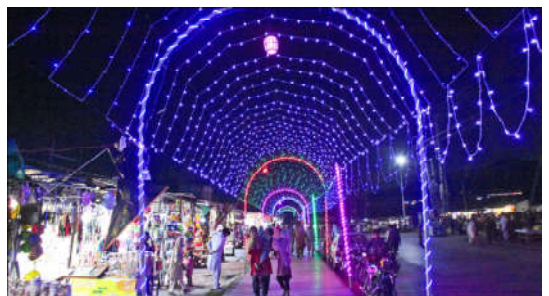
Naqvi described Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as a figure defined by "relentless struggle, unwavering determination, high spirit, and honesty," and credited his courageous leadership as the cornerstone of Pakistan's independence. "Without the Quaid's remarkable resolve, the dream of an independent country would have remained unrealized," Naqvi asserted.

The minister under-

scored the profound impact of Jinnah's principles on the nation's identity and progress. He highlighted that the Quaid-e-Azam's vision of equality transcended linguistic, class, and group distinctions, ensuring equal rights for all, including minorities. Naqvi lamented the departure from these foundational principles, which he believes has hindered Pakistan's advancement on the global stage.

Naqvi reiterated that Jinnah's principles and edicts serve as a guiding light for the nation. He emphasized that adhering to the Quaid's directives is crucial for Pakistan's development. "The golden principles of Quaid-e-Azam are a beacon for us, and the secret of Pakistan's progress lies in following his orders," he stated.

The Interior Minister called on the nation to renew its commitment to Jinnah's ideals.



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.

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 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.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Thursday September 12, 2024

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.

Zahid Hussain

The latest wave of arrests of senior PTI leaders following the party's recent show of strength in Islamabad is a reminder of the escalating political tension in the country.

What is happening now had been in the works for some time, with both sides bracing for a showdown. The Sept 8 rally and the harsh speeches made by some PTI leaders provided the trigger.

A controversial law to 'regulate' public gatherings in Islamabad, hastily passed just days before the opposition rally, is being used for the crackdown. It has now gone beyond a war of words. And it will not stop here. The opposition's power show, despite the hurdles in its way, seems to have unnerved the ruling coalition. The arrests of the PTI's top brass reflect a beleaguered administration's growing desperation.

Some of the PTI leaders were picked up from inside the parliament building, in clear violation of the rules and the sanctity of the House. It is obvious that the police could not

have entered the parliament building without instructions from the authorities. The defence minister justified the action, saying that it was caused by the provocative speeches of the PTI leaders at the rally.

Nothing could be more preposterous than a senior cabinet minister defending an unlawful action. Some of those detained have been charged under antiterrorism laws. Such blatant transgression has little precedent in our checkered parliamentary history.

By allowing the police to enter the parliamentary premises, the government has dealt a huge blow to the democratic political process and strengthened extra-constitutional forces.

The order issued by the National Assembly Speaker to release the arrested PTI lawmakers is commendable but not enough to restore the sanctity of the House. It does not absolve those on whose orders the police took action. The events of this week have left the country more polarised than before. Most worrisome was the report of the KP chief minister being al-

legedly held in Islamabad for several hours. Such action could ignite the already volatile situation in KP. It doesn't bode well for the unity of the federation.

It is also a testing time for the main opposition party, which faces internal discord. Despite undiminished public support for the party, there is no coherent leadership to take charge.

The highly inflammatory speech made by the KP chief minister and a few others at the rally has greatly harmed the PTI's cause. Such vitriol will further sharpen the internal divide. The party has stuck together only because its supporters revolve around the incarcerated leader. With little hope of Imran Khan coming out of prison anytime soon, frustration within its ranks is growing.

It's not just about the legal battle but also the clash with the establishment that may keep Khan in jail. There has also been talk about the former prime minister being tried by a military court for allegedly masterminding the May 9 violence and the attacks on military installations. The

statements by some federal ministers hinting at such a possibility has reinforced speculation in this regard.

Meanwhile, the arrest and trial of former spymaster retired Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed has also raised concerns about the noose tightening around Imran Khan and some other senior PTI leaders. Some sections of the media have even reported on the former ISI chief being allegedly involved in the May 9 incidents. It is indeed an alarming situation.

It has been more than 16 months since the May 9 violence erupted after the arrest of Imran Khan. It was seen as a well-planned and highly coordinated attack on military installations across the country including GHQ in Rawalpindi and the corps commander's house in Lahore. No doubt, the attack on these sensitive security installations was a serious matter. But it seems that the May 9 incident has been used as a political ploy.

Scores of PTI activists were arrested. According to the military spokesman, action was also taken against others in connection

with the incident, including two- and three-star officers. But no one seems to have been convicted. Many of those implicated were later released by the courts.

Curiously, there has never been any public inquiry conducted into such an important national security matter. Yet it remains a part of the political narrative of the ruling coalition and the establishment against the PTI. Interestingly, the issue keeps surfacing at a time of heightened political tension. The arrest of Faiz Hameed has brought the issue of May 9 back as part of political polemics.

Now there is talk about the possibility of Khan being tried under the Army Act. If it happens it will be the first time that a former Pakistani prime minister would appear before a military court. Any such probability would have serious and long-term consequences for the democratic process and national stability.

It is imperative that the May 9 incident be probed and the perpetrators punished. But the whole episode raises ques-

tions about the failure of the security forces to protect important defence installations. How could a relatively small mob of unarmed people breach security around such sensitive places without any resistance? Why could a motley crowd enter sensitive military premises?

According to the military, action was taken against several officers, leading many observers to ask if May 9 was part of a conspiracy involving those from within. Action may have been taken against those found guilty but it is unclear whether there was any plot that the disgraced personnel were part of.

It should also be probed whether there was any link between those officers and the PTI leadership.

These questions must be answered. The buck must not stop with them though; the responsibility for such a serious breach of security is also linked with those higher up. Rather than playing politics with the May 9 incident, an independent inquiry must be conducted into this extremely serious security matter. -- Courtesy Dawn

Silencing Afghanistan's women**Rafia Zakaria**

There is no doubt that many have had a role in Afghanistan's destruction, but the question of who exactly is to blame for the country's current condition is a thorny and vexing one.

This week, the Republican Party came up with its own report regarding the issue, pinning the blame squarely on the Biden administration for the botched American pullout, following Donald Trump's withdrawal deal. The report alleges: "The administration's unconditional surrender and the abandonment of our Afghan allies, who fought alongside the US military against the Taliban — their brothers in arms — is a stain on this administration."

Republican Congressman Michael McCaul, chair of the US House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee, said that he would use all tools at his disposal to make sure that the Biden administration would be held accountable for "the catastrophic failure of epic proportions their decisions caused".

As is always the case with matters related to Afghanistan, the assertion is a self-serving one, motivated less by any actual concern for Afghanistan than by a desire and an attempt to come up with material with which to jab the ascending star of the Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris. In truth, both sides, the Democrats and the Republicans, are equally to blame; both had the power to change things and chose not to. There was always bipartisan support for propping up the always flailing and utterly corrupt Afghan governments that ruled from Kabul.

Both sides knew about the hundreds of millions of dollars that had been sunk into development projects and that were supposed to win 'hearts and minds' but that really only padded the pockets of various American contracting companies. Afghanistan remained the underdeveloped hinterland beyond the immediate reaches of Kabul, warlords were paid off to maintain the appearance of some semblance of control and there was never more than superficial sup-

port for the American-led effort.

Whatever the case, it is the people of Afghanistan, especially the women, who have paid the heaviest price for Taliban misrule, American incompetence, the avarice of various caretaker Afghan governments, and a botched withdrawal. Just as the Americans held up as their vaunted excuse for invasion their shining selfless cause for 'liberation' (that was guiding their bombs), the Taliban have once again decided to make one half of the Afghan population the target of their intransigence and tyranny.

Just as we have witnessed before, the present round of Taliban degradations began with the impositions of edicts — for women to wear the burqa and to always be accompanied by a male guardian. Then universities were closed and education beyond sixth grade banned, making schooling impossible unless it was in secret. We also saw a ban on beauty parlours so that women were even denied that one remaining avenue of employment and gathering. Today, hardly any

woman can work outside the home; it might be possible in a handful of cases, but according to women's rights groups, the bureaucracies involved make it all but impossible.

Even all of that was not enough. In the last week of August, the Taliban imposed a new ban that is unprecedented. Now women's voices — in the literal sense — have been all but forbidden.

The latest edict says that women are not to recite poetry aloud, they are not to speak loudly or in public at all — even if they are all covered up. Effectively, this would mean a curb on virtually everything — from a fully covered woman speaking to a women's gathering, to women who want to go to the market with a male guardian or by themselves.

For its part, an increasingly imaginary 'international community' and the UN have only issued a few feeble and robotic warnings. The UN human rights chief Volker Turk has called the measure "outrageous" and warned that the measure, which is known as the vice and virtue law, and that has been formally codified,

would bring about "unparalleled repression" to half of the country's population. Even so, the UN Security Council failed to unanimously condemn the measure.

China, Russia and Algeria did not add their voice to the majority consensus that condemned "in the strongest terms the Taliban's continued systemic gender discrimination".

The fact that they did not shows just how fractured and ineffectual the international community is. No country has formally recognised the Taliban regime and Afghan foreign reserves remain frozen as sanctions remain in place.

The latest round of measures against Afghan women suggest that the Taliban are no longer concerned even about the religious perspective as they continue to impose restrictions.

Instead, Afghan women seem to have become hostages that are being used by the Taliban to gain the concessions that they desperately need to keep some semblance of an economy going in the country they rule.

It appears that the idea is that if they continue to come up with and then impose ever wilder and more draconian restrictions on Afghan women then perhaps the 'international community' will ultimately be galvanised enough to beg the Taliban to ease some of them in exchange for some portion of frozen funds or some other similar concession. The fact that this has not happened yet, does not appear to have shown the Taliban regime that it is unlikely to work in the future.

In the meantime, Afghan women who cannot get an education, cannot work, cannot leave their homes, cannot do any business by themselves, and cannot go to get their hair cut are not going to be able to speak aloud outside their homes.

In this sense, their existence has been all but eliminated. Hostages in their own country, targeted by the men who have been born and raised in the same land, they must endure the world's most difficult, misogynistic conditions and bear the cost of mistakes that they never made.

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 exiting 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. However, 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 purportedly 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-ballyhoed 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 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 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

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

regarding 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.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah flanked by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori talking to Media at Mazar-e-Quaid on the occasion of the 76th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

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.

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.

Director General of KPRA, Fouzia Iqbal, welcomed the Advisor with a bouquet and, along with her team, provided a detailed presentation on KPRA revenue collection for the first two months of the ongoing financial year. The KPRA has been given a revenue target of Rs. 47 billion for the fiscal year 2024-25, which is approximately 34% higher than last year's target of Rs. 35 billion.

The Advisor was informed that KPRA collected Rs. 7.17 billion in the first two months of the current financial year, reflecting a 45% growth compared to the same period last year.

The Advisor praised the efforts of the KPRA team and emphasized the importance of focusing on this year's revenue target.

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.

During a raid, 20 cartons were seized and ANF after a thorough examination of the consignment, recovered nearly 37 grams Ice, absorbed in each article.

A total 37 kg Ice was recovered which was absorbed in 500 pairs of footwear. The consignment was booked by a resident of Rawalpindi. ANF team is conducting raids to net the accused, he informed.

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.

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.

She approved a proposal to increase number of provincial border posts, and directed the police authorities to immediately conduct special training of the police personnel posted at border posts. She also directed the relevant authorities to provide armored personnel carriers (APC), bullet-proof vehicles and jackets to police personnel.

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 while the depth was 10 km. Machinery and staff have been put on alert.



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

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," stated Dr. Muhammad Saqib Aziz, CEO of the PHC.

The Lahore district recorded the highest number of closures.

Eight lakh kids get anti-polio doses in Multan

MULTAN (APP): About 800,000 kids were administered anti-polio doses in the ongoing three-day campaign in district.

According to official sources, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Wasim Hamid Sindhu also instructed follow campaign for another two days in order to meet target to vaccinate one million kids against the crippling disease. He appreciated that there was no complain about any hurdle from parents for vaccination of the kids. However, he urged parents to keep extending cooperation towards the teams.

He also directed field staffers to mark the homes wherein they provided anti-polio doses.

One die, two injured in traffic accident

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): One person was killed and two others were injured as a loading vehicle collided with a pickup van on Indus Highway here on Wednesday. According to the spokesman of Rescue 1122 Lakki Marwat, the incident took place near Kurram Bridge when the two vehicles collided with each other. As a result, he said, Imran died on the spot while Shafiq and Momin sustained injuries.

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.

He highlighted that 26 universities are operating without permanent vice chancellors and have been forced to accept acting vice chancellors in violation of regulations.

Kundi also pointed out that PPP members of the provincial assembly have submitted call for attention against the sale of university lands, and orders for action have been issued from the Governor House.

He assured that as long as he remains Chancellor, he will prevent any sale of university land. The delegation praised the Governor's support and commitment.



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

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. Special Secretary Development Syed Wajid Ali Shah, Additional Secretary Development, Chief Planning Officer Abdul Haq Bhatti, and other officials were present at the meeting. Medical Superintendents from General Hospital, Services Hospital, and Yaki Gate Hospital, including Dr. Faryad, Dr. Abdul Mudabbar, and Dr. Riaz, participated via video link to provide updates on the projects' progress.

The minister conducted a detailed review of each hospital's ongoing work and stressed the need for strict adherence to timeline to ensure the smooth execution of the projects.



LAHORE: Quaid-e-Azam's death anniversary, female students view a memorial photo exhibition at Nazaria-i-Pakistan Trust.

Al-Shifa Trust screens 175,000 children at free eye camps

RAWALPINDI (APP): Al-Shifa Trust has screened around 175,000 students in one year at 550 free eye camps organized in the deprived areas of the country.

Deputy General Manager of Al-Shifa Center for Community Ophthalmology (ACCO), Dr. Hasan Raza, told the media that fifty per cent of the kids with eye issues had hazy vision, while many had congenital cataracts.

He said that children were facing blurry vision due to convergence insufficiency, adding "It happens when the nerves controlling eye muscles don't work correctly. One eye turns out when people with convergence insufficiency look at something up close."

The second largest

disease found was myopia, as almost thirty per cent of the children had near-sightedness or Myopia, he informed and added that Myopia is a common vision condition in which light rays should be focused on nerve tissues at the back of the eye are focused in front of the retina instead.

Dr. Hasan said that the number of congenital cataracts is alarming and it's essential to spot cataracts in children quickly because early treatment can reduce the risk of long-term vision problems.

ACCO refers such children to Al-Shifa Trust Hospital Rawalpindi, providing them with transport and meals.

He said free eye camps were organized in the remote areas.



Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, talking to media representatives at BISP Zonal Office in Skardu.

Home Secretary unveils new probation reform in meeting with US's INL delegation

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of the U.S. Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL), led by Program Officer Garhett Mecham called on Secretary Home Punjab, Noor-ul-Amin Mengal at Civil Secretariat here on Wednesday. The meeting, which focused on law enforcement and the probation and parole system, highlighted recent reforms and collaborative efforts. During the meeting, Secretary Mengal elaborated on the Punjab Home Department's new Community Service Model for probationers. The initiative engages 40,000 probationers across the province in community service roles. Mengal explained that, following international standards,

probationers' community service requirements and durations would now be specified in judicial orders. Mengal further stated that probationers would be assigned tasks according to their educational and technical skills, aiming to transform them into productive members of society. The new model, he noted, was expected to enhance societal benefits and support rehabilitation. Garhett Mecham praised the Punjab government's prisons reform model, calling it commendable.

He expressed a desire for ongoing partnership to advance justice and law enforcement, emphasizing that the success of community service model could result in substantial annual savings for the Punjab government.



LAHORE: Women and Children holding placards and protesting in favour of their demands in front of the press club of the provincial capital.

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. The minister also

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.



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.

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. The bill will be enacted into law after approval from both houses of parliament, he further explained.

Senator Afnan Ullah Khan expressed optimism that the new legislation will bring fruitful results in the coming years.

OEC to export skilled workforce to Ghana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) would export the skilled workforce to an African country Ghana in the field of construction.

An official source told APP here on Tuesday, he said that the demand of Pakistani workforce increasing day by day in the different countries because Pakistani workers are very hard workers as compare to the other labour force of the region countries.

He said that Ghana required flooring and decorative concrete

specialist with minimum of 8 years experience in concrete works, waterproofing, and flooring systems. Well experienced in epoxy and polyurethane flooring systems, capable of waterproofing new structures and existing structures, capable of casting perfectly leveled concrete slabs and seeds, must speak and write English, able to understand construction maps, basic computer knowledge (excel, word, etc.).

The source revealed that Male with the age of 30-40 Years will be the suitable for above jobs and salary package 400-800 US\$ as per the candidate's skills and experience.

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, the sale

President SCCI visits National Security and War Course at NDU Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (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.

Malik highlighted the innovative projects led by the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry, including the Sialkot Dry Port, Sialkot International Airport, and transformative CSR initiatives that continue to uplift the community.

A special thanks to NDU for hosting this insightful session and providing a platform to showcase Sialkot's industrial and social contributions to such a distinguished audience.

BD Deputy HC visits Larkana Chamber

KARACHI (APP): Deputy High Commissioner on Bangladesh in Karachi SM Mahbubul Alam on Wednesday visited the Larkana Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

The BD diplomat interacted with the business community of Larkana and highlighted the potential of doing trade and business with Bangladesh, a press release said.

He said Bangladesh missions in Pakistan have been striving to achieve bilateral trade volume of billion US dollar mark.

SM Mahbubul Alam invited the potential business persons to explore new areas of export and import between the brotherly countries.

He elaborated the foreign investment entrepreneurs from Pakistan to invest in Bangladesh. He mentioned that Bangladesh has been working to establish 100 special economic zones across the country, where foreign investor were most welcome. Larkana Chamber and eminent business persons expressed their interest for wider trade and business relations.

This strategy must address future challenges and support sustainable economic growth across all industry sectors, including academia, throughout the country. Speaking at a seminar on "IT and Future Challenges" held under the aegis of Pakistan Furniture Council, here on Wednesday, he said as the world becomes more digital, IT is now turned to

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 for 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.

KP Govt prepares draft new policy for small industries' estates

PESHAWAR (APP): The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa prepared the first and basic draft of the new policy for allotment, cancellation, transfer, and surrendering of the plots at industrial estates and parks under the Small Industries Development Board (SIDB) in the province.

After a thorough review to make it useful and feasible from all aspects, the policy will be presented for approval.

A meeting held here with Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Khan Tordher on Wednesday reviewed the important points of the

draft policy and presented proposals and suggestions to bring further improvement in it. Besides, Special Secretary Industries, Mohammad Anwar Khan, the Managing Director (MD) SIDB Habib Ullah Arif and Deputy Managing Director (DMD) Sahibzada Zulfikar, other authorities also attended the meeting.

The participants of the meeting were given a detailed presentation regarding the draft of the new policy and were told that after the formal approval, the new policy would be enforced in all prevailing and future industrial parks and industrial estates.

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that to fully harness its vast IT potential, Pakistan needs to adopt a multifaceted approach.

This strategy must address future challenges and support sustainable economic growth across all industry sectors, including academia, throughout the country. Speaking at a seminar on "IT and Future Challenges" held under the aegis of Pakistan Furniture Council, here on Wednesday, he said as the world becomes more digital, IT is now turned to

be a necessity for economic growth, security, education, and public services. The CEO said that the country's young population, with nearly 64 percent under the age of 30, provides a massive workforce capable of driving an IT revolution. However, unlocking this potential requires targeted strategies, he added.

He said that to compete on the global stage, Pakistan must actively promote the export of IT services. By focusing on outsourcing, software development, and freelancing, Pakistan can capitalize on its growing tech-savvy workforce.

He further emphasized the need for increased joint events to foster greater awareness and understanding between the two nations, leading to enhanced business and tourism opportunities.

Rahmat Hindiarta encouraged Pakistani businessmen to explore Indonesia's potential for international trade and investment, emphasizing the need to strengthen business-to-business relations between the two nations.

He also highlighted Indonesia's strategic location and established trade ties with the ASEAN region, offering Pakistani businesses access to a market of over 650 million consumers of ASEAN.

Gold rates up by Rs.2,300 to Rs.264,000

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.2,300 and was sold at Rs.264,000 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs.261,700 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.1,972 to Rs.226,337 from Rs.224,365 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.207,476 from Rs.205,668, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

QUETTA: A fruit vendor sells fresh fig on roadside at Mission Chowk of Quetta.

Pakistan needs multifaceted IT strategy for growth: PFC

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that to fully harness its vast IT potential, Pakistan needs to adopt a multifaceted approach.

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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.

To a question about role of PTI in the current situation, he said Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI), should avoid wasting time of the public through politics of agitation.

He said that Opposition should come forward with suggestions for reforms so that country could make progress in every sector at a fast pace.

US consumer inflation annually rises 2.5% in August, slowest increase

ISTANBUL (AA/APP): Consumer inflation in the US annually rose 2.5% in August, marking the slowest annual increase since February 2021, according to data released Wednesday.

The consumer price index (CPI), which measures changes in the prices of goods and services from a consumer's perspective, came in line with market estimates, and showed a significant slowdown from a year-on-year increase of 2.9%

recorded in July. The figure is also a sharp decline from the 9.1% annual gain recorded in July 2022, which was the highest since November 1981. On a monthly basis, CPI showed an increase of 0.2%, and came in line with market expectations, following also a 0.2% gain in July. "The index for shelter rose 0.5 percent in August and was the main factor in the all items increase," the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.



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

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.

Forty ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, MSC Surabaya-VIII and Diamond Globe left the port on today morning, while eight more ships, Maersk Hartford, Maersk Nyassa, MSC Capetown-III, Eva Hong Kong, Sea Destiny, Nec Bader, Al-Diab-II and Au-Taurus are expected to sail on Wednesday.

Cargo volume of 277,674 tonnes, comprising 200,007 tonnes imports cargo and 77,667 tonnes export cargo carried in 7,779 Containers (3,992 TEUs Imports & 3,787 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours. Ten ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them six ships,

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

Govt departments owe Rs 14.334b to Lesco

LAHORE (APP): Keeping in view the huge outstanding dues amounting to Rs 14.334 billion of government departments, Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider has widened the scope of recovery from government institutions failed to pay the company's dues.

A Lesco spokesman told the media here Wednesday that the company had been



QUETTA: Advisor to CM for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi inspecting the items prepared by Industries Department.

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.

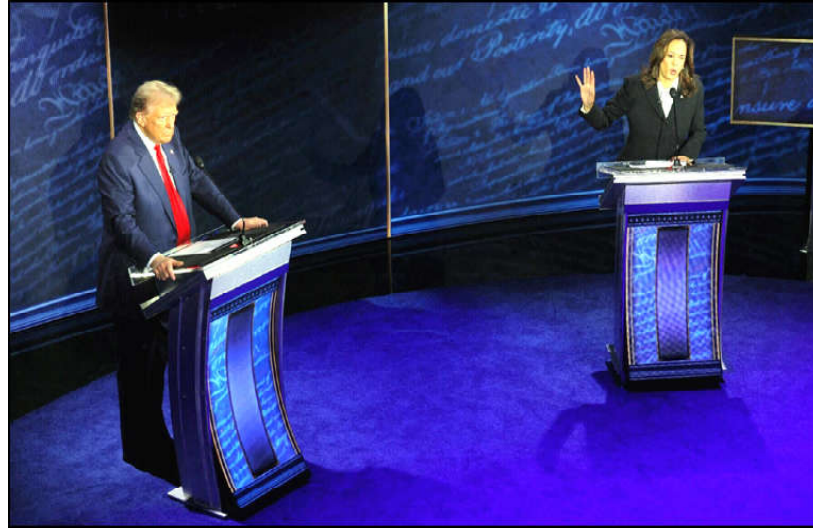
"Trump missed an opportunity to stay focused prosecuting the case against Biden-Harris on the economy and border, and instead took her bait and chased down rabbit holes on election denialism and immigrants eating our pets," said Marc Short, who served as chief of staff for Trump's former Vice President 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' offense.

Trump was asked by the moderators about one of those attacks, when he told an event with Black journalists in July that Harris had recently "become a Black person."



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 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."

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. Kim said such a development is pushing North Korea to boost its military capability, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

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, as a tourist destination.



Palestinians inspect the damage at the site of Israeli strikes on a displacement camp in Al Mawasi.

Zelenskiy says 'victory plan' could push Russia to end war diplomatically

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Wednesday a "victory plan" he wants to present to US President Joe Biden this month would strengthen Kyiv and have a "psychological" impact that could push Russia to end its war diplomatically.

Speaking at Kyiv's annual Crimean Platform event, Zelenskiy said it was important that Ukraine presented the plan to its allies before a second international summit on peace that he wants to hold later this year.

"If partners support it (the plan), it will make it easier for Ukraine to force Russia to end the war," he said. "What is this plan for? It is a serious strengthening of Ukraine and, in my opinion, it will have both psychological and political influence on Russia's decision to end this war."

Zelenskiy first spoke of the plan last month, saying he wanted to discuss it with Biden and his two potential successors after the U.S. presidential election in November.

Zelenskiy is expected to travel to the United Nations General Assembly later this month.

It comes at a critical juncture in the war, with Russian troops continuing to inch forward in eastern Ukraine despite Kyiv's forces launching a surprise incursion last month into Russia's Kursk region.

Ukraine has been pushing for a follow-up summit to advance its vision of peace. The first summit, held in Switzerland in June, pointedly excluded Russia, while attracting scores of delegations.

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 Secretary of State Antony Blinken, shakes hands with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskiy as UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy looks on, during the Fourth Crimea Platform Leaders Summit.

Spain to ignore lower house's recognition of Venezuelan opposition

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government will not take into account a parliamentary vote to recognise Venezuelan opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez as the winner of a disputed presidential election, the premier said. With Gonzalez taking refuge in Spain since Sunday, a majority of 177 lawmakers of various parties in the 350-seat lower house passed a symbolic motion on Wednesday saying he won the July 28 vote awarded to incumbent President Nicolas Maduro.

Following the July election, the Venezuelan opposition has published vote tallies and said the 75-year-old Gonzalez won a resounding victory. But the national election board declared Maduro the victor and he has shrugged off international criticism as a right-wing plot. The US, Argentina and Peru have recognised Gonzalez as president-elect.

On a visit to China, Sanchez said Madrid's position - demanding the release of detailed vote tallies in the presence of an EU mediator while not yet recognising either Maduro or Gonzalez as the winner - was clear and would not change.

"We have asked for the publication of the acts, we have not recognised the victory of Nicolas Maduro, and we do something very important, work for unity in the European Union so

Indonesia kicks off Japan-funded expansion of capital's train network

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo launched construction on Wednesday for a new line on Jakarta's mass rapid transit (MRT) system, funded by a loan of nearly \$1 billion from Japan, in a bid to alleviate traffic congestion.

Sometimes paralysed by some of the world's worst traffic jams, Jakarta is home to more than 10 million, but three times the number live in surrounding towns, and it launched its first MRT line in 2019.

Expected to be completed by 2031, the new line will run 25 km (15 miles) between the city of Bekasi, on Jakarta's eastern border.

Floods in northern Thailand kills at least two, hundreds stranded

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: At least two people were killed and hundreds stranded in Thailand after heavy rains swept through two northern provinces, swelling rivers, inundating settlements and triggering mudslides, authorities said on Wednesday.

The adverse weather, which comes in the wake of Typhoon Yagi - the most powerful storm in Asia this year, has impacted about 9,000 households in Thailand, Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra said.

"Water currents are still strong," she told reporters. "All agencies are prepared and when the current eases, they will go in immediately." The impacts of the storm have killed at least 143 people in Vietnam, where it made landfall on Saturday before moving westwards, with floods forcing the evacuation of thousands of residents living near the swelling Red River in the capital Hanoi.

China concerned about US manipulation of Hong Kong issues, says foreign ministry

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China is concerned about the United States' manipulation of Hong Kong issues and suppression of its development, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

The remarks come after the US House of Representatives passed a bill that could lead to the closure of Hong Kong's economic.

Red Cross pushes for aid corridors into war-torn Myanmar

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is in talks with Myanmar's ruling junta, its armed opponents and its neighbours to provide cross-border humanitarian assistance into the war-torn country, its chief said on Wednesday. Myanmar has been mired in conflict since February 2021 when top generals ousted the elected government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, triggering widespread protests that grew into an armed rebellion challenging the powerful military.

With wide swathes of the country in turmoil, about a third of Myanmar's 55 million people require humanitarian assistance but the ICRC cannot operate in many areas because of access restrictions and security risks, said Mirjana Spoljaric.

"There's a total absence in certain regions of medical services, I mean, a complete collapse," Spoljaric told Reuters.

"There's not even medicine coming in at the moment, and there's very little food available."

During a visit to Myanmar that ended this week, Mirjana said she told junta chief Min Aung Hlaing that the ICRC has the capacity to deliver more assistance.

Kenya airport strike disrupts flights

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Hundreds of passengers were left stranded at Kenya's main airport on Wednesday as staff went on strike over a planned takeover by an Indian company.

The walk-out by the Kenyan Aviation Workers Union began at midnight, severely disrupting flights at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

Long queues of passengers were outside the airport and there were lines of cars trying to access the area, AFP reporters said.

The union said the strike would continue until the government scrapped a plan to lease the airport to India's Adani Group for 30 years in exchange for a \$1.85-billion investment.

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."

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.

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 government" 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.

Bangladesh ramps up border vigilance as thousands of Rohingya flee Myanmar

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh has ramped up vigilance at its border with Myanmar, with at least 18,000 Rohingya Muslims crossing over in recent months to escape escalating violence in Myanmar's western Rakhine state, officials in Dhaka said.

The influx of refugees from Myanmar has mounted as fighting escalates between the troops of the ruling junta and the Arakan Army, the powerful ethnic militia that recruits from the Buddhist majority.

"Thousands of Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh and many are waiting to cross. The situation is dire," said a foreign ministry official, who asked not to be named as he was not authorised to talk to media.

The new arrivals add to more than one million Rohingya refugees already living in overcrowded camps in Cox's Bazar district after they fled a military-led crackdown in Myanmar in 2017.

They have little hope of returning to Myanmar, where they are largely denied citizenship and other basic rights.

Arrivals have more than doubled from what the government estimated earlier this month, despite Bangladesh repeatedly saying it cannot accept more Rohingya refugees as resources are already stretched thin.

"The vigilance at the border has increased, but managing our 271 km (168 miles) border with Myanmar is challenging, especially without a security counterpart on the other side," said another government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said many Rohingya were desperate and were finding ways to cross into Bangladesh.

The government was yet to make a decision on whether to register those who have entered recently and are living in refugee camps, said the foreign ministry official.

"If we decide to register them, it could open the floodgates, and that's something we can't afford," he said. "But at the same time, how long can we ignore this issue? That's the real question."



Senator Gerardo Fernandez Norona celebrates with senators, after members of Mexico's Senate passed the highly contested proposal on judicial reform presented by the government of President Andres Lopez Obrador, previously approved by the Chamber of Deputies and backed by senators at the commission stage, in Mexico City, Mexico.

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.

Ishaq Dar also called for an analysis of the substantial expenditure on counter-terrorism and the resurgence of terrorism, questioning the reasons behind this trend.

He emphasized that production orders are a privilege of the Speaker and suggested that the Speaker should form committees with genuine terms of reference to determine solutions for national issues.

He assured that the government would fully support such efforts.



QUETTA: A rally led by President Milad Committee Naeem Ahmed Madni, Mukhtar Habibi and Jan Ali Qasmi organized by Asalatu Wasalamu Alaika Ya RasoolAllah



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

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. "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.

"How this case began," CJP Justice Faez Isa asked.

"The supreme court had taken notice of the Wapda's under hearing cases in 2018," Wapda lawyer replied. "Supreme Court's dams funds implementation bench conducted 17 hearings," the lawyer further said.

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 Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Petroleum Mussadiq Masood Malik, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for

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.

Regarding the incorporation of development projects in the next PSDP, the Planning minister instructed the relevant authorities to review the development portfolio and prioritize 'advanced stage' projects that have completed 70 percent of their work.

Additionally, he specified that 'high impact' national priority projects should be given second priority, and all 'low priority' projects should be capped unless the necessary re-

sources become available.

He said had the policies introduced by the PML-N government in its previous tenures continued, the country's development budget would now be around Rs3,000 billion, compared to the existing PSDP size of around Rs1100 billion against Rs29,000 billion demands of the ministries.

He criticized that almost 40 percent of the federal government's total PSDP allocations were diverted to street-level projects of provinces during 2018-22, compared to only 14 percent during 2013-18.

He pointed out that due to mismanagement and inefficiency, the previous government allowed undue emphasis on street/local level projects.

PTV, PTV World to be revamped in accordance with modern era demands: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday informed the National Assembly that the state-run Pakistan Television (PTV) and PTV World were being revamped following the modern era demands.

Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said that services of anchors from the private sector were hired to introduce a new face of PTV which truly depicted it as a state institution. They wanted that the opposition members could also get proper space at PTV, he

added.

Attaullah Tarar said that Pakistan would host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit next month adding that it was imperative to revamp the English Channel. He added that the PTV World would become voice of Pakistan during the ECO Conference. To a question, he said that the government had announced Rs 37000 per month minimum wages during the federal budget. The minimum wage criterion has already been implemented in around 15 attached departments of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting except PTV, he said.



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.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding Balochistan Institute of Cardiology, construction of new trauma center and other affairs

After three years Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory made functional in BMC Hospital

QUETTA: The Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory has been made functional after three years in the Bolan Medical Complex (BMC) Hospital here on Wednesday.

The Medical Superintendent of BMC Hospital, Dr. Afzal Zarkoon formally inaugurated the Cardiac Cath Laboratory, which otherwise was lying non-

functional due to technical fault for last three years.

The Head of Cardiology, BMC, Dr. Huma Naeem Tareen, Dr. Abdul Bari, Dr. Farhan Faisal and other concerned participated in the inauguration ceremony. Dr. Huma on the occasion informed that the Cath Lab has been made functional with cooperation of Health department costing Rs. 6 crore.

Two injured in vehicle collision on coastal highway near Pasni

GWADAR: A road accident occurred near the Pasni area on the Coastal Highway, resulting in two persons sustaining injuries. According to reports, a vehicle was hit by another vehicle, leading to the incident.

The Coastal Highway Police N-10, Zone-II Gwadar, promptly responded to the scene, with the in-charge of the Pasni Zero Point Check Post and his team providing assistance. The injured individuals were rushed to the Pak Oman Hospital in Pasni for medical treatment.

The driver involved in the accident has been identified as Baboo, son of Sabzal, a resident of Kilmat Pasni, with an ID number of 52102-4604827-2. The incident is currently under investigation by the authorities.

Kakar forms committee for inquiry of alleged occupation on water supply scheme

QUETTA: The Chairman of Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT) Abdul Saboor Kakar has constituted committee for inquiry of the alleged occupation of the water supply scheme located in Killi Umar Khan, Airport road.

The Chairman CMIT was speaking to the delegation of Anjuman Ittehad Naujawanani Killi Umar Khan who called on him here on Wednesday.

The delegation was led by the provincial president of Pashtoonkhwah National Awami Party and former MPA, Nasarullah Khan Zairay.

Abdul Saboor Kakar assured that action would be taken on proving occupation of the water supply scheme in the report of committee.

Nasarullah Zairay said that the forefathers of the area dwellers had devoted the land to Public Health Engineering for the water supply scheme.

However, a farm house has allegedly been built after occupation against which the dwellers have been observing protest.

He said that no attention is being paid towards the protest and the area dwellers are being forced to vacate the scheme at their own. He expressed the hope that the issue would be resolved soon with personal interest of the Chairman CMIT.

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PM pays tribute to Kulsoom Nawaz's services for country, democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to Kulsoom Nawaz, the former first lady and wife of Pakistan Muslim League-N President Nawaz Sharif, for her services to the country and democracy.

The prime minister, in a statement on her sixth death anniversary, said the whole family could not yet grasp the grief of the passing of Kulsoom Nawaz.

Remembering her as the "mother of democracy," he said that as a wife, mother, sister and political leader, the late Kulsoom Nawaz set an unforgettable example of courage and steadfastness and acted as a shield for Nawaz Sharif.

She said that the late first lady's memorable movement against the dictatorship was a bright chapter of Pakistan's political history.

"Love and devotion to Islam, the Holy Quran and Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) remained the norm of Kulsoom Nawaz's life."

Ali Akbar Baloch posted as Sec. Agriculture; Zahid Ahmed as Dy Commissioner Panjgur

QUETTA: The senior officer of Grade-20, Ali Akbar Baloch, who was awaiting posting orders, has been posted as the Secretary Agriculture and Cooperatives.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department on Wednesday.

According to the notification, Dawood Khan Bazai, serving as the Secretary Agriculture, has been transferred and directed to report in the S&GAD.

Similarly, Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar, Muhammad Arif Zarkoon has been transferred and directed to report in the S&GAD while Deputy Secretary Health, Yasir Iqbal Dashti has been posted as the Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar and Deputy Secretary IPC, Zahid Ahmed has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner Panjgur.

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QUETTA: Provincial Minister Ali Madad Jattak and Parliamentary Secretary Mir Barkat Rind holding a meeting

93 passport offices set up at Pakistani missions abroad: NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday apprised the National Assembly that a total of 93 passport offices have been set up at Pakistani missions abroad in various countries while no such office was working in Afghanistan.

Replying to various questions during Question Hour, the minister said that the passport offices were set up based on the population of overseas Pakistanis.

To a separate question, he said that a total of 625 stalls were burnt due to a fire incident occurred at weekly Bazaar H-9.

Five killed in armed clash over karo-kari dispute

RAHIM YAR KHAN (INP): Five people were killed in armed clash between two groups over karo-kari dispute in Machaka police station jurisdiction, police said on Wednesday.

According to details, armed men of two groups which were in dispute over karo-kari issue traded heavy fire in Daulatabad area of Rahim Yar Khan.

The cross firing led to killing of five people and culprits managed to escape from scene.

Heavy contingent of police reached the scene and cordoned off the area.

The bodies were shifted to hospital for post-mortem.

DPO Rahim Yar Khan, Rizwan Umer Gondal took the notice of the incident and directed to arrest the culprits.

The police was conducting raids to arrest the culprits involved in fire exchange.

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".

14 teachers dismissed for absence

QUETTA (APP): The Education Department dismissed at least 14 teachers absent from educational institutions for a long time to improve the education system in Kohli.

According to two different notifications issued here on Wednesday by the District Education Officer Hafeezullah Marree, 14 teachers have been dismissed from the job in light of the decisions of the District Education Group.

He said that a show-cause notice was issued to 25 teachers for not submitting the response and giving unsatisfactory answers.

District Education Officer said that the salaries of various teachers have also been cut and all these decisions were being made for the betterment of the education department.

Rubaba Buledi says WDD ready to support industry-trained individuals thru Incubation Centers

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for the Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has emphasized the department's commitment to providing opportunities for industry-trained individuals to enhance their entrepreneurial skills.

She made these remarks during her visit to the Department of Industries here on Wednesday.

During the visit, Director General of Industries, Mr. Anees Gorgage, provided a comprehensive briefing on the department's operations. Dr. Buledi also toured the warehouses and display centers managed by the Industries Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi highlighted the importance of inter-departmental cooperation to pool resources and expertise to strengthen women's economic independence in Balochistan. She stated that by adopting a joint market strategy and utilizing e-commerce platforms, the identification of potential markets would create respectable employment opportunities for women.

She further added that the Department of Women Development is actively collaborating with other government departments on various initiatives aimed at empowering and economically stabilizing women across the province.

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QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Social Welfare Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai giving award souvenir to Principal Boys School Moti Ram School A. N. Nasir on excellent performance. Secretary Education Saleh Muhammad Nassar is also present



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting