

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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Writ of state would be established in Balochistan at every cost: CM Bugti

Says we are prepared for taking all political parties along to cope with challenges being faced by Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that we are ready to take all political parties along to cope with the challenges being faced by the province.

He said that President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari want development of the province.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the reception hosted by him in honour of the senior leader of PPP, Nayyar Hussain Bokhari, provincial ministers and members of the assembly here on

Saturday. Referring his government's initiatives and priorities, the Chief Minister said that governance, law and order and climate change are major challenges in the province. He said that we are determined to cope with these challenges especially improving the good governance.

He said that we are taking the coalition partners in the government along. He also said that we are prepared to take all the political parties along to cope with the challenges being faced by the province.

He said that education and health are included in the top priorities of provin-

cial government.

The Chief Minister mentioned that President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari want development of the province.

He said that remarkable improvement would be brought in education and health sectors under guidance of the party's leadership.

Referring the law and order situation in the province, the Chief Minister maintained that anti-state elements are involved in the lawlessness of province. He said that we have already

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ISLAMABAD: Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu salutes during Martyrs' Day Ceremony at Air Headquarters.

President signs 'Peaceful Assembly, Public Order Bill 2024' into law

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Following approval from both houses of the parliament, President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday gave assent to 'Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024'. With the approval by the president, the bill has turned into law and ready to be implemented.

Under the new law, Islamabad DC would grant permission for rallies. In case of rejection, an appeal could be made to the Chief Commissioner.

The bill aimed to regulate public gatherings to ensure they do not disrupt public order.

After the passage of the bill in NA with a majority vote on Friday, Law

Minister Azam Nazir Tarar said the purpose of the bill was to maintain peace during public assemblies and processions. He dismissed the opposition's concerns, noting that the increasing number of demonstrations in the federal capital had caused significant inconvenience to citizens. Tarar added that, "the 'Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill 2024' is an effort to ensure that the public order is not disturbed by public gatherings. He rejected the notion of the opposition and said the federal capital was seemingly "under siege" and the growing number of processions had made the lives of citizens miserable.



QUETTA: Voice for Baloch Missing Persons Leader, Mama Qadir along with others addressing to media persons during press conference, at protest camp outside Quetta press club.

Imran terms amendments in NAB lawas 'catastrophic', against constitution

AWALPINDI (INP): Calling the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments, passed by the parliament and ratified by the Supreme Court yesterday, catastrophic for the country, former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan said on Saturday that in no country of the world parliamentarians had passed a bill just to protect their ill-gotten wealth.

Talking to the media at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, the former prime minister said a small elite holding the country hostage had been able to get a clean chit in corruption cases worth billions of rupees by virtue of these amendments. "These amendments are also against the constitution," he said, adding, "Earlier, it was late General @ Pervez Musharraf who had given these politicians a clean chit

and then it was General @ Qamar Javed Bajwa who allowed them to go off the hook. When I was the prime minister, it was Bajwa who controlled the NAB."

He said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had four flats in Mayfair, while Faryal Talpore, President Asif Ali Zardari's sister, turned out to be the owner of five properties as per the Dubai leaks. "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Zardari were acquitted in five and eight references, respectively," he lamented.

PTI founder refuted reports that he had threatened a NAB official. "All I had said was that I would file a case against the bureau chairman as well as its investigation officer (IO) so that they do not become a tool in the hands of the government to victimize political opponents," he clarified.

Ar Chief says: PAF committed for safeguarding country's sovereignty

ISLAMABAD (Online): Air Chief Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu said the PAF would continue to strive hard for the advancement in space, electronic warfare, cyber, niche technologies and indigenous defence capability to ensure sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan.

Addressing Martyrs' Day Ceremony at Air Headquarters, Islamabad, he said the PAF has a proud history of sacrifice, valour and professionalism.

He highlighted that the Martyrs' Day is an embodiment of exceptional bravery, flawless professionalism, and an unparalleled spirit of sacrifice of the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

CTD arrests 33 terrorists across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested 33 alleged terrorists belonging to various outlawed organisations including Daesh and al-Qaeda in intelligence-based operations in different areas of the province. According to the CTD officials, six militants including a key al-Qaeda member were arrested from the provincial capital. Three were identified as Bakht Jamal, Hamza Ayatullah and Faisal. Aforementioned terrorists were planning to carry out terrorist attacks and were involved in espionage.

190m pounds reference Imran files acquittal plea following restoration of NAB amend. bill

RAWALPINDI (Online): Following the restoration of NAB amendments Bill by Supreme Court (SC), PTI founder has decided to seek relief in the cases with filing first acquittal plea in Accountability Court (AC) through his lawyers. 190 million pounds reference came up for hearing before judge Nasir Javed Raja of AC in Adiala Jail Saturday. PTI founder filed his first acquittal plea in the court following restoration of NAB amendments bill by apex court.



QUETTA: Secretary General of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari and Deputy Chairman Senate Seydal Khan Nasar meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

CM satisfied with successful operation in Kalat Forces killed two terrorist in Kalat IBO, ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Kalat District of Balochistan, on reported presence of terrorists.

During the conduct of operation, troops surrounded and effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and killed two terrorists.

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area against Security Forces as well as the innocent civilians.

Sanitization operation is underway to neutralize any other terrorist present in the area.

Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotage.

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Security forces kill 4 Khawarij in Mohmand

RAWALPINDI (Online): Security forces have killed four Khawarij terrorists while effectively thwarting their attack on Frontier Corps Headquarters in Mohmand district.

The attempt of Khawarij terrorists was thwarted and all four suicide bombers were killed before they could cause the intended damage.

According to ISPR, sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Khawarij in the area.

The ISPR in its statement reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering resolve to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari has also paid tribute to the security forces for foiling Khawarij attack on the FC headquarters in Mohmand.

In a statement, he said the entire nation is proud of its soldiers who are always ready to protect the motherland. He said terrorists will not be allowed to succeed in their sordid designs.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has commended the security forces for foiling the attack on FC Headquarters in Mohmand by Khawarij terrorists.

He said that the security forces thwarted the nefarious intentions of the cowardly enemy who attacked in the dark and sent four Khawarij to hell.



QUETTA: Deputy Chairman Senate Seydal Khan Nasar alongwith Provincial Minister for Education Raheel Durrani inspecting the burnt building of Govt Science College.

Bugti meets Dr. Malik, discusses political, overall situation of Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti visited residence of the President of National Party and member Provincial Assembly, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch here on Saturday.

During the course of meeting, the Chief Minister

discussed with Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch the political as well as the overall situation of the province and different other matters.

Also present in the meeting was the Provincial Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development, Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

Deputy Chairman visits Govt. Science College; inspects fire affected parts

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Deputy Chairman, Senate of Pakistan, Saïdal Khan Nasar visited the Govt. Science College, Quetta on Saturday.

During the visit, the Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani and other concerned high ups were present on the occasion. The Deputy Chairman Senate inspected the fire-affected parts of the College. The Provincial Minister for Education informed the Deputy Chairman Senate about the fire

incident in the College.

She said that everyone is upset on the incident of fire in Science College. She said that the fire had affected the College very much. However, the inquiry committee is doing its job, she added. While on the other hand, the damages caused due to the fire, are also being assessed, Ms. Durrani said. The Deputy Chairman Senate said that the incident of fire is a big mishap. He said that Inspector General of Police is taking review of the incident of fire.



UAE: Mission Commander along with Commanding Officers PNS SHAMSHEER and PNS HAIBAT called on Brig Abdullah Faraj Al Muhairi, Deputy Commander UAE (Navy) during ships visit to UAE.

PM congratulates nation on half-century Prophet hood's finality resolution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday congratulated the nation on the 50th anniversary of the historic parliamentary resolution affirming the finality of the Prophet-hood of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

In a social media post on X, he highlighted the resolution's significance in strengthening faith and addressing ambiguities about Prophet-hood's finality. He stated that on September 7, 1974, the Pakistani parliament played a crucial role by adopting the resolution on the finality of Prophet-hood (PBUH).

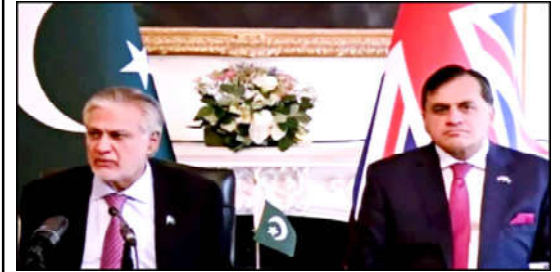
He praised the parliamentarians, Ulema, Mashaikh, and scholars who contributed to its adoption. The prime minister underscored that the finality of Prophet-hood is

a core principle of Islam, central to which every Muslim is dedicated.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday praised the bravery of the officials and officers of security forces for their successful operation against the terrorists in Kalat.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister praised the officers and personnel of the security forces in Kalat for their exceptional bravery and professionalism in sending the terrorists who targeted innocent citizens straight to hell.

The prime minister pledged that Pakistan will continue its fight against terrorism until it is completely eradicated. He also expressed that the entire nation.



LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar Speaking to the media during his visit to London.

PM Shehbaz's tireless efforts debunk Pakistan isolation myths: Dar

LONDON (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar said on Saturday that the claims of Pakistan being in international isolation have been proven wrong due to the active guidance and tireless efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his team.

Speaking to the media, Dar highlighted that Pakistan has secured a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for two years, garnering 182 votes—a significant increase compared to the single-vote majority it achieved 12 years ago. The first congratulatory message was received from David Lammy, the UK Foreign Secretary.

He stated that Pakistan will actively contribute as a non-permanent member during its term and is currently engaged in discussions with permanent

member states to finalize its agenda. Pakistan aims to play a proactive role in addressing global conflicts and plans to strongly advocate for the issues of Palestine, Kashmir, and Islamophobia at the UNSC.

He emphasized that it is the global community's responsibility to implement UN resolutions on international conflicts. He expressed regret that the UN resolutions on Kashmir remained unimplemented.

Similarly, resolutions concerning the Gaza bombings have yielded no results, despite the tragic loss of over 40,000 Palestinian lives. Pakistan will persist in advocating for these issues across all forums, including the OIC, D8, and the UN.

Dar mentioned that he has already taken up the issues of Palestine, Kash-

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QUETTA: President National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti. Provincial Minister Bakht Kakar is also present.

Awais Leghari says: Pak is renegotiating power deals to reduce unsustainable tariffs

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan is renegotiating contracts with independent power producers to rein in "unsustainable" electricity tariffs, the head of the power ministry said, as households and businesses buckle under soaring energy costs. Rising power tariffs have stirred social unrest and shuttered industries in the \$350 billion economy, which has contracted twice in recent years as inflation hit record highs.

"The existing price structure of power in this country is not sustainable," Awais Leghari, a federal minister heading Pakistan's Power Division, told Reuters in an interview on Friday.

He said discussions were under way between power producers and the government because "there

is a clear understanding on both sides that the status quo can't be maintained."

Leghari stressed that all stakeholders would have to "give in to a certain point" - though without compromising completely on business sustainability - and this would have to be done "as soon as possible".

Faced with chronic shortages a decade ago, Pakistan approved dozens of private projects by independent power producers (IPPs), financed mostly by foreign lenders. The incentivised deals included high guaranteed returns and commitments to even pay for unused power.

However, a sustained economic crisis has slashed power consumption, leaving the country with excess

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QUETTA: Secretary General of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, provincial ministers and assembly members meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister (CM) Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

OPF set up PGFRC to assist returned Overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD) has set up a Pakistani-German Facilitation & Reintegration Centre (PGFRC) in Lahore with an advisory desk at Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) here at the head office.

An official source told APP that the objective was to facilitate the return of overseas Pakistanis in terms of their skill development in Pakistan's social and economic fabric for gainful employment.

It is being implemented in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development on technical assistance to the facilitation & reintegration centre for Pakistani workers has been signed.

This initiative is helping to create more job opportunities/employability for Pakistani workers, which will improve economic development in the long run. The centre provides various services including advice on training and skills development.

Technical and vocational training, advice on job market trends and opportunities, advice on finding a job in Pakistan

Entrepreneurship and start-up support, psychosocial support and information on the health system in Pakistan and information on living conditions, advice on getting microfinance and loans.

Ali Muhammad says: PTI founder pins high expectations from Sep 8 rally

RAWALPINDI (INP): PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan has claimed that PTI rally in Islamabad on Sunday will be historic as people from all provinces and all walks of life are going to join it. Talking to media outside Adiala Jail Rawalpindi, MNA Ali Muhammad Khan lamented that the government was creating hurdles in PTI rally.

He said PTI founder postponed the rally of August 22 for the sake of the country. He said, "If PTI founder was a politician, he would never have postponed the rally when the workers from all over the country had left for this rally".

Ali Muhammad Khan said when Imran Khan was told that there was a protest by religious parties and a cricket match, then Imran Khan postponed the rally.

PTI chief has high expectations from September 8 rally. He advised the leaders and workers don't stir up your feelings and stay cool during the rally.

He said Swabi's Jalsa was a historic where people walked for 15km to attend it. Ali Muhammad Khan said workers will come from all over the country in the rally.

He said every leader and worker of PTI will be in the first line when it comes to defending Pakistan. PTI chief has given a message that institutions should not interfere in the politics. Civil decisions should be made by civil bodies and military decisions by military courts.



QUETTA: Women members of Baloch Community are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Manan Chowk in Quetta.

PM Shehbaz's tireless efforts..

Continued from page 1

mir, and Islamophobia at various forums.

Additionally, for the first time, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has appointed a special representative of the Secretary-General specifically to combat Islamophobia.

He noted that Pakistan has already sent nine consignments of medical and essential supplies to Palestine. Moreover, Pakistan has decided to continue the education of Palestinian medical students whose studies were interrupted or left incomplete by admitting them to complete their studies in Pakistani medical colleges.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar stated that efforts are underway to quickly restore flights between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, which will benefit the Pakistani diaspora.

"We've updated laws to meet UK Aviation Authority standards to resolve the PIA flight issue," Dar said. He also noted that a previous PTI minister's statement had led to the grounding of Pakistani aircraft in Europe and the UK.

During his UK visit, Dar revealed plans to privatize Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and outsource Islamabad International Airport, aiming for completion by the 10th of next month. He stressed that Pakistan values its partnership with the UK, with the Pakistani diaspora being a key element of this relationship.

Discussing his meet-

ings with UK ministers and others, he described his discussion with the British Foreign Secretary as highly positive, with both parties committed to elevating their bilateral strategic relations. With over 1.7 million Pakistanis residing in the UK and a trade volume exceeding four figures, the partnership is poised for significant growth.

He said that the incumbent government not only aims to grant voting rights to overseas Pakistanis but also seeks to allocate 5 to 7 special seats in Parliament for them. However, this requires a constitutional amendment, which would need the cooperation of other parties.

He mentioned that the current government plans to introduce a dedicated housing scheme in the federal capital for overseas Pakistanis through the Capital Development Authority (CDA), allowing them to own a plot or house there.

He stated that, through his efforts, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) of Pakistan has approved the long-awaited completion of the Mirpur-Isamgarh Bridge over the Mangla Dam, the country's second largest reservoir, in response to the demand from the Kashmiri community.

Criticizing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government without naming it explicitly, he noted that the country's economy, which was ranked 24th in 2017, fell to 42nd in subsequent years due to the inexperienced policies introduced after 2018. Electricity prices surged to nearly

FIA recovers Rs 39b in crack down on power theft, overbilling

LAHORE (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Lahore Zone has released its annual performance report for the Anti-Corruption Circle.

During the current year, the FIA Anti-Corruption Circle registered 277 cases and 157 inquiries. A total of 177 accused, including absconders, were arrested, according to an FIA spokesperson.

The circle conducted raids on various premises, including those involved in overbilling, power theft, fake medicines, and land grabbing, resulting in the recovery of Rs 39 billion and the arrest of several high-profile individuals.

Notable arrests included the LESCO Project Director, three XENs, and a commercial assistant who caused a loss of Rs 82 crore to the national exchequer.

Additionally, the FIA Anti-Corruption Circle recovered 101 acres and 71 kanals of land worth Rs 8 billion from the Aqaf Department and retrieved approximately Rs 3 crore from tenants. The circle also took action against fake and substandard medicines, registering 11 cases and sealing three medicine factories and medical stores. Recoveries worth Rs 206 million were made during these operations. Furthermore, seven officials were arrested for illegal distribution and substandard wheat, and cases were registered under the Torch Act 2022.

Pakistan airports to go paperless with ERP system

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a positive development, the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) has decided to transition all operations to an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, abolishing the use of paper entirely.

The decision aligns with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directives to digitize government institutions and improve efficiency.

The PAA's ERP system, soon to be fully functional, will streamline processes, enhance data management, and promote a sustainable working environment.

The PM's e-office initiative aims to increase transparency and efficiency within the government.

Writ of state would..

Continued from page 1

decided that the terrorists would be taken to task.

He said that the writ of state would be established at every cost.

Speaking on the occasion, the senior PPP leader Nayyar Hussain Bokhari said that the Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has prepared comprehensive strategy for development of the province.

He said that the circumstances of Balochistan are quite different than other provinces of the country.

He noted with contentment that the provincial government is on the mission of public service.

He believed that the provincial government would come up to the expectations of people.

He exhorted the provincial ministers, members of the assembly and workers of Pakistan Peoples Party to work hard shoulder to shoulder with the Chief Minister in mission of the public service.

Pak is renegotiating..

Continued from page 1

capacity that it needs to pay for.

Short of funds, the government has built those fixed costs and capacity payments into consumer bills, sparking protests by domestic users and industrial associations.

Four sources in the power sector told Reuters changes to contracts demanded included slashing guaranteed returns, capping dollar rates and moving away from paying for unused power. The sources requested anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

On Saturday, local media outlet Business Recorder said in a report citing sources that 24 conditions have been proposed for the transition of capacity based model to take-and-pay model.

However, Leghari that no new draft agreements or specific demands had been

officially sent to power companies and said the government would not force them to sign watered down contracts.

"We would sit and talk to them in a civil and professional manner," he said, adding that the government has always maintained contractual obligations to investors, both foreign and local. He said contract revisions would be by "mutual consent".

Energy sector viability was the focus of a critical staff level pact in May with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$7 billion bailout. The IMF's staff report stressed the need to revisit power deals.

Pakistan has already initiated talks on reprofiling power sector debt owed to China as well as negotiations on structural reforms, but progress has been slow. Pakistan has also committed to stop power sector subsidies.



QUETTA: Student player aiming the target during an Archery Training Camp organized by Balochistan Archery Association and District Education Office (DEO) held at the City School premises in Quetta.

Government making efforts to resume PIA flights to UK: Dar

LONDON (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday said that the government was making efforts to revive flights to and from the United Kingdom as soon as possible.

"We have made every effort, even we changed the laws as per the latest requirements of the Aviation Authority of UK to solve the issue of resumption of PIA flights," the deputy prime minister said while addressing the Pakistani diaspora here.

He said an irresponsible statement of a minister from the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) grounded all aircraft of Pakistan in Europe, UK and the Western World.

DPM Dar said the government was taking two more actions of privatization of Pakistan Airlines (PIA) and outsourcing of Islamabad International Airport. He informed that the process was moving on fast track, hoping that it might be completed by 10th of next month.

He pointed out that Pakistan attached high importance to the long-standing partnership with United Kingdom and the real pivot of the bilateral relationship was Pakistani

diaspora.

"I believe that the British Pakistanis have proved to be the most articulate, the most diverse and the most effective and vibrant not only to the development of the host country but also that of Pakistan," he added.

He highlighted that the British Pakistani community also happened to be the most politically active community among overseas communities in the UK.

"We have two cabinet members, 15 members in house of commons, 11 in house of lords and hundreds of councilors, and mayors and deputy mayors."

Recalling the worst economic and security situation in the country in 2013, the DPM said the major international financial institutions were declaring Pakistan's economy as a politically unstable country, projecting it to be getting default within six months. They were also projecting that it might take more than a decade to get of economic quagmire.

However, he maintained that only one and half year after coming into power, the PML-N government managed to streamline the country's economy in right direction.

He informed that the food inflation came back to only 2% from double digit,

Raouf likely to be removed as PTI Info secretary

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Information Secretary Raouf Hassan is likely to be removed from the position as the party leaders expressed a lack of confidence in his capabilities.

Sheikh Waqas Akram's name is at the top of the list to replace Raouf Hassan as the new information secretary, the sources added. PTI founder Imran Khan also approved the proposal to replace Raouf Hassan.

The change in the information secretary's position is expected to take place after the appointment of the new secretary general.

It may be noted here that the Omar Ayub's resignation as the PTI secretary general has been approved amid reshuffle and restructuring decided by the party's leadership earlier in the day.

Gang involved in 'child pornography' exposed in Pakpattan

KARACHI (INP): A gang in Pakpattan has been exposed for luring young children through social media, recording indecent videos, and using these videos for blackmailing.

According to the details, the gang extorted large sums of money from the victims by threatening to make the videos viral on social media.

The disturbing situation was exposed by a ninth-class student who was reportedly blackmailed by the gang.

The accused extorted over Rs 150,000 from the student, forcing him to repay the amount by using online apps and stealing from his home. The student further revealed that the gang possesses videos of several other children in the area.

Citizens have called for swift justice, demanding to bust the gang.

Following a complaint by the victim's father, a case has been registered at Thana City Police Station against three suspects.



PESHAWAR: Delegation of Germany visiting historical place Ghanta Ghar Bazaar.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The undersigned invites sealed Percentage rate tenders based on composite schedule of rates 2023 government of Balochistan from interested contractor/firms for the works mentioned below:- Tender Fee Rs. 2000 of each TSE/Works and deposited in head of account C02726 through Bank in NBP, Earnest Money 2% of E/Cost offered Rate in Shape of Call Deposit for each work.

Sr. No.	Name of scheme	E/cost
1	01 WATERSUPPLY SCHEME FOR WINDER TOWN FIRST PHASE Under PSDP-5635.	
	i. Civil Work TSE-242509538263	17.214
	ii. S/Inst. Of Solar System TSE-242509538333	23.136
	S/O HDPE Pipe TSE-242509538383	1.448
2	01 WATERSUPPLY SCHEME FOR WINDER TOWN SECOND PHASE Under PSDP-5646	
	i. Civil Work TSE-242509538403	8.812
	ii. S/O HDPE Pipe TSE-242509538423	32.986
3	01 WATERSUPPLY SCHEME FOR WINDER TOWN THIRD PHASE Under PSDP-5741.	
	i. Civil Work TSE-242509538743	25.862
	ii. S/O HDPE Pipe TSE-242509538763	15.940
4	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS FOR WINDER TOWN FOURTH PHASE Under PSDP-5744.	
	i. S/O HDPE Pipe TSE-242509538743	7.977
	ii. Civil Work TSE-242509538793	12.380
	iii. S/Inst. Of Pumping Machinery TSE-242509538813	16.500
	S/O HDPE Pipe TSE-242509538843	4.948
5	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER CHANNEL FOR DRINKING PURPOSE AT SAKRAN AT DISTRICT HUB Under PSDP-5367.	
	i. Civil Work TSE-242509539673	9.900
6	SOLAR WATER BOR FOR YOUNIS MUHAMMAD HAJI CHATTA ROAD Under PSDP-5426	
	i. Civil Work TSE-242509539693	4.7925
	ii. S/Inst. Of Solar System TSE-242509539723	4.415
	S/O HDPE Pipe TSE-242509539743	0.693
7	WSS & SOLAR SYSTEM FOR BHIT ABAD & AMEER ABAD DISTRICT HUB Under PSDP-5559	
	i. Civil Work TSE-242509539763	15.480
	ii. S/Inst. Of Solar System TSE-242509539773	9.670
	S/O HDPE Pipe TSE-242509539783	4.549
8	PROVISION OF WATER SUPPLY PIPES AT MAGSI COLONY 5000 FTS AT HUB Under PSDP-5554	
	i. Civil Work TSE-242509539843	8.3755
	ii. S/Inst. Of Pumping Machinery TSE-242509539813	3.094
	S/O HDPE Pipe TSE-242509539953	14.171
9	SA. OF HDPE PIPE LINE DIFFERENT DIAS S/O MACHINERY AND C/O COMMUNITY TANKS FOR DIFFERENT VILLAGES MOHALA AND GOTHAS WATERSUPPLY SCHEME GADANI TOWN HUB (PHASE-2) Under PSDP-5633.	
	i. Civil Work TSE-242509540023	6.8985
	ii. S/Inst. Of Pumping Machinery TSE-242509540033	10.244
	S/O HDPE Pipe TSE-242509540043	14.0675
10	9000 FT PVC PIPELINE IN AT SYED BARKAT GOTH MUHAMMAD MUSA DAGARZAI AT GADDANI DISTRICT HUB Under PSDP-5638	
	i. Civil Work TSE-242509540063	3.462
	ii. S/O PVC Pipe TSE-242509540083	11.3876
11	WSS SAKRAN AT ACCHAR GOTH AT DISTRICT HUB PSDP-5944	
	i. Civil Work TSE-242509540093	6.031
	ii. S/Inst. Of Solar System TSE-242509540103	3.868

Procurement shall be made the Balochistan Public Procurement Rule 2014. ELIGIBILITY:- The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant Category and registration with tax authority's i.e (NTN, sales tax & BRA Department) where applicable. Three years relevant work experience. Turn Over of last three years. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:- Single stage One envelope. BID SECURITY:- The bid must accompany bid security in shape of Call Deposit of amount specified above in the name of the undersigned form a scheduled bank. TENDER DOCUMENTS:- The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment (Non Refundable) Bidding Documents fee amount mentioned above against each work through green challan under head C02726 Receipt the NIT and Bidding documents can also be downloaded from BPPRA web site. ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:- Tender documents issued form the date of publication of NIT. LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION:- The tender must be submitted latest by 19.09.2024 at 11:00 AM. TENDER OPENING:- All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of undersigned at 12:00 PM. Place Of issuance and Submission will be: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of undersigned at 12:00 PM. Address: Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Hub. Bid Validity Period:- 90 days.

Note:-Only the Original contractor/firm are allowed to participate in the tender with original CNIC. Agent/representative will be not allowed. The undersigned reserve the right to reject all or any bids with out assignment of any reason thereof, it may be noted that (Pay Order and Bank Draft will not be accepted/entertained) and firm's complete title/name should be written on the call deposit. other terms & Condition seen/obtain in the Office of the undersigned in office hours.

Executive Engineer,
Public Health Engineering,
Division Hub.
PRQ No.891/05-09-2024
www.dprgob.pk @dprgob @dprgob @dprgob

Nation honors Rashid Minhas' supreme sacrifice on PAF Day with reverence & pride

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Pakistan proudly observes PAF Day on Saturday, the remarkable story of Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed' extraordinary devotion and unwavering commitment to the country serves as a powerful reminder of the true essence of heroism and cements his status as a shining exemplar of patriotism.

The heroic feats of our brave pilots, who fearlessly took to the skies and outmanoeuvred the enemy with their exceptional flying skills and unwavering determination, continue to inspire generations. The 1965 war was a testament to the unshakable resolve of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and its personnel, who proved that even with limited resources, courage, skill, and strategy can lead to victory against overwhelming odds, a report aired by PTV news channel said.

"Rashid Minhas' legacy continues to inspire generations with his unwavering courage and devotion. A true hero and a shining example for our youth", said Defence Analyst, Maria Sultan.

"As we celebrate Air Force Day, we remember the bravery and skill of our pilots who have always protected our nation's skies. Thank you for your service", Aviation Expert, Salman Bashir remarked.

"Today, we honor not just the heroes of 1965, but also the unsung heroes who continue to serve our nation with distinction. Thank you for your service," Air Commodore (Retd) Khalid Iqbal noted.

"Our air force personnel are the guardians of our nation's sovereignty and we are forever grateful for their vigilance and dedication," renowned Journalist, Saira Bano expressed.

"We express our deepest gratitude for their service and pledge to continue supporting their efforts in

safeguarding our country's skies", said a social media user. "Our Air Force is the best in the world, congratulations on Air force day. Keep soaring high" Fahad Khan a youngster said. "The bravery and skill of our air force pilots is an inspiration to us all. Keep making us proud!" Ali Hassan another citizen of Lahore added, "Air Force Day is a reminder of our nation's unwavering commitment to defending our sovereignty. Thank you to our air force heroes especially Rashid Minhas," a female commented. "The Air Force's commitment to excellence and professionalism is a shining example for other institutions to follow." Political Analyst, Dr. Hasan Askari Rizvi added.

"As we commemorate Air Force Day, we must also acknowledge the sacrifices of our martyrs and their families, who have given so much for our nation's security."



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner addressing the ceremony after inaugurating "Crafts Festival" held in a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

DG Excise chairs meeting; calls for action against illegal vehicle modifications

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Excise and Taxation (E&T) Department of Islamabad has ramped up its efforts to curb the use of vehicles with illegal number plates and tinted windows in the Federal Capital.

In this regard, Director General (DG) Excise, Irfan Nawaz Memon chaired a meeting which was attended by the senior officials, including Director Excise Bilal Azam, to review the department's performance over the past week.

The meeting highlighted the department's crackdown on black-glazed vehicles and non-sampled number plates.

Meanwhile, checkpoints have also been set up at various locations across the city to enforce these rules.

On the occasion, officials emphasized that strict action is being taken at these checkpoints to ensure compliance.

Furthermore, additional counters have also been established to facilitate the issuance of legal number plates.

DG Excise reiterated the importance of maintaining pressure on violators, calling for decisive action against vehicles with illegal tinted windows and illegal number plates.

Irfan Memon urged the officials for special checkpoints to further target unauthorized number plates in the city.

The department continues to take steps to ensure road safety and compliance with vehicle regulations, with officials closely monitoring the ongoing efforts.

IRSA releases 230,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 230,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 256,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 139,000 cusecs and 138,500 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1226.90 feet, which was 178.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 34,000 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs respectively.

ICT Police reunites four missing children with families

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, teams on Saturday from Noon, Lohi Bher, and Golra police stations in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) reunited four missing children with their families. According to an ICT public relations officer, the police received reports from citizens about their missing children, who had not been located despite extensive searches by their families. Upon receiving these reports, the police teams utilized both technical resources and human effort to track down and safely return the children to their families. The families expressed their immense relief and happiness, extending their heartfelt thanks to the police for their prompt and effective response. The Islamabad Police were praised for their swift and compassionate assistance.

He said the workshop participants were briefed on road safety, cautious driving, and other traffic laws.

He also said the ICT Police education wing educated drivers and staff on road safety, hazards of using mobile phones while driving, seatbelt usage, risks of riding motorcycles without helmets, consideration for the rights of other road users, and awareness regarding the use of headlights, zebra crossings, dangers of speeding, and other traffic laws.

Organization members praised the Islamabad Police efforts for organizing the initiative which emphasizes the importance of such workshops in educating participants about various aspects of road safety, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan visited Huawei Islamabad Office.

Mohsin Naqvi pays tribute to Shaheens of Air Force on occasion of Air Force Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has paid rich tribute to the brave Shaheens of Pakistan Air Force who are always ready to defend the aerial boundaries of the beloved country.

In his special message on account of Air Force Day on September 7, Saturday, he stated that despite limited resources, Pakistan Air Force thwarted the enemy's nefarious designs in the 1965 war.

He added that our Shaheens established complete dominance in the skies, and MM Alam set a record by destroying five enemy planes in one minute.

In his special message on Air Force Day, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that on September 7, the brave officers of Pakistan Air Force destroyed the enemy's aerial power and wrote unmatched chapters of courage, bravery, and valour.

He said that September 7, 1965, was a golden day in the history of the

Pakistan Air Force. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that the nation will always remember the unparalleled services and eternal sacrifices of the personnel of the Pakistan Air Force.

He said that the entire nation pays glowing tribute to the bravery and spirit of the martyrs of the Pakistan Air Force.

He stated that the role of the Pakistan Air Force in thwarting the enemy's attack will always be remembered in history.

Mehbooba Mufti urges focus on Kashmir's core issue, not just statehood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti, in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), has underscored that the Kashmir issue transcends the immediate political focus on assembly elections and statehood.

According to Kashmir Media Service, addressing reporters at the PDP office in Srinagar, Mufti criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for narrowing the Kashmir conflict - which has caused immense loss of life and suffering - to a series of political steps, namely the restoration of statehood and assembly polls.

"The BJP has reduced the Kashmir issue for which thousands have died, thousands have orphaned and we suffered losses of billions to the mere conduct of assembly elections," Mufti asserted.

She emphasized that the BJP's approach has been to diminish the complex and deep-rooted Kashmir issue to a mere focus on Article 370 and statehood, which is now being linked solely to the upcoming polls.

Mufti further criticized the growing chorus among political parties calling for the restoration of statehood following the elections, equating it to "looking for shoes after amputating the feet."



ISLAMABAD: IGP (R) Dr. Sultan Azam Tamuri addressing a seminar on International Day of Police Cooperation organized by SOS & NSU at National Skills University.

Speakers pay tribute to armed forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): Young Kashmiri children, representing both sides of the divided state of Jammu and Kashmir, gathered in Muzaffarabad to honour the armed forces of Pakistan for their unwavering commitment to defending the nation and supporting the noble cause of the oppressed Kashmiris.

"We honour the historic and courageous role of our armed forces in combating terrorism and safeguarding sovereignty. Their legacy of valour and sacrifices will be remembered and revered by the people of Kashmir and Pakistan for generations to come," said a resolution adopted by the Sawera Student Assembly (SSA) in a powerful display of patriotism and solidarity.

The event was organized by Sawera Foundation, a not-for-profit organization headed by peace activist Tanveer ul Islam. The foundation has been working for promotion of peace and education among the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) based impoverished Kashmiris.

Those who spoke on the occasion included Zahid Amin, a prominent Muzaffarabad-based political and social leader; M. Islam, a Kashmiri refugee leader; Zameer Naz and senior Kashmiri journalist, Tariq Naqash. The students, on the occasion, highlighted the significance of Defence Day, the sacrifices of the armed forces, and the role of the nation in countering the enemy's aggression. The resolution passed on the occasion also honoured the martyrs, describing their bravery as a source of pride and inspiration for a strong, united, and resilient Pakistan.

Globalization vs. sovereignty: China's balancing act

ISLAMABAD (APP): Globalization, a concept popularized by Swamy in 2006, signifies the integration of economic, political, social, and cultural values across borders, effectively dissolving traditional boundaries. While national security once predominantly focused on military might, modern strategies must now encompass economic stability, diplomatic relations, and the preservation of national values.

The interplay of domestic, international, and transnational institutions has made contemporary governance increasingly intricate. The rising influence of non-state actors and transnational laws is fundamentally reshaping international law and governance, presenting a multifaceted challenge to state legal systems. This evolution is highlighted by significant shifts in the international financial system since the 1970s.

Financial liberalization, which gained momen-

tum in the late 1990s, aimed to reduce state control and promote the free movement of capital. However, this shift has led to a widening wealth gap, with the richest quintet of countries now 249 times wealthier than the poorest.

Dr. Raza Muhammad, president of the Islamabad Policy Research Institution (IPRI) talking to APP, emphasizes the dual impact of globalization on national sovereignty. "Globalization offers tremendous opportunities through technology, trade connectivity, and knowledge sharing."

Dr. Muhammad further explained. "However, it also imposes constraints, such as adherence to international regulations and potential threats to indigenous cultures. Additionally, the competitive pressures can lead to brain drain, challenging national economic stability."

The interconnected nature of globalization complicates the implemen-

tation of sovereignty strategies. Nations face the challenge of managing a web of external stakeholders with often conflicting agendas while striving to maintain their sovereign goals. The flow of ideas, goods, and people across borders frequently influences national decision-making and local practices.

China's experience provides a vivid illustration of this balancing act. The country's strategic attraction of foreign investments and expertise has fueled rapid growth in its technology sector. However, this growth has brought pressure to align more closely with global standards, affecting elements of China's sovereignty.

Amid these challenges, China is also investing heavily in technological innovation and digital infrastructure, aiming to leverage these advancements to enhance its global influence and economic resilience significantly.

Huawei to train 300,000 Young Pak in ICT skills

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, visited the office of Huawei on Saturday to discuss the modalities of an extensive training program aimed at equipping 300,000 young Pakistanis with advanced skills in Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

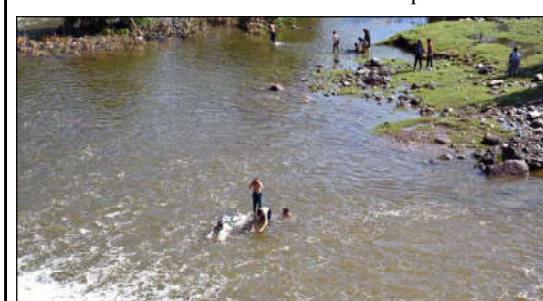
The meeting, which followed crucial technical discussions held on September 4th and 5th, marked a pivotal step in integrating Huawei's advanced training resources into Pakistan's educational framework. The initiative guided by the directives of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, seeks to enhance technical education

by leveraging Huawei's global expertise and cutting-edge training materials.

This strategic partnership is expected to substantially elevate the quality and reach of technical education throughout Pakistan, fostering skill development and innovation.

The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) will act as the implementation partner under the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme.

The collaboration builds upon the foundation established during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Huawei's office in China, underscoring the commitment to advancing Pakistan's technical education landscape.



ISLAMABAD: A view of youngsters bathing and swimming in the Rawal Dam spillway area.

IIUI seeks police help to counter unlawful protest

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Islamic University (IIU) has finalized the hostel seat allocation process, but the self-proclaimed Student Action Committee has disrupted the proceedings, taking the law into their own hands and barring the university administration and foreign students from accessing the hostels. In response to these circumstances, the university has formally notified the police and district administration, said a news release. Individuals affiliated with the so-called Student Action Committee have attempted to falsely portray foreign students as

protesters by detaining them outside the hostels and disseminating misleading information to media outlets, suggesting that these students are also participating in the protest and being barred by the administration. However, foreign students have reached out to the administration regarding this unlawful behavior, and the university has assured them of comprehensive legal protection.

The university administration has stated that this illegal action by the Student Action Committee has compromised the transparent and peaceful accommodation of 2,700 students.

CDA chairman conducts comprehensive review of projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, presided over a high-level meeting on Saturday to assess the performance and progress of various CDA projects and initiatives.

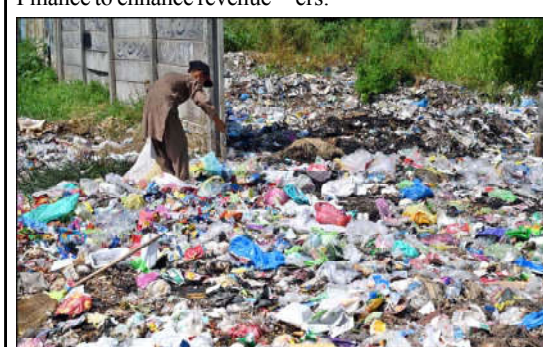
Senior officers of the authority attended the meeting.

Chairman Randhawa emphasized the need for financial discipline to ensure CDA's financial stability and directed department heads to submit monthly reports on their targets and achievements. He also instructed the Resource Wing to report to the Member Finance to enhance revenue

collection.

The meeting reviewed the Islamabad Beautification Plan, which aims to install traditional and cultural sculptures, median strips, and landscaping across the city. The first phase of digital parking is set to launch soon, and discussions were held on introducing more entertainment options, including cinemas and recreational facilities.

Additionally, the meeting focused on upcoming projects tailored for overseas Pakistanis, demonstrating CDA's commitment to catering to the needs of all stakeholders.



ISLAMABAD: A gypsy boy searching for valuables from garbage near Khanna Pul area in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Preparations are under way for Pakistan Tehreek Insaf Jalsa at Sangjani area of the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Sunday September 08, 2024

Furtive measures

Nearly seven months after its controversial conduct of the 2024 general election, the Election Commission of Pakistan has quietly tasked 38 teams with verifying that the physical copies of all election-related documentation match the digital record accessible to the public. The development comes two months after an NGO, Pattan-Coalition 38, first pointed out that critical documents for over a dozen constituencies were missing from the ECP's website. Though the report was initially rubbished by the ECP as 'baseless', the 'missing' documents were quietly added in the following days to the public drive on which election forms had been stored, as independent scrutiny conducted by this publication had also confirmed.

The Form 45 results of at least 41 national and provincial assembly constituencies in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were 'updated' during this exercise, and the development had raised fresh doubts about the legitimacy of the ECP's announced results for the Feb 8 election.

It seems pertinent to recall here what the ECP had said on Feb 12, after four days of silence while the entire nation clamoured for it to release final results. While citing security and logistics reasons for the delay, the ECP spokesperson had insisted that "accuracy was more important than the swift announcement of election results."

This statement had been issued at a time when serious concerns were being raised about seats swinging from victors to the vanquished in the results finalisation process.

The commission had then violated Section 95 of the Elections Act of 2017 by failing to upload Forms 45, 46 and 47 on its website by Feb 22 — the end of a 14-day deadline to do so. It also ignored a call from Fafen to audit the paper trail of election results, under its power to adjudicate results before the expiration of 60 days after gazette notification of a returned candidate.

To date, just around two dozen of nearly 400 petitions against the ECP's results have been decided by the election tribunals set up for that purpose. While progress has been anaemic across the board, it is worth noting that the tribunals for Islamabad and Punjab, which together account for more than 50pc of the petitions filed, remain largely inoperative due to hurdles created by the ECP.

It now seems a given that, just like the deadline for announcing results was missed, the deadline for resolving pending election disputes will also lapse without settling the many controversies surrounding them. The entire exercise has become riddled with controversy, yet the relevant institution seems unwilling to address the lingering questions about the polls.

If, seven months later, the ECP still does not know how many of its documents are in order, perhaps its top officials should call it a day. They have already done a huge disservice to Pakistan.

Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

August was an extraordinarily bloody month in Pakistan, indicating a precarious internal security situation. On Aug 23, a convoy of policemen belonging to the Elite Force of Punjab was ambushed by dacoits near Machka, a small town on the border of Sindh and Punjab. At least 12 policemen were killed in the attack.

Although organised gangs of dacoits have long been operating in this riverine area — called katcha in local parlance — this was a rare premeditated attack on law enforcers, a sign of the deteriorating security conditions in the area.

Days later, several much larger and bloodier incidents of terrorism took place on Aug 26 in Balochistan, claiming the lives of over 50 civilians and security personnel in Bela, Musakhel, and Kalat. In Musakhel, terrorists apparently belonging to the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) stopped vehicles on the highway and offloaded and killed 23 persons after identifying them

as Punjabis through their national identity cards. An important railway bridge connecting Quetta with the rest of Pakistan was blown up in Bela.

These incidents, especially the ones in Balochistan, were extraordinary acts of terrorism. They had grave and broad geopolitical and socioeconomic ramifications, given the critical development projects being completed with the assistance of Chinese money and manpower in the area. These incidents also fitted neatly into the pattern of terrorism targeting CPEC projects.

The security establishment and the governments in the centre and Balochistan immediately sprang into action and conducted at least two high-profile meetings to take stock of the situation. The Apex Committee of the National Action Plan met in Quetta and was chaired by the prime minister, with the deputy PM/minister of foreign affairs, chief of army staff (COAS), federal ministers for planning, interior, commerce, information and EAD, chief minister of Balochistan, key provincial ministers, provincial secretaries, commander Balochistan corps and senior

civil, police, intelligence and military officials in attendance.

COAS Gen Syed Asim Munir later also presided over a Corps Commanders Conference at the Pakistan Army's General Headquarters in Rawalpindi on Sept 3, where the top military brass reviewed the security situation in the country with a particular focus on the recent incidents of terrorism in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Conspicuous by its absence, though, was a meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC), which had almost always met whenever a serious security situation arose in the country in the past. The NSC, constituted in 2013 after the PML-N government returned to power, is supposed to be the highest executive forum in the country for discussing issues relating to national security. The council brings together the top military and civil leadership on one forum, and represents the first serious attempt by an elected government to institutionalise the consultative and decision-making process on national security.

The NSC membership

includes the federal ministers for defence, foreign affairs, interior and finance on the civilian side, and the chairman joint chiefs of staff committee and the service chiefs of the army, air force and navy on the military side. In addition, other ministers and heads of the intelligence agencies almost regularly attend the NSC meetings on special invitation.

There has been a chequered record of NSC meetings since its formation. Despite the fact that then-prime minister Nawaz Sharif was the architect of the NSC, he convened the least number of meetings in his truncated term from 2013 to 2017. He convened only eight meetings in total, which corresponds to an average of about two meetings per year. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi did much better; his NSC meetings tally was eight in a 10-month term, which would have translated to an average of 10 meetings per year. Imran Khan held, on average, around three meetings per year, whereas Shehbaz Sharif, in his previous term, held an average five meetings per year.

Lately, there have been signs that the NSC is being sidelined. It has not met even

once during the current seven-month term of the PML-N-led coalition government, despite the fact that security challenges have increased substantially during this period. The government had created a separate National Security Division in 2013 to support the NSC. One wonders what this division is doing while the NSC has not been meeting.

Despite repeated pleas by various organisations to hold regular, monthly NSC meetings, no regular periodicity has ever been fixed by any government. Instead, the forum has met only in reaction to security crises.

A parliamentary delegation's visit to the UK's National Security Council was surprised to learn that their NSC met regularly every week under the chairmanship of their prime minister, even though the UK did not face any active security challenge at the time.

Almost all countries have a platform for civil-military consultation, with most such platforms known as a national security council. Usually, these councils are strongly supported by a secretariat and robust research wings and think

tanks.

What Pakistan needs, in view of its mounting security challenges, is not to cut down on NSC meetings but to reinforce the intellectual infrastructure of the National Security Division, as originally envisaged for our NSC by the late Sartaj Aziz, who had been serving at the time as the national security adviser to the prime minister. The NSC should meet regularly, at least once a month, and not just in reaction to specific security-related episodes but for active review of the broad security environment, fully supported by well-researched reports. The NSC must also discuss the broad contours of civil-military relations in Pakistan to de-stress any situation before it turns into a crisis, like it has repeatedly happened in the past.

Currently, the NSC is constituted through an executive order, but it may be worthwhile to enact a law to give stronger legal moorings to this body. Lastly, the NSC should be a consultative forum and not a decision-making body, as decision-making in a parliamentary democracy is the prerogative of the elected cabinet of ministers only.

Missing NSC

No lessons learned

Waqas Bin Najib

The prime minister inaugurated Chashma-5, a 1,200 MW nuclear plant, after Eneec approval in July 2023. The project reportedly cost around \$4 billion. However, it appears that we have decided to spend this money on an unnecessary project when the country is on the brink of economic collapse.

In 2021, the Council of Common Interests approved the National Electricity Policy. The policy aims to provide affordable electricity. It requires planners to use modelling for generation expansion planning. They must choose the least-cost technology and fuel.

Chashma-5 was not selected in the generation plans in any modelled scenario. Cheaper options exist to meet the projected demand. Chashma-5 replaces Thar coal in the expansion plan, the other baseload option. A 2021 analysis found that Chashma-5 would raise total annual power costs by \$500 million compared to the least-cost plan.

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission supports Chashma-5, citing its

low cost over the project's 60-year lifespan. However, the levelised cost is not the right measure. The first 20 years of the tariff, which include the debt repayment period, are more relevant for analysis.

Nuclear power generation is no longer a strategic investment for Pakistan as it once was. It is only a technology choice now — an expensive choice. There is no technical or economic justification for this choice. Today, solar projects can replace some existing power schemes if their tariff is below the variable generation cost. Otherwise, Pakistan does not have a supply problem today; it has a demand problem.

Pakistan has seen electricity as a supply problem. It has invested in new power projects, ignoring their long-term impact. The generation pipeline, even without Chashma-5, is unaffordable. The cost of power will further increase with the planned generation projects. Engineers plan the power capacity to meet 100 per cent of the peak demand. The quality of demand is not a criterion. Low-quality demand is electricity consumption that does not produce any

economic output.

One of the issues at the root of Pakistan's electricity problems is the unsustainable demand. Industrial consumption of electricity is a good indicator of that. In 2022-23, the industry consumed only 31,000 GWh (27pc) of electricity from 113,000 GWh. The industry consumed 42pc of electricity in India in the same year. Bangladesh sells 50pc of its electricity to industries. China sells 60pc of its electricity to its industrial sector. In Pakistan, the higher cost of electricity is further reducing industry's demand. Industry consumed 8.5pc less electricity in 2022-23 than in 2021-22.

Today, residential consumers use half of the electricity produced in the country. Most of the electricity generated does not produce economic output or jobs. We use imported machinery and fuel to produce electricity to meet this demand.

Residential electricity use also contributes to raising electricity prices in two ways. The first impact is seasonal non-utilisation of generation capacity. Space cooling (air conditioning) drives the peak demand in

homes. This results in seasonal variation in demand. In FY 2022-23, summer peak demand averaged 29,000 MW. In winter, it was only 18,000 MW. The second impact of residential-dominated consumption is on the average system losses. Industrial supply is often at a higher voltage with T&D losses of 3pc to 5pc compared to 8pc to 10pc for residential supply.

The electricity consumption pattern has deteriorated over the last few decades. In 1980, industry consumed around 36pc of the electricity and residences less than 18pc. The demand profile worsened in the previous 40 years, and we added costly power plants to meet this demand. To illustrate this, between 2010 and 2020, annual industrial electricity use increased by 9,000 GWh. Only one 1,320 MW coal power plant can produce this amount of electricity. It was enough to serve the growth in industrial consumption during that period.

Pakistan needs economic growth. It has a circular problem: it needs cheaper electricity to boost industry, but it needs more industry to lower electric-

ity costs. Natural gas and electricity prices are sensitive to foreign exchange rates. Even Thar coal is dollar-indexed, increasing the economy's vulnerability.

The gas-based captive power industry uses over 10,000 GWh of electricity a year. Shifting this industry to the electric grid can lower electricity prices. It would cut the T&D losses and spread the cross-subsidy among more consumers.

Developing countries like Pakistan cannot afford to serve the growing non-economic demand. Policymakers may need to consider a 20-year policy of summer loadshedding for the domestic sector. Or they could use a load curtailment policy. Load curtailment means reducing the residential peak demand in summer. Each customer will have a limited maximum allowed load in summer. If customers exceed the summer limit, they must pay a penalty for overloading the system and a higher tariff. Distribution companies can implement load curtailment billing with existing meters. Shaving the peak load will reduce the need for more generation projects.

Policies like load curtailment and loadshedding have a political aspect. They go against citizen expectations. Political parties must own the policy and communicate its needs to the people. Electricity access and supply are part of the political economy. All citizens must have access to electricity. Supply could be only to a manageable extent.

Available solutions to economic problems are complex and political. The collapse is easy to foresee without a legitimate political government implementing reforms.

Writing about policies in today's institutional and political chaos feels odd. Nonetheless, we should reform the sector, manage demand, and plan for cheaper electricity. Pakistan should focus on the Thar coal cluster for future baseload power. It must use competitive bidding to contract new power plants. It should only do this at the right time and for the required capacity. It needs to focus on industrial supply and suppress residential demand. These will fix some structural issues and support the economy.

Mapping cities

Arif Hasan

A lot of impressive and expensive infrastructure has been developed for Karachi over the last two decades. However, much of it has wiped out the history, green areas and built heritage of the city. It has destroyed archaeological sites, settlements that are centuries old, religious and educational institutions, people's homes, and deprived a large number of young people of their education and jobs.

Murli Hills, opposite the University of Karachi, contains many layers of civilisation, going back to Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Indus Valley civilisations. They are now buried under Gulistan-i-Jauhar developments.

Bahria Town has swallowed up Buddhist remains and wiped out the intangible culture of the region, along with agricultural land that every Karachi development plan had recommended be preserved. Natural drainage systems of Karachi have also been occupied, adding to the flooding of the city. These areas are now available for real estate development.

Cities that do not have a history invent one. We, on the other hand, wipe out what we do have. The same applies to the case of the Malir Expressway, which is under construction and whose right of way, according to archaeologists, contains important sites.

The government claims that the design of the expressway has been altered so that not a single building will be demolished and neither will any institutional building be affected. However, the community organisations and NGOs residing and working in the area claim that due to the building of the expressway, a large

number of institutional buildings and entire settlements will be demolished.

Judging from previous examples, we have every reason to believe that the community and NGO estimates are correct, and those of the government have not been properly calculated. A number of old settlements are also to be demolished, along with an important library.

A Baloch intellectual, Prof Gulam Hussain, donated a guava garden on which intellectual and literary conversations used to be held. The people of this area nurtured this process. Later, Prof Gulam Hussain turned this space into a library which is used by academics, journalists and students, and people of the area. The library was named after Syed Hashmi, a much-respected local teacher. Even if the library is not demolished, it will be almost impossible to use, since it is located on a traffic interchange. It contains over 25,000 books, many of them in the Balochi language. This will be a great loss not only for the area but also for the Balochi-speaking population of Sindh.

Eventually, developers will turn the library and the land around it into high-density concrete housing creating a heat island effect and destroying the area's rich biodiversity, which has been documented beautifully by the young people of the area.

There are serious irregularities related to the approval of the Malir Expressway by the government. For infrastructure of this category an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required before the construction of the infrastructure is undertaken. However, the design and

construction of the expressway began before an EIA was undertaken and public hearings were held. Also, the question whether this expressway is actually required — given the existing road network — was also not taken into consideration.

Keeping the above issues in mind, certain considerations emerge; primarily, that before any infrastructure development programme is envisaged, a mapping of existing infrastructure in the project area, along with the number of houses and households, should be undertaken. Educational, medical and cultural assets must be identified, along with environmental assets such as flora and fauna and their location.

And most important, the necessity for the infrastructure to be built should be identified. In the case of the Malir Expressway, the question that arises is: was this expressway required, or could the existing infrastructure be developed to fulfil the purpose for which the expressway is being built? To the best of public knowledge, this was not done and if it was, it was not made public before the decision to build the expressway was taken.

It is well understood that given the problems faced by government institutions, they may not be able to carry out such an exercise effectively. So the involvement of architecture and development studies departments of universities is essential. They could carry out such mapping as part of their academic programmes. This would not only help projects, but would also create maps and literature to understand the city better. It would also make them better citizens of a city who no one really cares for, except a few romantics.

Balochistan's riches

Umer Farooq

In these times, when the protesters of the Baloch Yakehti Committee (BYC) are demanding fundamental rights in Balochistan, it may appear insensitive to discuss the province's mineral resources. However, this is precisely the moment to contextualise these resources.

In December 2022, the government quietly pushed through the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Act (FIPPA), a move aimed at paving the way for the various foreign investment initiatives, including the Reko Diq mining project in Balochistan. These projects were envisioned as the beginning of our national economic revival. However, achieving these goals seems difficult with thousands protesting across the province.

Balochistan is rich in minerals but plagued by discontent. The state appears to have failed in addressing the grievances of its people. While the government uses force to suppress dissent, it simultaneously seeks foreign investment for the region's mineral wealth. This presents an alarming inconsistency in the federal policy.

Mining presents a rare chance for the state to rebuild trust with the people of Balochistan. But when we speak of the people, we don't just mean the elite or those in power. We refer to those who are protesting on the streets, demanding justice. They seek fair trials, the right to see their loved ones, the freedom to choose their leaders, and the ability to voice their concerns against the centre. They fight for their rightful share of resources. The old strategy of controlling the people through nawabs and sardars has run its course.

The current mass mobilisation is proof that suppressing the voices of the people is no longer a sustainable option. The state must listen, or risk losing the opportunity to heal a long-fractured relationship.

Mining presents a chance for the state to rebuild trust with Balochistan.

To engage with indigenous people has always been the foremost step in the development of a mining operation — from exploration to mine closure. This sector extends an opportunity for indigenous participation through training, employment, social investments, and procurement. These efforts could make the mining industry one of the largest private/public-sector employers of Baloch in their province. But what we see, on the contrary, is people begging for fundamental rights.

As an outcome of the various geoscience and feasibility studies, the consensus is clear that the most valuable minerals, including copper, lithium, and gold, are concentrated in some of Pakistan's poorest regions, ex-Fata and Balochistan. Yet, instead of designing policies for local development in these areas, these resources are primarily processed abroad, with most of the export taking place to China. At this point, we lack the capabilities of manufacturing to compete globally, however, there could be some initiatives that could help gain the trust of local communities.

Securing access to minerals of Balochistan and processing is essential for a successful revival of the writ of the centre in the province. The access must be managed with care, ensuring that federal policy decisions

do not overlook local engagement at any stage.

The path to utilise Balochistan's natural resources must first pass through addressing the deep-seated grievances of the Baloch people. At the heart of their discontent lies the unresolved issue of enforced disappearances. In such a situation, conferences to attract foreign investment held in Islamabad are irrelevant until the basic human rights of the people are recognised and restored.

Once the outstanding issues of fundamental rights are adequately addressed, the conversation can shift to what is equally important: equitable sharing of the province's natural resources with its rightful owners — the Baloch people. It's an irony that a region home to resources like the Saindak copper-gold project, the Reko Diq mine, and the Sui gas field sees its people languishing among the world's poorest, with per capita earnings below \$1,000. When evaluating any development index — whether it's the ratio of provincial per capita GDP to the national per capita GDP, gross regional product (GRP), Human Development Index, literacy rate, or any other measure — Balochistan consistently ranks at the bottom. This disparity demonstrates a contradiction of the federal policies that continue to neglect Balochistan's rightful share in its own prosperity. The young women who are leading the BYC are offering Islamabad a crucial opportunity — a chance to engage in meaningful dialogue. They are hurt. This is a call to listen with an open mind, free from prejudice, and to expand the conversation to include the rightful and just distribution of resources. The time for action is now.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor / Chancellor Kind Edward Medical University presides over the 16th session of University.

Governor pledges support for International Medical School at Muridke

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has committed full backing for establishment of an International Medical School on Narowal Road, Muridke.

The announcement came during the 16th session of King Edward Medical University (KEMU) on Saturday, where the governor, while presiding as the university's chancellor, praised Vice Chancellor Professor Mahmood Ayaz and his team for their outstanding contributions to the medical field, including offering 100 per

cent tuition-free education to students. The governor stressed his dedication to ensuring the university's continued progress and pledged his support to assist the KEMU in any capacity required.

The session was also attended by Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, serving as Pro-Chancellor of KEMU, who underscored the government's focus on promoting quality medical research in Punjab. He hailed the establishment of the International Medical School at Muridke as a major milestone for the province's healthcare

education system.

During the meeting, the governor also approved KEMU's budgets for the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. Professor Abrar Ashraf presented updates on various development projects currently underway at the university.

The session was attended by notable figures, including Justice Shahram Sarwar Chaudhry, Principal Secretary to the Governor Capt. Saqib Zafar, Vice Chancellor of Fatima Jinnah Medical University Prof. Khalid Masood Gondal, and other distinguished faculty members and officials.



HAVELI KAHUTA: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engr. Amir Muqam offering Fateha after laying floral wreath at the grave of late PML-N Leader and former Minister AJK Ch Muhammad Aziz in Haveli Kahuta, AJK.

CJ PHC inaugurates Tehsil Judicial Complex Oghi

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Justice (CJ) Peshawar High Court (PHC), Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim on Saturday inaugurated Tehsil Judicial Complex Oghi, District Manshera.

He was accompanied by Justice Ijaz Anwar, Senior Puisne Judge, Justice Muhammad Naem Anwar, Justice Ijaz Khan, Registrar Peshawar High Court.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest termed the judicial complex as a milestone to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of judicial system. We should remain steadfast in our commitment to serve all individuals especially those who are less fortunate, he emphasized adding, "we must safeguard the rights of poor and marginalized segments of the society".

People must recognise their real enemy: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Information Azma Bukhari has said that certain elements are making hollow slogans to hold public gathering, but people should keep their eyes open and recognise their real enemy.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, she said, "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has no funds and money for holding public gathering."

Azma said that the sit-in party had converted

into 'chaos' party and added that the venom, which the PTI wanted to spit out against the country's institutions in the public gathering, the same venom it was spitting out in press conferences and statements on daily basis. She said that the PTI founder could go to any extent to come out of jail. If the 'chaos' party would instigate people to create unrest in Punjab, the state machinery would come into action.

Punjab govt committed to people's welfare: Minister

SARGODHA (APP): Newly appointed Provincial Minister for Ushr and Zakat Rana Munawar Ghaus Khan has said the Punjab government is committed to welfare of people, and all resources would be utilised for the purpose. He was speaking at various welcoming ceremonies, organised by the Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N) workers and local leaders, on his arrival in Sargodha in different areas of his constituency, on Saturday. The minister expressed gratitude to the PML-N workers and leaders over their trust in him and assured the people of Sargodha that he would fulfill his responsibilities with utmost dedication.



SARGODHA: Newly appointed Provincial Minister Ushr and Zakat Rana Munawar Ghaus Khan being warmly welcomed upon his arrival.

CM Murad calls JPMC Prof Shahid asset on securing honorary degree from UK

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah congratulated Executive Director of Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for being awarded an honorary degree in the UK for his outstanding performance in the field of surgery.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Rasool, the expert surgeon and executive director of Sindh's largest government hospital, received an honorary degree from the Scottish Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. It may be noted that the membership and fellowship degrees of this institution are awarded based on examination performance.

There are two Royal Colleges in Scotland, the Royal College of Glasgow and the Royal College of Edinburgh. Professor Shahid Rasool has obtained

his first degree from the Royal College of Glasgow and now has attained an honour from the latter.

The Sindh CM stated that Professor Shahid Rasool's services in the Department of Surgery are exemplary. He said, "Prof Rasool has been an asset to Pakistan" and added that not only has he made the whole country proud, but has represented the government of Sindh at the esteemed college.

The Sindh government is committed to its progress and development for the people of the country in general and Karachi in particular, the CM said. Prof. Shahid Rasool has championed several robotic surgeries at Jinnah Hospital and is also credited with giving special training in robotic surgery to several doctors of Jinnah Hospital.

Minister visits Muzaffargarh, inspects registration of the disabled

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Sohail Shaukat Butt, accompanied by Secretary Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Punjab Javed Akhtar Mehmood, visited the Muzaffargarh district, and inspected the process of registration of the disabled under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Himmat Card scheme.

He traveled to several remote villages in the district including Badu Melhi, Kale Wala, Mohalla Peepal Wala and Moazzam Bhattapur. He personally registered many underprivileged and needy

individuals with disabilities for the Himmat Card. He also met families of the individuals and issued instructions for the Social Welfare Department to provide assistive devices and other financial support.

While passing through the route, the provincial minister noticed a school bus carrying children from Multan and personally went to speak with them.

He inquired about their school and even recorded a video message from the children for Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Information Azma Bukhari being briefed by DGPR Punjab Dr. Shensha Faisal Azeem about the department.

Bus operators filling cases in spite of free shuttle service to new terminal: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Saturday said that despite the provision of a free shuttle service to the new terminal in Karachi, some bus operators have filed cases on false and fabricated grounds.

He said that some operators were resisting legal action or pursuing personal interests, attempting to pressure public officeholders.

In a statement, Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport,

Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, said

that the transfer of terminals will be ensured under all circumstances, pressure is being exerted, but the work will continue regardless.

He said that the purpose of shifting the terminals outside the city of Karachi is to eliminate illegal bus stands from city roads. The transport department is committed to upholding the rule of law and complying with court orders.

Capacity charges to IPPs SHC issues notice to federal govt others on petition against payment

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has issued notice to federal government, secretary energy, NEPRA, K-Electric and others on the petition against payment of capacity charges to Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

The petition filed against payment of capacity charges to IPPs came up for hearing in SHC Saturday.

Sohail Hamid counsel for the petitioner took the plea Supreme Court (SC) had ordered to conduct forensic audit of IPPs.

Clean environment for future generations PML-N govt's priority: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has said the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) government is taking comprehensive measures to prevent smog, and provide a clean environment for the future generations as a priority.

"We will have to play our part to provide a clean environment to the coming generations," she said while addressing a press

conference here on Saturday. She regretted that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government did not make any plan to tackle the smog issue during its four-year term. "We, as a nation, has to play our part to provide clean and clear environment for the future generations," she added.

The senior provincial minister said that smog was a gigantic problem, adding the air quality was

worsening and becoming life-threatening for citizens.

The air quality index of Lahore, Kasur and Sheikhupura had reached alarming levels, she added. "If it is not controlled well in time, it will take a dangerous toxic form," she warned. In October, November and December, Lahore's air quality index reaches 450, while it is recorded around 50 across

the world, which is considered normal, the minister informed.

"Diseases due to smog are increasing; most of children are affected by smog. Those who are suffering from cancer and breast diseases are at a risk of before-time death and serious diseases," Marriyum warned. She said the smog problem had intensified in the last four to five years.



PESHAWAR: Political leadership of Tank District meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

Man killed over land dispute

SARGODHA (APP): A man was killed over a land dispute in the jurisdiction of Bhalwal police station, here on Saturday.

According to details, one Basharat r/o Chak no 08 NB had a land dispute with his nephews namely as Ghulam Abbas and Liaquat Ali for a long time.

On the day of incident, accused Ghulam Abbas and Liaquat Ali argued with their uncle over the matter. After exchange of harsh words, they both allegedly killed Basharat with a dagger. Upon receiving information, police concerned rushed on the spot, shifted the body to Tehsil headquarter hospital Bhalwal for postmortem.

12 dead, 1,564 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 12 people were killed and 1,564 others injured in 1,441 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 688 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 876 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

Minister announces capacity evaluation for Children's Hospitals

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has announced that the capacity of children's hospitals across Punjab is being thoroughly evaluated in the light of the chief minister's children's heart surgery programme.

Chairing a meeting at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology on Saturday, he said that a comprehensive review of the heart surgery programme had been conducted. He said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was spearheading the project to ensure that children requiring heart surgery in government hospitals were prioritized.

He said that to ensure smooth implementation and transparency, an online dashboard would be developed to monitor the program's performance. "This project will lead to an immediate improvement in the pediatric heart

surgery system across the province," he said. "The Punjab government is committed to increasing the capacity of its children's hospitals to better serve the young patients," the minister said.

Khawaja Salman added that the initiative aims to establish an integrated system for children's heart surgeries. "Insha-Allah, if we can save even one innocent child's life through this project, our mission will be accomplished," he added.

The meeting was attended by Chairman Board of Management Punjab Institute of Cardiology Professor Farqad Alamgir, Special Secretary Development Syed Wajid Ali Shah, administration from the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, the Dean of Children's Hospital Multan, and the Executive Director of Multan.

MD SEF Kazi get one of Pak top CEO awards

LARKANA (APP): The Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) has proudly announced that its Managing Director Abdul Kabir Kazi has been honoured with one of Pakistan's top CEO awards here on Saturday.

This prestigious accolade recognizes the Kazi's exemplary leadership, vision, and relentless dedication to advancing education and development in Sindh.

In a statement, SEF Regional Head Dilshad Ahmed Pirzada and District Head Shoaib Bhutto including a School's partners Shah Muhammad along with others expressed immense pride in this recognition.

"The award is not only a reflection of our Managing Director's accomplishments but also a testament to SEF's

ongoing mission to improve educational access and quality in Sindh's most underserved areas.

Under their visionary leadership, we have made remarkable strides in empowering students, educators, and communities alike."

This significant achievement comes as the SEF continues its tireless work in transforming educational opportunities in remote and marginalized regions of Sindh, positively impacting thousands of students and teachers.

The CEO award underscores the importance of education in shaping Pakistan's future and acknowledges the managing director's pivotal role in driving this essential change. "This award is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the entire SEF team."



LAHORE: Member National Assembly and leader of PML-N Bilal Azhar Kayani is addressing a press conference in Model Town.

7 Sept reminds of unwavering commitment of Pak Air Force to defence of air borders: Tessori

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tesori has said in his message on the occasion of Air Force Day that September 7 reminds of the unwavering commitment of Pakistan Air Force towards the defence of air borders.

He said, "On the occasion of the historic day, I pay tribute to the

Pakistan Air Force, the guardian of the air borders of the country." He further said that on the 7th of September, Shaheens of the Pakistan Air Force crushed the enemy.

The Shaheens had broken the back of the enemy by shooting down more than 50 planes, he said.

said that in the war of 1965, the Pakistan Air Force showed its great strength and defeated the enemy many times bigger than itself with its spirit of faith.

"Today, Pakistan Air Force is fully capable of dealing with all kinds of challenges. The entire nation is proud of its Air Force," he added.

Governor Tessori

Bilal Azhar Kayani says; Strong economy vital for strong national defence

LAHORE (APP): National Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals Convener Bilal Azhar Kayani, MNA, said on Saturday that economy was a main pillar for strong national defence.

Addressing a press conference at the PML-N Secretariat here, he said: "Only those countries are strong in terms of national defence who have strong economies." He said that whenever the PML-N government came to power, it caused economic stability in the country. He said that during the first six months after coming to power, the PML-N had worked hard and made sincere efforts to deal with challenges facing the country.

Bilal Azhar said that sincere efforts of the incumbent government had

yielded positive results, adding that no doubt things were still difficult for a common man. He said that currently country's foreign exchange reserves were \$9 billion, adding that when the figure would increase up to \$15 billion, things would further improve. The convener said that the government was moving in the right direction, adding that country's currency was stable as it was essential for economic activities.

Regarding inflation, he said that it was at 23 per cent in February, and now it had reduced to less than 10 per cent. The PML-N made a promise to bring down inflation rate and it fulfilled its promise 10 to 11 months prior to the given timeframe in this regard, he added. He said that in six months, per litre price of petrol had reduced

by Rs 21 and price of 'Roti' had also reduced in Punjab.

Kayani said that policy rate of State Bank had also reduced to 19.50 per cent from 22 per cent, adding that according to his understanding, the policy rate had tendency to further reduce. Policy rate had a direct link with inflation rate, he said and hoped that it would go down further as inflation rate had reduced and this would help those who were interested in doing business. He said that remittances were backbone of country's foreign exchange reserves and in July, record figure of remittances had been noticed. He said the government was not only making efforts to control inflation but taking measures to provide maximum relief to people.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner visiting the stalls after inaugurating "Crafts Festival" held in a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

ICCI President, Maldivian ambassador discuss bilateral trade opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): High Commissioner of Maldives to Pakistan Mohamed Thoha on Saturday emphasized the need for direct air links between Maldives and Pakistan to foster brotherly relations and promote bilateral tourism.

He made these remarks during a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), where he met with President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari to explore new avenues of bilateral cooperation, according to a press release issued here. Thoha highlighted the rich trade and business

potential between the two countries, particularly in the export of high-grade tuna from Maldives to Pakistan.

He described Pakistan as a fascinating country with hospitable inhabitants and identified opportunities for strengthening business ties in sectors like fruit and vegetable exports.

The High Commissioner also showcased his country's investor-friendly environment, offering visa exemptions and real estate investment opportunities. He mentioned Maldives' plans to build

36,000 apartments in Male' and invited Pakistani investors to explore this sector. Thoha emphasized the importance of reviving the South Asian Association of Regional States (SAARC) to strengthen regional cooperation.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari commended the High Commissioner's efforts to advance bilateral business ties and suggested collaborative efforts to promote tourism.

He also highlighted the potential for exchange programs, close collaboration between Chambers of Commerce.



ISLAMABAD: People buying used vehicles parts at Mandi Morr area of the Federal Capital.

Pakistani fruit, juice exports to China surge this year

BEIJING (APP): The latest data from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) shows that during the January-July period of 2024, Pakistan's frozen orange juice exports to China reached unprecedented levels, showcasing the growing demand for Pakistani produce in the Chinese market.

Commercial Counselor at the Pakistan Embassy in China, Ghulam Qadir told China Economic Net that the surge in exports can be attributed to the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreements between the two countries, as well as the concerted efforts by the Pakistani government and exporters to diversify and expand their international markets. He added that China's growing appetite for high-quality, nutritious fruits and juices has provided a lucrative opportunity for Pakistani producers to capitalize on

this market.

"From January-July 2024 fruit juices and other related items' exports to China crossed \$1.546 million, an increase of 226% as compared to last year in the same period. Frozen orange juice commodity code (20091100) crossed \$1.54 million. Pakistani fresh mangoes are also gaining popularity in the Chinese market and in the first seven months 4,214 kg of mangoes were imported by Chinese enterprises. In contrast, Pakistan's Prime Minister also gifted Pakistani mangoes to Chinese leadership and Chinese enterprises this year", he added. He further said that the robust export growth underscores the immense potential for further collaboration and trade between Pakistan and China in the agricultural sector. He said that as both countries continue strengthening their economic ties.



LAHORE: A gypsy woman busy in preparing traditional basket with branches of tree outside her makeshift house on the bank of River Ravi in the Provincial Capital.

Commissioner orders consistent inspection of vegetables supply chain

MULTAN (APP): Commissioner Multan Division Maryam Khan ordered on Saturday consistent inspection of supply chain of vegetable markets to ensure transparency in the supply and demand system with an aim to provide affordable vegetables to the public.

Addressing a meeting here, she stressed the importance of stabilising prices of essential vegetables, particularly potatoes, onions, and tomatoes, and some others. There should be consistent supply at lower prices, she said.

"The Punjab government has assigned us the task of controlling artificial inflation to provide direct relief to the citizens," said Maryam Khan.

She directed the deputy commissioners of Vehari, Multan, Lodhran and Khanewal to take proactive measures to maintain price stability across their respective districts. "Deputy commissioners should consult all stakeholders and issue notifications for official prices after thorough discussions," she added.

DC Multan Wasim Hamid Sindhu highlighted that strict monitoring of prices, from the markets to retail stores, was underway. He warned that profiteering, especially in local agricultural products, would not be tolerated.

The meeting was attended by traders from vegetable markets across the division, along with officials from the relevant departments.

Mazhar Nasir says: Cut interest rates to revive economy

KARACHI (INP): Syed Mazhar Ali Nasir, Former Senior Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Vice Chairman UBG Sindh Region has appealed to the government and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to produce the long-standing demand of the business community for an immediate reduction in bank interest rates in the upcoming Monetary Policy.

With inflation rates already dropping to 9%, Syed Mazhar Ali Nasir emphasized that a 4% reduction in interest rates is crucial to provide relief to the business community, which is facing economic challenges due to exorbitant power and gas charges. This has resulted in diminished economic activity, reduced exports, lower foreign direct investment, and increased unemployment. Pakistan's economy is currently facing a critical juncture, with a slowing GDP growth rate, a widening trade deficit, and decreasing foreign exchange reserves. The country's economic growth has been hindered by high interest rates.

Gold rates decline by Rs.2,000 to Rs.261,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.2,000 and was sold at Rs.261,500 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs.263,500 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,714 to Rs. 224,194 from Rs. 225,908 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.205,511 from Rs. 207,083, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs.50 to Rs.2,850 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,443.41.



MULTAN: Farmers ladies are busy plucking green chilli from field.

FCCI holds function to honour martyrs' families, talented people of Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) organised a function here on Saturday to honour families of martyrs, and present awards to local talented people, who excelled in their specific fields.

Renowned scholar, philanthropist and businessman Syed Sarfarz Ahmad Shah, speaking at the ceremony, appreciated the efforts, saying it would produce a chain reaction and motivate elders of other cities to arrange such functions to highlight their local asset and pride at the national level. He mentioned

General Aamir Riaz of Pak Army, who hailed from Faisalabad, saying everyone appreciated the expertise and professionalism of General Riaz by dubbing him as the "brain of the army" and "engine of the army".

About Air Marshal Arshad Mahmood Malik, he said he was very humble and Allah likes humility and rewards such personalities with its unending bounties.

Akhawat Foundation Chairman Dr Amjad Saqib said his great grandfather, grandfather and father were buried in a small village near Dijkot and he was a true Faisalabadian.



LAHORE: Vendor is busy in displaying traditional carpet to attract customers at his roadside setup.

Kissan Ittehad calls for 'agriculture emergency' amid growing challenges

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan Kissan Ittehad Chairman Khalid Khokhar has urged the government to declare an agriculture emergency in the country to address the sector's mounting challenges and uplift the living standards of the farming community.

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, he highlighted the rising cost of production, low crop prices, and the adverse impacts of climate change as the key threats facing farmers. He expressed concerns over remarkable decline in cotton production, a vital cash crop for Pakistan. He warned that the slump in cotton output would inevitably impact the textile industry.

"Agriculture is the backbone of our economy," he said, fearing that the upcoming wheat season could also see a decline in its yield.

The Kissan Ittehad chairman regretted that political leaders had failed to provide necessary attention and support to the sector. He demanded the government ensure timely sale and payment for sugarcane crop. He urged swift action to resolve the issue of unpaid dues owed by sugar mills, which he estimated at Rs 20 billion. "Farmers need immediate relief, and these payments should be made without further delay," he stressed.

Khokhar also raised alarm over the cost of electricity for agricultural use, which he said had surged to nearly Rs 60 to 70 per unit. This, he pointed out, was higher than the rate offered to industries, which stands at Rs 48 per unit. "For the

Around 40 technical trade centers blacklisted: BEOE

ISLAMABAD (APP): Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) an attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HD) had blacklisted around 40 technical trade centers across the country due to the complaints and involved in fraud cases with innocent citizens.

An official source told APP that the main function of this department is to control and regulate emigration under the Emigration Ordinance, 1979, and promote the Emigration of Pakistani Citizens. It is also the responsibility to look after the emigrants' interests and welfare and advise the Federal Government on emigration policies and procedures. Monitoring and supervision of Overseas Employment Promoters through 7

Protectorates of Emigrants Offices and Processing of Overseas Employment Promoters (OEP) Licences, he added. BEOE also provides the platform for pre-departure briefing to Emigrants and mandatory Insurance coverage to Pakistani workers abroad. Memorandum of Understanding with Foreign Countries for Export of Manpower and Management of State Life Emigrants Insurance Fund (SLEIF) were the main functions of this department. He said that BEOE has advised the foreign job-seekers to only reach out to the valid Overseas Employment Promoters to avert any loss of time, money, and their energies. He said there were only 2,577 Overseas Employment Promoters (OEP) licenses that were valid as more than 5048 licenses.



HYDERABAD: A worker preparing rickshaw body at his workplace Goods Naka Road.

CEO Metrix Pakistan praises KP government for promoting Youth, IT Sector

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Founder and CEO of Metrix Pakistan Hassan Nisar on Saturday praised the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for its continued support in helping foster a thriving business ecosystem within the region. Talking to APP, Hassan highlighted the crucial role played by various governmental departments, including the Directorate of Youth Affairs, in making Metrix Pakistan's initiatives a resounding success.

He said, "We have successfully held over 25 events, summits and networking forums under the umbrella of Metrix Pakistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the past few years. Such success would not have materialized without the KP government's full support because they backed our programs very strongly including all relevant ministers."

Nisar claimed that out of all the governments he has worked with in Pakistan, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stands out as most committed to empowering its youth and developing the IT sector. "I have worked with different governments across the country but KP is unique in placing utmost importance on its youth and IT sectors," he added.

He also highlighted the potential for exchange programs, close collaboration between Chambers of Commerce.

DC inaugurates Kissan Card programme

LODHRAN (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abdul Rauf Mahr formally inaugurated Punjab Chief Minister's Kissan Card programme, here on Saturday. He distributed the cards among farmers at Kanju Hall District Council. Deputy Director Agriculture Extension Muhammad Zafar Malik, Assistant Director Agriculture Muhammad Dilshad, officials, and a large number of farmers were present. Abdul Rauf Mahr told farmers distribution of Punjab Chief Minister's Kissan Cards had been started across the

district. He said that eligible farmers were receiving approval messages for the Kissan Card, and they were collecting their cards from distribution centres. He said that Kissan Card distribution centres had been established in all three tehsils of the district. The DC said that under the Punjab Chief Minister's Agriculture Transformation Programme, exemplary steps were being taken for prosperity of farmers. He said that so far, 22,516 applications had been received for the Kissan Card across the district.



RAWALPINDI: Citizens shopping at the Sahulat Bazaar at 6th Road set up by the Punjab government in the city.

Work on DI Khan Int'l airport, inauguration of Chashma lift bank canal this year: Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority has started the process of purchasing land for the Dera Ismail Khan International Airport and work on the project would start this year.

In a statement issued here Saturday, he said that this project of significant importance would change the fate of not only DI Khan but also the southern districts. The governor

expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the relevant ministry over the project.

Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Authority has written instructions to Deputy Commissioner DI Khan to acquire 1817 acres of land for DI Khan International Airport, said a letter issued by Additional Director Estate. The letter sought acquisition of land in Moza Yarik and Galloti for construction of the project. Meanwhile district

President of PPP Tank Sardar Hidayatullah Khan Gandapur, former Nazim Union Council Gul Imam Shakir Khan Kundi called on the governor here at the governor house and discussion issues related to Tank Zam.

Faisal Karim Kundi said that construction of small dams was inevitable for development of the province and prosperity of the people, adding that the small dams in the southern districts of KP would generate electricity.

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill 61 in 48 hours as UN pursues vaccinations

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli military strikes across the Palestinian Gaza Strip killed at least 61 people in the space of 48 hours, local medics said on Saturday, as Israeli forces battled Hamas-led militants in the territory. Eleven months into the war, numerous rounds of diplomacy have so far failed to clinch a ceasefire deal to end the conflict and bring the release of Israeli and foreign hostages held in Gaza as well as many Palestinians jailed in Israel. An Israeli airstrike in the Halima al-Sa'diyya school compound serving as a shelter for displaced people in the Jabalia urban refugee camp killed at least eight people and wounded 15 others, medics said. The Israeli military said the strike had targeted a Hamas command centre inside the compound. It accused the Islamist militant group of repeatedly exploiting civilians and civilian infrastructure for military purposes, an allegation Hamas denies. Five more people were killed in a strike on a house in Gaza City. Later on Saturday, an Israeli strike killed four people and wounded 25 others at Amr Ibn Ala's school, which also houses displaced families in the Sheikh Radwan suburb of Gaza City, Palestinian medics said. The Israeli military said the air strike targeted a command center operated by Hamas gunmen in the compound that had previously served as a school. Palestinian health officials said Israeli military strikes had killed so far 28 people across the Gaza Strip on Saturday. The armed wings of the Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah groups said they had fought Israeli troops in Gaza City, in central areas and in the south with anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs, and in some incidents detonated bombs to target tanks and other army vehicles. The two warring sides continued to blame one another for the failure of mediators, including Qatar, Egypt and the United States, to broker a ceasefire. The U.S. is preparing to present a new proposal, but the prospects of a breakthrough appear dim as gaps between the sides remain large. CIA Director William Burns, the chief U.S. negotiator, told an event in London that a more detailed proposal would be made in the coming days. On Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said it was incumbent on both Israel and Hamas, which ran Gaza before the war and was responsible for the Oct. 7 killing spree against Jews in Israel that triggered it, to make concessions to reach a deal.



Cars are covered in debris at a parking lot after Super Typhoon Yagi hit Hai Phong.

Biden promotes administration's rural electrification funding in Wisconsin

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden is returning to southwest Wisconsin to make good on his promise to provide new investments in rural electrification and other infrastructure improvements. Biden will be in Westby on Thursday to announce \$7.3 billion in investments for 16 cooperatives that will provide electricity for rural areas across 23 states. The intent is to bring down the cost of badly needed internet connections in hard-to-reach areas. Funding for the project comes from the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act, signed into law in August 2022 and passed in Congress along party lines. The law invests roughly \$13 billion in rural electrification across multiple programs and will create 4,500 permanent jobs and 16,000 construction jobs, according to the White House. The administration calls it the largest investment in rural electrification since the New Deal in the 1930s. Democrats consider Wisconsin to be one of the must-win states in November's presidential election between Republican Donald Trump and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. Biden won the state in 2020 by about 20,000 votes, flipping Wisconsin to the Democratic column after Trump narrowly won it in 2016. And Thursday's trip will be a return to a state that Biden visited early in his presidency. Then, he made a promise to provide, among other infrastructure improvements, better internet to rural areas.

Super Typhoon Yagi hits Vietnam after leaving deadly trail in China, the Philippines

Monitoring Desk
HAI PHONG: Super Typhoon Yagi uprooted thousands of trees, swept ships and boats out to sea and ripped roofs off houses in northern Vietnam on Saturday, killing at least three people, after leaving a trail of destruction in Southern China and the Philippines. The storm made landfall in Vietnam's Hai Phong and Quang Ninh provinces, packing winds exceeding 149 kilometres per hour, Vietnam's National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting said. The death toll in Vietnam from storm-related damage rose to four as roofing torn away by Yagi flew through the air, killing three residents of Quang Ninh, state media said. A man in Hai Duong province further inland was killed on Friday when heavy winds brought down a tree. More than a dozen others, believed to be sailors on fishing boats, are missing. "It has been years since I witnessed a typhoon this big," said Tran Thi Hoa, a 48-year-old woman from Hai Phong. "It was scary. I stayed indoors, after locking all my windows. However, the sound of the wind and the rain was unbelievable," she told AFP. In Hai Phong, AFP reporters encountered streets filled with fallen trees, metal roofing and broken signboards that had been ripped off properties. Before hitting Vietnam, Yagi tore through Southern China and the Philippines, killing at least 24 people and injuring dozens of others.



A supporter of Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump wears a coat with an image of Trump, in Mosinee, Wisconsin, U.S.



Prime Minister of Ireland Simon Harris shakes hands with British counterpart Keir Starmer as they meet for talks at Farmleigh House, in Dublin, Ireland.

US doubts deep strikes in Russia will turn the tide

Monitoring Desk
RAMSTEIN BASE: US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin cautioned on Friday there was "no one capability" that would turn the war in Ukraine's favour after President Volodymyr Zelensky urged the West to let his forces use its long-range weapons to strike Russia. At a regular meeting of Ukraine's allies at Ramstein air base in Germany, Zelensky repeated his plea for Western nations to supply more long-range missiles and lift restrictions on using them to hit targets such as airfields inside Russia. Austin said Washington and its allies would continue to give strong support to Ukraine in fighting Russia's invasion, announcing another \$250 million in security assistance. But, questioned by reporters, the Pentagon chief pushed back on the idea that allowing deep strikes inside Russia with Western weapons would be a game-changer. He said Russia had already moved aircraft that launch glide bombs into Ukraine beyond the range of US-supplied ATACM missiles. "There's no one capability that will in and of itself be decisive in this campaign," Austin told reporters at the end of the meeting.

Floods displace nearly 950,000 in west Africa

Monitoring Desk
ABIDJAN: Severe flooding in west Africa has displaced nearly 950,000 people and disrupted children's education at the start of the school year, international charity Save the Children said on Friday. "Hundreds of thousands of children now displaced from their homes are facing disease, hunger from crop destruction, and disruption to their education, as schools have become crowded with fleeing families or damaged in the floods," the NGO said. Save the Children said around 950,000 people had been displaced — 649,184 in Niger, 225,000 in Nigeria and 73,778 in Mali. Niger's government says more than 700,000 people have been left homeless and 273 people died since the rainy season started in June. Neighbouring Nigeria has meanwhile seen 29 of its 36 states — mostly in the north — hit by rising waters of the River Niger and its major Benue tributary with the country listing 200 deaths, Save the Children said. "According to Nigerian government data, over 115,265 hectares of farmland have also been damaged, in a country with already high rates of food insecurity," the NGO said.



VERACRUZ: A security official checks a handcuffed Indian migrant at Pacifico Airport before he boards a deportation flight bound for New Delhi.

Senate panel to question US semiconductor firms on Russian weapons

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations said on Thursday it will hold a hearing with four companies on the use of American-manufactured semiconductors in Russian weapons deployed in the war in Ukraine. The committee said the companies "products have consistently appeared in recovered Russian weapons. The hearing will probe the companies' compliance with export controls intended to block Russia from accessing American technology." Intel declined to comment. The other three companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The firms are sending vice presidents who oversee trade compliance issues to testify. Blumenthal in February said at a hearing that U.S. semiconductor manufacturers should do more to keep their chips from illegally making their way into equipment used by the Russian military.

China logs hottest August in more than six decades

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China logged its hottest August in more than six decades last month, its national weather service said, after the country endured a summer of extreme weather and heatwaves across much of its north and west. China is the leading emitter of the greenhouse gas emissions scientists say are driving global climate change and making extreme weather events more frequent. Beijing has pledged to bring planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions to a peak by 2030 and to net zero by 2060. And on Thursday, the China Meteorological Administration said in a statement that "China experienced prolonged and extreme high temperatures" in August. "The national average temperature was the highest for the same period since 1961," it added. The national average temperature in August was 22.6 degrees Celsius (72.68 degrees Fahrenheit) — 1.5C higher than the same period in a typical year, Jia Xiaolong, deputy director of the National Climate Center, was quoted as saying. "Northern regions experienced frequent and highly destructive rainstorms, while large-scale heatwaves persisted in the southern regions," Jia said.

Turkey's Erdogan calls for Islamic alliance against Israel

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday Islamic countries should form an alliance against what he called "the growing threat of expansionism" from Israel. He made the comment after describing what Palestinian and Turkish officials said was the killing by Israeli troops of a Turkish-American woman taking part in a protest on Friday against settlement expansion in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. "The only step that will stop Israeli arrogance, Israeli banditry, and Israeli state terrorism is the alliance of Islamic countries," Erdogan said at an Islamic schools' association event near Istanbul. He said recent steps that Turkey has taken to improve ties with Egypt and Syria are aimed at "forming a line of solidarity against the growing threat of expansionism," which he said also threatened Lebanon and Syria. Erdogan hosted Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Ankara this week and they discussed the Gaza war and ways to further repair their long-frozen ties during what was the first such presidential visit in 12 years.

Thailand's PM Paetongtarn vows to stimulate the economy

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra said on Saturday her new government will seek to stimulate the economy "right away" and will continue with the policies of former premier Srettha Thavasin. She held a special cabinet meeting earlier in the day to prepare policies that will be delivered at a 2-day meeting of parliament on Thursday and Friday that will mark the formal beginning of her administration. Paetongtarn was elected prime minister by the country's House of Representatives last month following the shock removal of Srettha by a court for ethical violations. She said her government will mainly continue the policies of her predecessor with some adjustments. This includes tackling issues such as debt restructuring, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises as well as boosting the agricultural and tourism sectors. "Our work will continue from Srettha's government, particularly in stimulating the economy," Paetongtarn said at her first press conference since her cabinet was sworn in by King Maha Vajiralongkorn a day earlier. She did not directly address a question about potential adjustments to the government's flagship digital wallet scheme or when it might be implemented. The scheme calls for 50 million Thais to each receive 10,000 baht (\$295) via a smartphone application.

Israeli soldiers fatally shot an American woman at a West Bank protest, witnesses say

Monitoring Desk
NABLUS: Israeli soldiers killed an American woman demonstrating against settlements in the West Bank on Friday, according to two witnesses who said she was shot while posing no threat to Israeli forces and during a moment of calm after clashes earlier in the afternoon. Two Palestinian doctors said 26-year-old Aysenur Ezgi Eygi of Seattle was shot in the head. The United States government confirmed Eygi's death but did not say whether the recent graduate of the University of Washington, who was also a Turkish citizen, had been shot by Israeli troops. The White House said it was "deeply disturbed" by the killing of a U.S. citizen and called on Israel to investigate what happened. The Israeli military said it was looking into reports that troops had killed a foreign national while firing at an "instigator of violent activity" in the area of the protest. On Thursday, Israeli troops shot and killed a 13-year-old Palestinian girl, Bana Laboom, in her village outside the West Bank town of Nablus, Palestinian health officials said. There was no immediate military comment on the report. Eygi, a volunteer with the activist group International Solidarity Movement, was attending a weekly demonstration against settlement expansion that has been held for years and has often brought Israeli crackdowns and protester stone-throwing. Jonathan Pollak, an Israeli participating in Friday's protest, said the shooting occurred shortly after dozens of Palestinians and international activists held a communal prayer on a hillside outside the northern West Bank town of Beita overlooking the Israeli settlement of Evyatar. Shireen Abu Akleh — a Palestinian-American journalist with the Al Jazeera news network — was shot to death covering an Israeli raid in the West Bank in 2022. The United States concluded an Israeli soldier likely killed her by mistake.

Spacecraft flies closer to Mercury than planned after thruster glitch

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: A spacecraft carrying European and Japanese probes passed closer to Mercury than originally planned overnight after thruster problems delayed the mission to study the little-known, Sun-scorched planet. The BepiColombo mission launched in 2018 on a winding path that had been intended to enter the orbit of the planet closest to the Sun in Dec 2025. But in April, a glitch with the spacecraft's thrusters sapped some of its power supply, forcing teams on the ground to change its trajectory and delaying its arrival until Nov 2026. The new path meant the spacecraft needed to fly 35 kilometres closer to the planet than initially planned — passing just 165km above the surface — during its latest flyby. The European Space Agency's operations team confirmed that "all went well" with the flyby overnight, the mission's account on X said on Thursday. It also posted a new image taken by the probe of the planet, whose pockmarked surface resembles the Moon. This is where delicate manoeuvres called gravitational assists come in. These slingshots around celestial bodies allow spacecraft to speed up, slow down, or change trajectory. The glitch with the electric thrusters means the spacecraft is now operating with only 90 per cent of its planned power supply.

Indian parties name LGBTQ+ activists to key positions

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's Congress party set up a new internal group this week to promote LGBTQ+ rights, while another party has named a person from the community as its spokesperson, in the first such political recognition after many setbacks. The Supreme Court de-criminalised homosexuality in 2018, but greatly disappointed the LGBTQ+ community last year when it declined to legalise same-sex marriage, leaving the matter to parliament to decide.

'Policy Board' constituted under Ahsan Iqbal to ensure economic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives and the Planning Commission of Pakistan have constituted a high-level 'Policy Board', under the visionary leadership of Professor Ahsan Iqbal to ensure economic stability in the country.

"This initiative aims to enhance transparency and improve the economic planning process of the country with the active participation of private sector and corporate leaders," a news release said on Saturday. The Policy Board, led by Professor Ahsan Iqbal, comprises a diverse group of esteemed members from various sectors, including former federal ministers, industry leaders, academic experts and international professionals.

Notable members include Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Ex-Caretaker Federal Minister; Musadaq Zulfqarain, Chairman of Interloop Limited; Dr Rana Iqbal, Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Naveed Sherwani, an IT expert from the USA.

The board has been tasked with several critical responsibilities like providing advisory on policy formulation and strategy development, offering guidance on policies and strategies aimed at promoting mid and long-term economic growth.

Additionally, it would offer insights on national and international economic issues, reviewing macroeconomic trends and providing economic outlooks to inform policy decisions.

The board would also evaluate national plans and economic reports to offer recommendations, assess socio-economic trends to support evidence-based policy advice, and advice on policies to enhance national innovation and competitiveness.

Furthermore, the board would integrate sustainable development goals into national economic strategies, facilitate dialogue with key stakeholders, and promote international cooperation. Besides, it would review the impact of major economic policies to evaluate their effectiveness.

Chairing the first meeting of the Policy Board, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of this initiative in stabilizing Pakistan's economy.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov and others cutting the cake on the occasion of the 33rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan at local hotel in the Federal Capital.

All conspiracies to be foiled with unity & political reconciliation: Political stability and sustainable dev. possible with peaceful Balochistan, maintains Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the country's stability and national unity is supreme and the same is also necessary for the sustainable peace.

The Chief Minister asserted that we would not let Balochistan become the victim of international conspiracies.

He emphasized that we would foil all the conspiracies against the country with the unity and political reconciliation.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Saidu Khan Nasar who met him here on Saturday.

Also present in the meeting was the senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Senator Syed Nayyar Hussain Bokhari.

Later, the President of National Party and Member National Assembly, Dr Andul Malik Baloch also met separately with the Chief Minister.

During the course of

meetings, overall law and order as well as political and social situation was discussed.

The Chief Minister on the occasion said that political stability and sustainable development is possible through peaceful Balochistan.

He said that we are moving ahead with positive political approach and political harmony.

He said that positive suggestions about the public interest would be welcomed and duly implemented.



LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman speaking to the media after addressing a medical conference at Expo Centre Lahore.

PM pays tribute to PAF's sacrifices, professional excellence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday paid tribute to the Pakistan Air Force's (PAF) unwavering sacrifices and professional excellence on the occasion of Air Force Day.

He commended the bravery and valor of PAF personnel, who despite being outnumbered, thwarted the enemy's malicious intentions with their courage.

"On September 7, 1965, the PAF's Shaheens

created a history of courage, bravery and courage," the prime minister said in a message.

He particularly mentioned the heroics of MM Alam, who downed five enemy aircraft within a minute, shattering their pride.

Meanwhile, the prime minister, in a post on his official X timeline, saluted the courageous air warriors and their families on Air Force Day.

Different tribal elders & public delegations meet Chief Minister

Independent Report
QUETTA: The tribal elders and public delegations belonging to different areas of the province met the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti here at the CM secretariat on Saturday.

The people apprised the Chief Minister about their issues.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti gave patient hearing to the issues of people and issued directives to the concerned authorities to resolve them.

Hafiz Naeem demands removal of taxes from electricity bills

Independent Report
LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has called for the removal of taxes from electricity bills.

Speaking to the media in Lahore, Rehman demanded that the 36 types of taxes imposed on electricity bills be abolished. He criticized the Punjab government's relief of Rs14 as insufficient. On the other hand, he argued that such relief should be implemented nationwide.

Rehman also mentioned that the recent shutter-down strike organized by his party was successful. He further said that they

planned to hold more strikes and seek legal remedies if necessary. Additionally, he claimed that the ongoing terrorism in the country had links to India and the United States. He also warned that the government would be held responsible for any escalation in tensions if it fails to implement the Rawalpindi Agreement. He said the government has 15-day for compliance, signaling that further unrest could follow if the government hesitates.

In ongoing consultations with traders, the JI, he said, is considering a three-day shutter-down strike as a form of protest.

Govt officer, daughter die as car swept away by floodwater

Independent Report
QUETTA (INP): A government officer and his daughter died while six other women were injured when their vehicle was swept away by gushing floodwater near Muslim Bagh in Balochistan on Saturday morning. Minerals Department Inspector Juma Khan was travelling along with his daughter when their vehicle caught up in the floodwater. The injured were rushed to a hospital in Quetta, the Rescue personnel said, adding the vehicle was travelling from Quetta to Zhob when it met the accident on National Highway.

Amb. Sheikh says: Pak armed forces always lived up to nation's expectations; determined to defeat terrorists

WASHINGTON (APP): The Pakistani embassy Friday organized an event to mark Pakistan's Defence Day commemorating not only the martyrs of the 1965 war but to all those soldiers who valiantly defended the country.

The event was attended by a large number of diplomats, Defence, Military and Services Attaches, US officials and members of Pakistani community.

"Pakistan's Armed Forces—the Army, the Air Force and the Navy—have always responded promptly to any foreign threat or a domestic challenge," Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh told participants at the event.

"In meeting these challenges, our brave and valiant soldiers have always lived up to the expectations of the nation."

He added, "Even today, our Armed Forces and the Pakistani nation are paying a disproportionate and exorbitant price in blood and treasure to combat terrorism. More than 80,000 people including 10,000 security personnel have lost their previous lives in this war."

"Our troops continue to bear the brunt of a new tide of terrorism which has killed hundreds since August 2021."

"We are determined to quell this threat."

Ambassador Sheikh expressed the hope that international community would recognize their sacrifices and show solidarity with the people and armed forces of Pakistan.

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QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti listening the problems of the people at Chief Minister Secretariat

PTI founder separates parliamentary affairs, political affairs of party

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI founder has taken important decisions about party structure separating parliamentary affairs and political affairs of PTI.

According to sources opposition leader Umar Ayoub Khan and senator Shibli Faraz will lead parliamentary party.

PTI former chairman has assigned the responsibility of practical politics

to Suleman Akram Raja besides nominating him as party general secretary.

Suleman Akram Raja will discharge the obligations of party general secretary.

PTI founder has carved out think tank under Rauf Hassan who will also release white paper on the performance of the government and see the electoral matters.

Government implementing comprehensive plan to deal with challenge of global warming, says Dostain

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Secretary Forests and Wildlife, Dostain Jamaludini has stated that the present government is implementing comprehensive planning to deal with the challenge of global warming.

He said that the only solution for saving from the effects of global warming lies in planting maximum trees and preserving the wildlife.

He said that the Forests department is mobilizing all available resources for preservation of the forests and wildlife in the province.

He said it is responsibility of every individual of the society to plant at least

one tree in one's name and contribute in it's upbringing.

These views were expressed by the Secretary Forests while speaking on occasion of the inauguration of monsoon tree plantation campaign held in collaboration with the Forests Department, SOS Children Village and Rotary Club Quetta here on Saturday.

The Secretary Forests planted sapling of Quetta pine marking inauguration of the monsoon tree plantation campaign.

The children of SOS Village also planted the saplings of pine and appealed to the citizens to plant maximum trees.

May 9 related five cases Court accepts one day exemption plea, extends interim bail of Fawad

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore has accepted one day exemption from attendance plea of former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry in five cases related to May 9.

Duty Judge Arshid Javed heard the interim bail pleas Saturday.

Exemption plea was filed by Fawad Chaudhry through his counsel Zafar Iqbal during the hearing of the case.

The petition said Fawad Chaudhry is unwell, therefore, court is requested to accept his one day exemption plea.

The court while approving exemption from attendance plea of Fawad Chaudhry extended his interim bail till October 05.

Earlier hearing of contempt of election commission case against PTI founder and Fawad Chaudhry was adjourned till September 19.



QUETTA: Inspector General Police Balochistan Moazzam Jha Ansari meeting with Deputy Chairman Senate Seydal Khan Nasar.

As a vice-captain of Imran, I can't even think of leaving him: Qureshi

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Vice-Chairman and former foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has stated that he was committed to Imran Khan and would not consider leaving the party.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi appeared before the court during the hearing of the May 9 vandalism cases at the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore.

He mentioned that he was not even in Punjab when the cases were filed and was arrested 14 months later. Upon his release, he was immediately re-arrested in connection with the May 9 cases.

Qureshi said that as Imran Khan's deputy, he could not even think of abandoning the party.

He criticised the authorities for fearing his presence into the public. He alleged that the sudden rise in number of cases, alleg-

edly 55 cases, against him was an attempt to intimidate him, despite his 40 years in politics without a single case.

He questioned why arguments were not being presented in court by the prosecution, and accused the authorities of intentionally delaying the process. He urged the court to pass judgment if they believed he was guilty.

In an informal conversation with journalists after the court session, Qureshi called on PTI's ideological workers to attend the upcoming rally. He reminded that despite numerous challenges, the nation made correct decisions on February 8.

When asked about the proposed judicial package and increasing the number of judges, Qureshi criticised the bills as attempts to undermine the parliament.

PTI founder accepts resignation of Umar as PTI SG

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has accepted resignation of Umar Ayoub as party general secretary.

Umar Ayoub while expressing gratitude to Imran Khan for accepting his resignation said he will continue to work as party worker with PTI founder.

He said in a statement he was too burdened with working as opposition leader, dealing with the cases, seeing public meetings and other matters. Earlier I tendered resignation on June 22 which was not accepted.

I had asked Shibli Faraz to convey my resignation to PTI founder. I learnt enormous from PTI leader while remaining general secretary for two years. I can not do more justice with the office of general secretary.

Barrister Gohar clears air on PTI's Islamabad 'sit-in'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that their September 8 event will be a public gathering, not a sit-in, and will be held within the bounds of the law.

Speaking to media representatives after reviewing public gathering's arrangements in Islamabad, Barrister Gohar said that they are holding the public gathering for 'independence' of judiciary. The PTI Chairman said that the gathering is being organised to demand independence for the judiciary, adding that when their government comes into power, judicial independence will be ensured.

Barrister Gohar said that the crowd on Saturday is a precursor to the main event on September 8, adding that it is the allies' public gathering, with representatives of Akhtar Mengal also participating.

Earlier, the Islamabad district administration changed the venue for PTI's gathering on September 8.



QUETTA: Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari and Advisor on Industries and Crafts of Balochistan Mir Ali Hassan Zehri in a group photo with provincial leaders of the People's Party, all the district presidents and general secretaries of Balochistan. Central General Secretary of PPPP Syed Nayer Hussain Bukhari, MNA Ijaz Hussain Jakhriani, Advisor to Chief Minister Sardar Baba Ghulam Rasool are also present.

Sincere workers are the valuable capital and real strength of party: Zehri

Independent Report
QUETTA: Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari and Advisor on Industries and Crafts of Balochistan Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has said that it is the result of the endless sacrifices and tireless work of the Jiyalas that today there is a Peoples Party government in Balochistan.

He said in a statement he was too burdened with working as opposition leader, dealing with the cases, seeing public meetings and other matters. Earlier I tendered resignation on June 22 which was not accepted.

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the provincial, bi-national and district and zonal wings. Central General Secretary of Parliamentarians Syed Nayer Hussain Bukhari, Central Leader Member of National Assembly Ijaz Hussain Jakhriani, Provincial Information Secretary Sardar Sarbaland Khan Jogizai, Chief Minister's Focal Person Former General Secretary Syed Iqbal Shah, Senator Sheikh Bilal Ahmed Mandokhel, Advisor to Chief Minister Sardar Baba Ghulam Rasool umrani, presidents and general secretaries of the entire province participated in the dinner. Party's Provincial Deputy Information Secretary Malik Zeeshan Hussain, Liaison Secretary Rabbani Khan Khalji and other provincial, biennial district and districts wings officials and leaders also participated.

PAF releases national song in honour of martyrs

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Air Force has released a national song in honour of martyrs of the country.

The song begins with the golden words of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in which he says a Muslim does not panic in times of hardship.

The poetry of Allama Iqbal has also been used in the song.

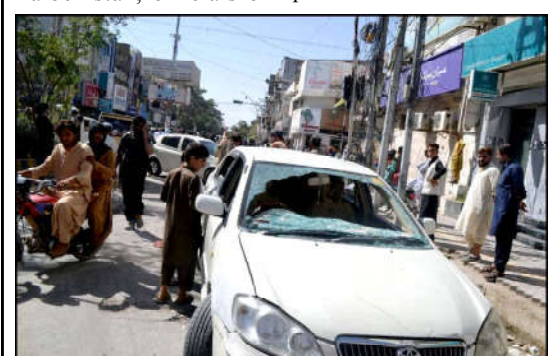
Ch Shujaat meets Pervaiz Elahi others

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has met former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in Lahore.

The two agreed to sit together to resolve personal and family matters with mutual understanding and consultation.

Later Chaudhry Shujaat met former president Wasim Sajjad, Mushahid Hussain, Muhammad Ali Durrani and members of parliament in Islamabad. Shujaat also conduced with senior journalist Aamir Ilyas Rana on the death of his mother and senior journalist Mohsin Baig on the death of his brother.

Former federal minister Chaudhry Wajahat Hussain, federal minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain, PML-Q spokesperson Mustafa Malik were also present on the occasion.



QUETTA: View of site after clash between two groups of Baloch Community during protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Manan Chowk.