

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 209, Rabi-ul-Awwal 20, 1446 AH Wednesday September 25, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

Reaffirms commitment to thwart hostile forces Pak Army to continue steadfast support, technical assistance to LEAs against terrorism: COAS

Appreciates officers for high preparedness to counter threats; Role of KP's people in maintaining peace acknowledged by Gen Munir; Army chief honours martyrs by laying floral wreath at Shuhada Monument

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday during his visit to Wana, South Waziristan District emphasized that Pakistan Army would continue to provide steadfast support and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies (LEAs), particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Police, to enhance their capacity.

The Army Chief visited Wana, South Waziristan District, where he received a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security situation, ongoing counter-terrorism operations, and development initiatives, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS paid heartfelt tribute to the security forces and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) who have made ultimate sacrifices in the line of duty. The COAS also acknowledged the pivotal role of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in

maintaining peace and advancing various projects under the South Waziristan Integrated Development Plan.

He underscored Pakistan Army's dedication towards leveraging its resources for the prosperity and development of the people of KP.

During his interaction with officers and troops, the COAS appreciated the high level of preparedness and exceptional morale to counter hostile threats. He reaffirmed Pakistan Army's unwavering commitment to thwarting the nefarious designs of hostile forces and their facilitators. Furthermore, the COAS expressed gratitude for the tribal elders' invaluable support in combating terrorism and their unwavering backing of Pakistan Army.

Upon arrival, the COAS honoured the martyred by laying wreath at the Shuhada Monument. The COAS was warmly received at Wana by Commander Peshawar Corps.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attending the inaugural session of United Nations General Assembly. New York.



SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir laying floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument during his visit to Wana in South Waziristan.

Attallah Tarar Peace in world not possible without permanent resolution of Palestine, Kashmir disputes

NEW YORK (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attallah Tarar said on Tuesday that durable peace in the world was not possible without permanent resolution of Palestine and Kashmir issues.

Talking to media outside the United Nations General Assembly, he said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had raised both issues at all international fora.

He said on Palestine issue, the PM had stated that war crimes were being committed in the area, genocide of armless

Palestinians was being committed and the world should take notice and bring the perpetrator Israel



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti welcomed Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Fighter, Shahzaib Rind after he won the Karate Combat World Championship title in Singapore, on his arrival in Quetta.

No decision yet about Imran Khan's military trial, govt tells IHC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday disposed of the petition filed by former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan, seeking a court order to the government not to hold his military trial in May 9-related cases when it was informed that the government had not taken any such decision as yet. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the petition.

Additional Attorney-General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Duggal and a representative of the Ministry of Defence appeared in the court, while Uzair Bhindari and Faisal Farid Chaudhry represented the

former prime minister. During the hearing, the AAG told the court that if any such decision was taken, the legal procedure would be followed. "If the government decided in favour of the trial, it would first file an application in the court of a civil magistrate," he informed.

The government last Monday too had informed the IHC that the military trial of Imran Khan was not on the cards. However, Bhindari expressed the fear that there was a possibility that the former prime minister could be tried in a military court, saying one of the PML-N leaders, Barrister Aqeel Malik, had said this at a press conference.

CM Sarfraz Bugti & other high ups welcome MMA fighter at Airport: Shahzaib Rind gets warm welcome upon arrival in hometown

Mir Sarfraz Bugti pleased over achievement of Shahzaib Rind; invites him in CM's House; says Karate Champion is pride of Balochistan and Pakistan

QUETTA: The Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter and reigning World Karate Combat Light Heavyweight Champion, Shahzaib Rind reached Quetta on Tuesday.

Shahzaib Rind got very warm welcome upon his arrival in the hometown from the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Provincial Ministers

Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Mir Asim Kurd, Advisor to Chief Minister for Labour and Manpower, Ghulam

Rasool Umrani, Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Ms. Meena Majeed Baloch, Parliamentary Secretary, Abdul Samad Gorgej, spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind, Secretary Sports, Qamar Baloch, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, Director General Sports, Yasir Khan Bazzi, and other government functionaries.

Needless to mention here is that Shahzaib Rind has won the World Karate Combat Light Heavyweight Championship in Singapore recently.



ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Rubina Khalid, called on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President emphasises expanding BISP network

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Rubina Khalid called on President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday and briefed him in detail about the programme.

President Zardari emphasised for enhancing the BISP's network to benefit the maximum number of people from the marginalised communities, a President House press release said.

Certificate distribution ceremony of Agri-based training at Governor House: We can bring revolution in agri sector thru out-of-box deliberations & adopting modern techniques: Jaffar Mandokhail

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has categorically stated that we can bring about revolution in agriculture sector through out-of-box deliberations and by adopting modern techniques in the province.

He said that the per acre yield can be increased by adopting modern agricultural techniques. He said that not only the quantity and quality can be increased by adopting agricultural techniques, but we can also create new opportunities and prospects. This spirit would enable us to cope with the challenges and find solution to the issues.

Therefore, the time requires us to break the traditional barriers and review our issues afresh and reset

our direction. The Governor was addressing the certificate distribution ceremony held under the auspices of Pakistan Oil Seed Department in end of the agri-based training at the Governor House on Tuesday.

The Vice Chancellor of Loralai University, Professor Dr. Ehsan Kakar, Chief Executive Officer, BEEF, Hajra Sohal, agricultural expert, Dr. Khair Muhammad Kakar, other experts and students of the Loralai University.

who completed the agri-based training.

The Governor maintained that we need to ponder upon our policies and projects that whether Balochistan is really suitable region for agriculture or not?

If it (Balochistan) is suitable for the agriculture then why don't adopt methodology of agriculture that is compatible with the modern requirements, the Governor said adding that if the province is not suitable for agriculture, then we have to ponder that which means and opportunities can be availed and mobilized in alternative.

He said that unfortunately, we are just limited to cultivate the vegetables, onions, potatoes and tomatoes in the present developed era even while the orchards are limited to grapes and apples.

Means, why don't we opt such crops and orchards which require least water for cultivation or at least we can earn more money in less time.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail distributing certificates during a ceremony held under the auspices of Pakistan Oil Seed Department in end of the agri-based training

President Asif Zardari says Newspapers play a vital role in raising political awareness, informing citizens about their rights and responsibilities

Newspaper reading key to combating fake news: PM Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has extended his heartfelt felicitations to the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on National Newspaper Readership Day to be marked on September 25 (Wednesday).

In his message on the Day, the president said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on National Newspaper Readership Day. Newspapers play a vital role in raising political awareness and informing citizens about their rights and responsibilities, besides providing news and helping citizens make informed decisions."

President Asif Ali Zardari said, "On this newspaper readership day, I would like to urge newspapers to play their role in promoting moral, ethical, and democratic values in our society. They should educate the people about socio-economic issues as

well as promote tolerance, inter-faith harmony, patriotism, civic responsibility, and respect for human rights."

He further stated, "In today's fast-paced digital age, where misinformation and fake news can go viral rapidly, the role of newspapers has become even more critical. Newspapers need to provide accurate and well-researched news to discourage fake news by using modern Information Technology. Their role in promoting facts over sensationalism is essential to counter the spread of false information."

President Zardari highlighted, "A responsible press upholds the highest standards of accuracy, fairness and balance in reporting news. A responsible press not only provides a platform for marginalized voices to be heard but also generates healthy discussion among the stakeholders on important issues. It is, therefore, imperative

that the Press must play a constructive role in guiding and educating the people on important issues."

He urged, "On this day, let us reaffirm our support for a free and responsible press which is essential for the successful functioning of democracy as well as forming public opinion on issues of national and international significance."

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has urged every individual to adopt the habit of newspaper reading citing it as a key to combating fake news and fostering a culture of responsible citizenship.

The prime minister, in his message on the National Newspaper Day being observed on Wednesday (September 25), also called for strengthening the role of newspapers in the daily life and support the invaluable institution so it could continue to serve the nation with integrity and dedication.

Bilawal vows to introduce judicial reforms in Constitution

KARACHI (INP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday vowed to introduce judicial reforms in Constitution.

"We will implement the Charter of Democracy," addressing lawyers at the Sindh Bar Council, People's Party chairman said. He said constitutional legislation and lawmaking could not be made by the court. "The constitutional court has been necessary and a compulsion," Bilawal Bhutto said.

"Think, you are sitting

in court for the purpose that responsibility is not being fulfilled," he said. "We want to provide justice to common people," he said. "There are 15% cases related to the constitution and law that take 90 percent time of court. The Federal Constitutional Court will hear the constitutional and political cases."

"The judges had warned to throw the 18th Amendment. The 19th Amendment in the constitution was passed under duress," Bilawal Bhutto said. "We want to empower the judicial system for im-

mediate justice," he said. People's Party chairman said that the chief justice of the federal constitutional court will be nominated on rotation. "Every province will get its representative as chief justice of the court on rotation," he added. He said the constitutional court and judicial reforms are not a new idea. "It is necessary for the supremacy of the constitution to ensure equal rights to all provinces," he said.

"It will be better to form the constitutional court with mutual consultation," he added.

Maulana Wasey re-elected as JUI Provincial Ameer

QUETTA: The senior leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) and former Federal Minister, Maulana Abdul Wasey has been re-elected as it's Provincial Ameer in the intra-party elections conducted in Quetta on Tuesday.

Moreover, in the intra-party elections, Agha Mehmood Shah was elected as the provincial General Secretary of JUI.

The intra-party elections of JUI were held for five years term. The members of the general body of Jamiat participated in the intra-party elections.

Meanwhile, some untoward incidents were reported during the intra-party elections of JUI. The scuffles were also witnessed among the people. They also kept on chanting slogans in favour of their respective candidates.

It may be mentioned here that Hafiz Hamdullah was contesting elections against Maulana Abdul Wasey.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to lawyers during ceremony organized by Sindh High Court Bar Association, held in Karachi.

IMF Board to approve \$7 bln program today

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday expressed the optimism that International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board would approve the 37-month \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement for Pakistan in its meeting scheduled on Wednesday.

He was speaking at "High Level Private Sector Dialogue - CPEC-II and the Region" virtually through Zoom. The event was organized by Pakistan Regional Economic Forum.

"Pakistan successfully concluded 9 month Standby Agreement (SBA) with IMF and we have the IMF board meeting tomorrow here in US. We are very hopeful the board would approve the 37-month 7 billion Dollars programme," he said. The minister said, under the programme Pakistan was committed to do structural reforms. He said Pakistan needed to stay on reforms agenda whether on taxation, energy sector, state-owned enterprises or privatization side. "We will stay on the course," he resolved.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Reserved seats

The verdict is in. But does that make a difference? The Supreme Court's detailed reasoning for its decision in the reserved seats case was finally made public on Monday, after weeks of clamouring for its release. However, the judgment, which carries the weight of a full court, was promptly rejected by the PML-N. The ruling party described it on X as "a political decision" issued by "eight specific judges in violation of their oath, to give political benefits to a party that spreads chaos and division".

It seemed like a knee-jerk reaction to the 70 pages of meticulous reasoning for why 11 of the 13 judges who heard the case, including the chief justice of Pakistan, agreed that the PTI had been wronged by the ECP and deserved relief, and also why eight judges differed from the other three on what relief would be suitable.

The operative part of the judgment had, it may be recalled, been issued much earlier in July. After a first reading of the detailed reasoning, it is still difficult to understand why the ECP and government reacted so adversely to it from the get-go. The Supreme Court has, in fact, unanimously rejected two important arguments presented by the Sunni Ittehad Council and the PTI: i.e. the SIC was entitled to reserved seats based on the strength of its parliamentary party despite not having directly won a seat, and that reserved seats could not be distributed to parties other than the SIC even if it was not to be given any.

In fact, the verdict makes clear that it was the ECP's original sin — not allowing candidates to contest as PTI's nominees, in violation of the Constitution and the law — that necessitated intervention and a prescription for rectification from the court.

The judgment explains that the court considered the dispute as being larger than just a disagreement between two parties, and that it acted to protect the rights of the electorate, not a particular political party. Based on that, the government's position seems rather weak. Has it been risking contempt merely because the Supreme Court pointed out that the ECP did something wrong and instructed, as is its mandate, that justice be done? Moreover, how does the government morally justify its position considering that it is a direct beneficiary of the actions struck down as unlawful and unconstitutional by the court? Perhaps if this detailed verdict had been issued sooner, much of the controversy that has surrounded it may have been avoided. However, now that it is in hand, the government should either file for a review or accept it as is. Refusing to implement it is a dangerous strategy; it may unravel the entire edifice of the state.

Practice & Procedure

Sameer Khosa

Recent moves by the government leave no doubt that the judiciary is facing one of the most serious onslaughts in its history. Although attempts to tame the courts have been afoot for a while, as seen by the letter written by six judges of the Islamabad High Court, these have only met with mixed success. Various courts in the country have continued to pass strict observations in cases of enforced disappearances, granted bail to persons that the state is unwilling to release, and zeroed in on the phenomenon of audio leaks. Most significantly, a 13-member bench of the Supreme Court denied the government its extra reserved seats in parliament.

Faced with a judiciary refusing to declare total submission, the government first attempted to pass a constitutional amendment proposing widespread changes to the structure of the judiciary. Having failed to achieve that for the time being, the president promulgated the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance, 2024.

The contents of the proposed constitutional amendment are now well known: all the significant constitutional powers of the Supreme Court would stand transferred to a federal constitutional court (FCC), which would effectively be handpicked by the government. Judges of the high courts would face being transferred to another court without their consent. The powers of the high courts in matters related to laws in relation to national security would stand eliminated. The government would also have the power to bypass the senior most judge in appointing the chief justice.

Now, the ordinance issued by the president demonstrates that the government remains undeterred. Through the ordinance, the government has changed the composition of the committee that forms benches and fixes cases under the original Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023. The committee originally consisted of the chief justice and two senior-most judges of the court. Now it will consist of the chief justice, the next most senior judge, and a judge picked by the chief justice.

The promulgation of the ordinance is problematic in several respects. For one, the Constitution does not envisage the president as a lawmaker except in exceptional circumstances when parliament cannot be summoned. No exceptional circumstances seem apparent given that the original committee was functional and available.

For another, it seems to be yet another attempt to interfere in the functioning of the judiciary. In recent weeks, the chief justice has found himself out-voted on matters that are important to the government's ability to pass the constitutional amendment. In particular, the chief justice unsuccessfully attempted to fix a review petition related to the reserved seats verdict and the Article 63A verdict (related to floor crossing). In case either of these review cases is successful, the government's ability to pass a constitutional amendment would greatly increase (either through reserved seats, or defections).

Instead of respecting the Supreme Court and the committee, the government decided to modify the committee to strengthen the chief justice so that it could change outcomes for itself. It is a dangerous

game for the government to contract and expand the powers of the chief justice at will depending only on its preferred temporary outcomes.

Unfortunately, instead of sticking to the original committee, within hours the chief justice changed the formation of the committee by skipping the third and fourth most senior judges of the court. The composition of the committee is particularly important at this time because if the government can successfully pass the constitutional amendment, then any challenge to the decision of this committee as to whether it is heard, when, and by whom. In effect, the chief justice would now control this process.

Add to this the fact that, according to an official press release of the Supreme Court, the government already made its interest in extending the tenure of the chief justice clear several months ago. The clear intent is, therefore, to ensure that the chief justice, who himself potentially stands to be one of the intended beneficiaries of this whole exercise (in the form of an extended tenure at the FCC), can control any challenge to the proposed amendment. Last year, when the government was in no mood to implement the Supreme Court's decision related to elections in Punjab and KP, it brought in the Practice and Procedure Act to thwart the chief justice. This year, when it is in no mood to implement the reserved seats case, it has brought in the ordinance to retain the chief justice's control.

Behind all of the government's claims, there is only one real aim: subjugating the Supreme Court. — Courtesy Dawn

Society's safety net

David Walmsley

A record number of newsrooms have signed up for World News Day 2024, recognising the positive influence of journalism the world over.

More than 600 newsrooms and media associations across all continents join to bring awareness to the purpose of journalism, a trade that is under constant attack.

It's a day to pause, and reflect on the importance of independent and often brave journalists who make a difference in their communities and countries, by providing the proof that leads to the truth.

Too often, he or she who shouts loudest on social media seems to be the newsmaker of the day, overshadowing the professional reporters and editors trained and determined to stand behind everything they publish.

Responsible journalism is a tough business when done properly. It necessarily confronts the easy, repetitive, and instant swirl of polemicists and propagandists determined to derail life to fit agendas that are often based on uncertainty and exclusion.

Photographing events that happen, reporting out the facts; beginning with incomplete information and building a more complete file over time and ultimately ensuring, in the final edit, that the facts are pried out and placed squarely into the public discourse, is the business of mainstream media. It is inefficient yet is a timeless tradition without parallel.

Professionals fight back against the hackneyed idea that belonging to the mainstream is somehow inferior to being extreme.

World News Day (Sept 28) is a day of

awareness, to better explain journalism to the public at large.

It is also a moment to provide room for our audiences and highlight how their meeting a journalist improved their life. How, perhaps, finally, they were listened to.

Or to reflect on the contributions of a local newspaper to the body politic, or the cost of liberty for a reporter detained for no reason — other than that she could be — by those with armies at their disposal.

Amid the growing coarseness of public debate, the pride of independence journalism stands as a source of optimism and belief.

Often at significant personal cost, whistleblowers entrust journalists with secrets. Business, politicians and others in power increasingly refuse to meet reporters or explain themselves — but that doesn't mean they are unaccountable. The rot is still exposed by individuals.

This past year I met a source determined to get the truth out, but the conversations took place in a hot-tub to prove I was not wearing a listening wire, and, on another occasion, in my underwear for the final interview. The story was worth it all, but I couldn't have known it would be when I started out on the four-month odyssey.

That's the romance of the business that recruits and repays the indefatigable.

Interest groups laden with bias threaten economic punishment: 'I'll cancel my subscription' or 'we'll pull our advertising'. Perhaps next year we will list those people who act that way.

So far, news organisations take the hit, and don't make it public. But it is all an attempt to interfere with editorial independence, and it is wrong.

Attacks on journalists — including murder — run at record highs.

Journalism was not created for the messenger to be shot. But, while you can kill the journalist, you can't kill the story. Others will take it on. Look at journalists in Mexico or Iran if you haven't received your daily dose of inspiration. The rate of impunity, killing journalists and not being arrested, creeps toward 100 per cent in some countries, but still the stories mount up.

A great miracle exists in the business of journalism: facts are not suppressible.

Those in need understand it. And it is those least in need who fight us most: the powerful, terrified their world can't be entirely controlled.

That's the magic of World News Day.

As you talk to friends, and consider your community, village, town or the wider world, think about what you have learned today. There is a fair bet journalism was involved. The storytellers, who come from your community, tell the facts, no matter how uncomfortable that can be.

That is why, unarmed and living in your community, they are targeted, harassed, belittled, threatened.

And it is why they respond with more facts, more answers, more independence of thought — and maintain the link between you and the wider world.

Journalists are a bridge as we build the future, supported by the capstone of our audience, who are as loyal and determined as the reporter and the editor. Together, on World News Day, if it feels at times that the vestiges of hope are falling away, remember the safety net of journalism is there. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Commerce Minister reaffirms commitment to deepening collaborations with Belarus

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to deepening its collaboration with Belarus across all sectors to further promote bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Addressing the 7th Session of the Pakistan-Belarus Joint Ministerial Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, Kamal stated that Pakistan and Belarus have long shared a bond rooted in mutual respect, trust, and common interests, which has evolved into a more

meaningful partnership. The minister emphasized that the Pakistan-Belarus Joint Ministerial Commission serves as a vital platform for reinforcing longstanding ties, adding that since the establishment of the Joint Ministerial Commission, the two countries have made significant progress in strengthening bilateral relations.

Jam Kamal Khan further said that the Pakistan-Belarus trade volume during the last financial year (2023-24) was recorded at \$34.88 million, with Pakistan exporting goods valued at \$0.39 million to Belarus and importing goods worth

\$34.49 million from Belarus. He also stressed the need to prioritize expanding trade volumes by exploring new markets and diversifying their export portfolios, noting that the role of forums such as the Joint Business Council is critical.

However, he acknowledged that considerable potential remains to be explored for enhancing bilateral investments in various sectors, including agriculture, health, trade, tourism, and cooperation in addressing the impacts of climate change.

The minister highlighted the tremendous op



RAWALPINDI: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam inaugurating a solar energy project of a beverage company.

WEF official urges Pakistan to seek financial, technical assistance from world bodies for renewable energy

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan should seek financial and technical assistance from world organizations including the UN, IMF and WEF to switch over from fossil fuel to clean renewable energy in order to contribute its productive role in minimizing ill impacts of Green House Gaseous (GHG) emission, said Hassan Abulenein, Associate Director World Economic Forum (WEF).

Addressing an online meeting with the R & D department of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that WEF

has already chalked out a comprehensive strategy to phase out hazardous fuel which has posed serious threat to the earth and environment. He mentioned climate change and increase in global warming which have become a key threat to life and may cause the extinction of a large number of endangered species of animals and plants.

He appreciated the research work conducted by the R & D department of the FCCI on environment preservation and said that we could collaborate to carve out a workable strategy to promote renewable

energy in Pakistan.

Engineer Ahmad Hassan Convener FCCI Standing Committee on R&D and former Vice President FCCI said that WEF, UN, IMF and other global organizations have already given a plan to cut use of fossil fuel by 50% by the year 2030. He said that Pakistan is trapped by the IPPs which are producing costly electricity by using fossil fuel. "We should exploit the global agreements including UN sustainable development goals and Paris agreement to get rid of the harsh conditionalities of the IPPs."

NA Panel directs to start work on ML-1 project at earliest

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to start the Mainline-1 (ML-1) project at the earliest after completing all the documents and necessary steps.

The committee that met here with Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan in the chair apprised that the phase-I would start in end of this year or in start of next year and would be completed within five years.

Secretary, Ministry of Railways briefed the Committee about the project of Main Line (ML-1).

Divisional Superintendents, Pakistan Railways, Lahore, Mughalpur, Peshawar and Rawalpindi briefed the Committee about encroachments and lease of Railways land.

They talked about non-cooperation of concerned district administration during anti-encroachment operations. The Committee recommended to approach the Provincial Governments for supporting during such operations. The Committee showed displeasure on presence of some officers on zoom and directed their presence in person in next meetings.



Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue, Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial at FBR Headquarters in Islamabad

Railways offer 50% concession for disabled persons in trains fare

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is offering a 50 percent concession in rail fares to facilitate disabled persons traveling in all express and passenger trains, except the Green Line. "The concession is granted upon the presentation of the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) bearing the disability logo," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that a 50 percent discount is also offered to the attendant accompanying visually impaired persons. About the facilities at Railway Stations and Reservation Offices, he said that wheelchairs are available at all major sta-

tions to assist disabled passengers. Additionally, the official said that exclusive reservation and booking counters have been designated for disabled persons at reservation offices.

The free-of-cost access to executive washrooms and restrooms has been provided at a few major stations for special persons. The official said that the facility of executive washrooms at 12 major stations is also being developed and will have free access for disabled passengers.

To a question, the official said that Khushal Khan Khattak Express was discontinued in March 2020 owing to COVID-19.

U.S. Ambassador visits SCCI aimed to enhance U.S., Pak bilateral trade relations

SIALKOT (APP): U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome and U.S. Consul General Lahore Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), marking the Ambassador's second visit to the historic industrial hub. The visit aimed to enhance U.S.-Pakistan bilateral trade relations and explore opportunities for collaboration in various sectors, including clean energy and climate action.

President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik welcomed the U.S. delegation and reiterated the importance of

boosting trade relations. Malik said that the visit of Ambassador Blome for second time to Sialkot is a testament to the importance the U.S. attaches to this industrious city. He stressed the need for enhanced business collaborations between U.S. based companies and the industry of Sialkot and discussed the immense potential for further joint ventures between U.S. and Pakistani businesses.

On the occasion the President acknowledged the support of the U.S. government to facilitate Pakistan's transition to 60% renewable energy by 2030.

Türkiye's capacity utilization slightly up in September

ISTANBUL (AA/APP): The capacity utilization rate for the Turkish manufacturing industry saw a slight increase of 0.2 percentage points to 75.9% in September versus August, according to the findings of a Turkish Central Bank survey released on Tuesday.

Data showed that the highest utilization in this month was 76.1% in investment goods, and the lowest rate was 73.6% in consumer goods. Broken down by sector, the highest capacity usage was in the manufacture of paper products at 83.1%.

SNGPL severs 16 more connections, five illegal extensions

MULTAN (APP): In a series of rigorous operations, the Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force, raided and disconnected 16 more gas meters, including one from a private housing colony and dismantled five illegal gas extensions.

Acting on directions from the General Manager,

the team intensified its efforts to curb gas theft and illegal usage. The team led by Task Force In-charge Muhammad Jameel Shaheen and Senior Associate Engineer Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, in an operation on Bahawalpur road, found nine consumers supplying gas to an unauthorized private colony.

Iranian envoy calls on FBR chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam Tuesday called on Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial. During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters pertaining to Customs, cross-border trade and management for smooth flow of bilateral trade between the two countries, said a news release.



ISLAMABAD: Belarusian delegation headed by Minister for Energy Aleksei Kushnarenko is meeting with the delegation of Ministry of Economic Affairs under the leadership of Minister Ahad Cheema.

CM chairs 16th cabinet meeting, approves major projects including recruitment of 7,354 CTIs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over 16th provincial cabinet meeting in which the recruitment of 7,354 College Teaching Interns (CTIs) was approved across Punjab.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif sought a comprehensive and uniform housing policy across Punjab. The cabinet paid tribute to the police personnel on performing duty in Rahim Yar Khan and Katcha area. The cabinet approved special allowance for police personnel on performing duty in the Katcha area.

The Chief Minister stopped increasing hostel charges for working women across Punjab. The CM commended Irrigation Minister Kazim Pirzada and the Irrigation Department for no loss of life being caused due to the recent floods. The cabinet approved the issuance of Rs. 500 million 'Endowment Fund for Writers Welfare' under the auspices of the Information and Culture Department. The cabinet, appreciated the peaceful conduct of MDCAT examination in Punjab. It was apprised in the meeting that controversial questions are being raised on the conduct of MDCAT examination in other provinces besides Punjab.

The Chief Minister sought a monthly package plan for the differently-abled visually impaired persons. The cabinet approved a special court for persons with disabilities under the Punjab Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act. Conditional approval was given to delegate the powers of Sub-Registrar to the Tehsildar and Naib Tehsildar. The CM Punjab directed the Board of Revenue to submit a five-year comprehensive housing policy to the Cabinet.

The cabinet rejected the Working Women's Hostels policy for increasing charges by the Women Development Department. An approval was given to sign an MoU between the Government of Punjab and the United National Office for Project Services (UNOPS) during the meeting. An approval was granted to include Lahore Knowledge Park (Nawaz Sharif Limited City) Bedian Road under the scope of Punjab Central Business District Development Authority.

As a result, Majid has received his long-overdue dues. Rashid Ahmad, Advisor In-Charge of the Federal Ombudsman Regional Office in Abbottabad, emphasized that the Ombudsman's office addresses cases of maladministration within federal institutions.

Notices were issued to the concerned authorities at Virtual University, and following a thorough investigation, the Federal Ombudsman ruled in favor of the complainant. The university was directed to make the payment without further delay.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of District Faisalabad Bar Association led by President (PLF Punjab) Raheel Kamran Cheema at Governor House.

Federal Ombudsman secures payment resolution for Virtual University employee

ABBOTTABAD (APP): The timely intervention of Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmad Qureshi has successfully resolved a payment dispute for Abdul Majid, an employee of Virtual University from Abbottabad.

As a result, Majid has received his long-overdue dues. Rashid Ahmad, Advisor In-Charge of the Federal Ombudsman Regional Office in Abbottabad, emphasized that the Ombudsman's office addresses cases of maladministration within federal institutions.

The issue arose when Abdul Majid filed a complaint with the Federal Ombudsman, citing that despite his resignation from Virtual University, his outstanding dues had not been paid, and the institution was causing unnecessary delays.

Notices were issued to the concerned authorities at Virtual University, and following a thorough investigation, the Federal Ombudsman ruled in favor of the complainant. The university was directed to make the payment without further delay.

All Teachers Association delegation called on Kundi, assures full support

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of All Teachers Association of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor's House.

The delegation, led by President Mian Faik Zada Kakakhel, discussed various educational issues and challenges faced by teachers in the province.

During the meeting, the delegation raised concerns about the state of educational institutions, demands for salary and benefits increases, the impact

of pension reforms, and other related issues.

Governor Kundi assured the delegation that promoting peace, women's empowerment, and youth engagement are among his top priorities, and that appropriate measures would be taken to address teachers' issues at the federal level. He emphasized that teachers are the architects of the nation and mentioned that provincial assembly member Ahmad Karim Kundi of PPP would play a role in supporting these concerns.

LHC moved for implementation of SC order on reserved seats

LAHORE (Online): Petition has been filed in Lahore High Court for implementation of Supreme Court (SC) order in respect of reserved seats.

A miscellaneous petition has been filed by one Munir Ahmad in LHC in connection with implementation of SC decision in the matter of reserved seats Tuesday.

The petitioner has taken the plea decision of 8-member bench of SC has come. This is detailed decision of SC and it has not been implemented. Letters have been written to speakers of all the four provincial assemblies.

1.2mn children enrolled in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The enrollment of children in government schools continued in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where about 1.2 million kids were admitted this year.

The spokesman of KP Elementary and Secondary Education Department told APP on Tuesday that efforts were underway to enroll three lakh more children in public sector schools this month.

He said that enrollment campaign would continue till September 30 in the province.

Punjab Governor says: Lawyers' always struggled to ensure political, constitutional stability in country

LAHORE: A delegation of District Faisalabad Bar Association led by President (PLF Punjab) Raheel Kamran Cheema called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the lawyers' community has always struggled to ensure political and constitutional stability in the country. He said that the role of the lawyers' community in the restoration of democracy movement is commendable. Governor Punjab further said that the People's Party

has never been a part of any illegal amendment and will never be a part of it. He said that every section of the society, including lawyers, has to play a positive role for the betterment of the country. The delegation of Faisalabad Bar Association apprised the Governor Punjab about the formation of a separate High Court Bench for Faisalabad Division and other issues faced by the Bar. Governor Punjab assured the delegation to talk to the concerned quarters for the establishment of the High Court Bench. The delegation also invited the Governor Punjab to visit the Faisalabad Bar Association.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro cutting the ribbon during inauguration ceremony of painting exhibition at Al-Hamra art Gallery, in the Provincial Capital.

UNICEF team meets KP health advisor; assures support in health sector

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of UNICEF officials called on the Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Health, Ihtisham Ali here and congratulated him on assuming new role and provided a comprehensive briefing on UNICEF's support for the Health Department. The UNICEF team was led by Dr Inam Ullah, alongside Immunization Officer Dr Kamran Qureshi, Additional Director General Public Health Dr Shahid Younas, Director Nutrition Dr Fazal Majeed and Director Maternal and Child Healthcare Dr Khizar Hayat, said a

press release issued here Tuesday.

During the meeting, Dr Inam Ullah He outlined the various areas in which UNICEF was providing technical and financial assistance to the department and discussed installation and maintenance of oxygen plants in 10 districts across the province. The Advisor was also briefed on the Integrated Service Delivery Program currently being implemented in the southern districts with UNICEF's support. Dr Inam Ullah highlighted UNICEF's collaboration in improving maternal health services, specifically in Torghar district.



HYDERABAD: Student of Government Girls Urdu Primary School Hali road studying on the floor due to furniture not available.

190 million pounds reference: Cross questioning of last witness adjourned due to absence of counsel for Bushra

RAWALPINDI (Online): The cross questioning of last witness in 190 million pounds financial scandal against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi was postponed due to absence of counsel for Bushra Bibi in Islamabad.

The court adjourned hearing of the case till today (Wednesday).

Both the accused and their lawyers were present in the court during the hearing of the case.

associate lawyers of the accused while requesting for adjourning the hearing told that the counsel for Bushra Bibi is unwell and he cannot appear in the court due to ailment. NAB prosecutor opposed the adjournment of hearing. NAB prosecutor was of view that 12 lawyers have filed their power of attorney from the side of the accused. The last witness of reference is appearing in 23 hearings regularly but cross questioning is not being completed.

Murder convict arrested from Karachi after 19 years on the run

KARACHI (INP): The Azad Kashmir police have arrested a condemned murderer from Karachi who had managed to escape from Muzaffarabad's Central Jail taking advantage of October 8, 2005 deadly earthquake. According to details, a police team from Muzaffarabad arrested Aurangzeb Siddiqui from Karachi.

Siddiqui had murdered religious scholar Mian Fazal Elahi in 1997. Mian Fazal Elahi was performing ablution in a mosque when he was murdered by Siddiqui. After conclusion of his trial, the court found him guilty of murder and awarded him capital punishment.

But during the October 8, 2005 devastating earthquake, the entire building of Muzaffarabad Central Jail was collapsed and the murder convict managed to escape. A complaint was filed against him at Pathakawa Kahwari Police Station in Naseerabad Tehsil of Muzaffarabad.

International News

New Israeli strikes on Lebanon as death toll from Monday attacks surges to 558

GAZA: Israel announced dozens of new air strikes on what it said were Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon on Tuesday, a day after 558 people, including 50 children, were killed in the deadliest bombardment since a devastating war in 2006. Israel's overnight strikes on southern Lebanon came after it said it had killed a "large number" of fighters when it hit about 1,600 suspected Hezbollah targets around the country. Hezbollah said it had launched volleys of missiles at Israeli military bases, hours after 180 of its projectiles and an unmanned aerial vehicle crossed into Israeli airspace, sending people in the city of Haifa running for shelter.

The Israeli military said more than 50 projectiles were fired into northern Israel in less than 10 minutes on Tuesday morning, most of which were intercepted. In Lebanon, Monday's raids killed 492 people, including 35 children and 58 women, and wounded 1,645, according to the health ministry, which said "thousands of families" had fled their homes. People in Israel's coastal city of Haifa were seen running for cover on Monday when air raid sirens sounded.

"Everyone is heading (to Lebanese capital Beirut) with their children and their belongings — it's the first time we see such panic since 2006," said Lebanese journalist Nazir Reda, who was driving to his hometown near the Israeli border to get his family away from the violence.

Longtime foes Hezbollah and Israel have been locked in near-daily cross-border exchanges of fire for nearly a year, since October 7.

Hezbollah, which has been fighting Israel for decades, and other Iran-backed fighters in the region have been drawn into the violence. Monday's bombardment of Lebanon was by far the largest, not just in the past year, but since the Israel-Hezbollah war in the summer of 2006. That war killed 1,200 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 Israelis, most of them soldiers, and devastated large swathes of Hezbollah's strongholds. Pakistan condemned the Israeli aggression "in the strongest possible terms". A statement from the Foreign Office (FO) said the act of aggression was a "grave violation" of the UN Charter and international law. "It is a dangerous escalation that has further endangered peace and security in an already volatile region," the FO added.

Speaking at the session in New York, Biden, who has come under fire for his administration's unconditional support

against Hezbollah sites in Lebanon on Monday, which Lebanese authorities said had killed 492 people and sent tens of thousands fleeing for safety in the country's deadliest day in decades. Wang said no matter how the situation changes, China would continue to stand on the "side of justice and on the side of Arab brothers, including Lebanon". "We pay close attention to the development of the regional situation, especially the recent explosion of communication equipment in Lebanon.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib on Monday that Beijing firmly supported Lebanon in safeguarding its sovereignty and security and strongly condemned violations from Israel's large scale airstrike.

Wang and Habib met in New York where they exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, according to a statement from China's Foreign Ministry. Israel's military said it launched airstrikes

Tropical Storm John lashes Mexican coast, two killed in mudslide

MEXICO CITY: Tropical Storm John unleashed heavy rains along Mexico's southern Pacific coast as it moved inland on Tuesday morning, threatening dangerous flooding and causing at least two deaths in a mudslide. Stretching across several Mexican states, the storm uprooted trees and electrical posts and damaged roofs, officials told reporters at a briefing on Tuesday. The affected area is home to both cargo ports and some of the country's top beach resorts. Around two-thirds of local power users were without electricity and phone service was also hit, officials said. Video posted on social media showed sheets of rain pummeling empty streets overnight near the large Lazaro Cardenas port.



Rescuers inspect the debris at the site of an overnight Israeli strike on a pharmacy in the southern Lebanese village of Akbiyeh.

Joe Biden highlights two-state solution in his last address as US President at UNGA

GENEVA: In his last address at the UNGA as US president, Joe Biden said a two-state solution with a Palestinian state, in which Palestinians can live peacefully, is the only way to ensure permanent peace, as Israel continues to escalate violence by attacking Lebanon.

Speaking at the session in New York, Biden, who has come under fire for his administration's unconditional support

China 'firmly supports' Lebanon in safeguarding its security

HONG KONG: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib on Monday that Beijing firmly supported Lebanon in safeguarding its sovereignty and security and strongly condemned violations from Israel's large scale airstrike.

to Israel, as it commits acts of genocide in the Gaza Strip, said it was time for a cease-fire in Gaza.

He said that "innocent civilians" in the blockaded Palestinian enclave were "going through hell," adding that now was the time for Israel and Hamas to agree to a cease-fire and hostage deal.

The deal would "bring the hostages home and secure security for Israel" and ease the suffering in Gaza and end this war.

Wang and Habib met in New York where they exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, according to a statement from China's Foreign Ministry. Israel's military said it launched airstrikes

Iran seeks to calm Iraqi infighting over spy row as region flares up

BAGHDAD: Iran's Quds Force commander told Iraqi political leaders last week to ease criticism of the prime minister who has been embroiled in a row over spying allegations, sources said, seeking to steady a regional ally as conflict in the Middle East flares.

Esmail Qaani made the request during a visit to Baghdad, according to seven Iraqi sources, including people in political parties whose leaders the Iranian commander met. A regional diplomat confirmed the account.

US, Canada to negotiate maritime boundary in Beaufort Sea

WASHINGTON: The United States and Canada on Tuesday said they will create a task force this autumn to negotiate the maritime boundary in the Beaufort Sea and resolve the overlap along the continental shelf. The group will work toward a final agreement covering the border area, which lies north of Alaska and the Canadian provinces of Yukon.

Turkey's Erdogan calls for US to lift sanctions hindering defence purchases

ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan called for US sanctions blocking some defence purchases by his country and for other "unilateral" measures that hinder the NATO allies' ability to hit long-term bilateral trade targets to be lifted. Ties between the allies have been strained over a host of issues in recent years, ranging from policy differences in the eastern Mediterranean, Syria and Ankara's purchase of Russian S-400 air defence systems, which prompted the US sanctions and Turkey's removal from the F-35 fighter jet programme in 2019.

After that, Ankara

worked to procure 40 Block-70 F-16 fighter jets and 79 modernisation kits from Washington. The deal was approved after Turkey's blessing of Sweden's NATO bid, which also led to a thaw in relations. Ankara and Washington have a long-term goal of \$100 billion in bilateral trade, up from about \$30 billion in 2023.

During a visit to New York for the UN General Assembly, Erdogan told Gaza and Ankara's purchase of Russian S-400 air defence systems, which prompted the US sanctions and Turkey's removal from the F-35 fighter jet programme in 2019.

A UN expert says Russian convicts sent to war in Ukraine commit crimes when they return

GENEVA: A U.N.-backed human rights expert on Monday decried violence in Russia by former convicts whose sentences are commuted to fight in Ukraine who then return home to commit crimes including rape and murder.

Mariana Katzarova, who is monitoring rights in President Vladimir Putin's Russia under a mandate from the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council, said the return home to Russia of former criminals who have had their legal slates wiped clean is adding to more domestic violence.

The phenomenon first emerged last year among returning fighters, but Katzarova noted that pardons and shortened sentences in Russia for prisoners who agree to fight in Ukraine became law in Russia in March. Speaking to reporters, Katzarova said an estimated 170,000 convicted violent criminals have been recruited to fight in Ukraine. "Many of them who return—and this is an emerging trend—have been perpetrating new violent

crimes to begin with against women, against girls, against children, including sexual violence and killings," she said in Geneva, where the council is holding its autumn session.

"This has increased, the violence against women in Russia, which already is on a very high level with thousands of women dying each year as a result of domestic violence," she said. "There is no law in Russia distinctly criminalizing domestic violence or gender-based violence." Russia's war in Ukraine is in its third year, and the Kremlin has gone to great lengths to replenish its troops there. In 2022, the authorities mobilized some 300,000 men in a partial call-up, and human rights groups and media also reported an effort to recruit inmates serving time in prisons across the vast country. Initially, the recruitment was carried out by the Wagner mercenary group, but then Russia's Defense Ministry took over, according to activists and media reports.



Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan being received by Chinese Transport Minister Li Xiapeng in Beijing.

Ahsan pushes for digitalization of Planning Ministry's operations in one year

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of Pakistan Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday highlighted the importance of transitioning the entire Planning Ministry's operations online to meet the demands of the modern era, terming "crucial" for ensuring transparency, preventing resource wastage and improving governance.

"We must focus on bringing all of the ministry's operations online within a year," he said while chairing a review meeting of ongoing development projects under the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Parliamentary Secretary for Planning Wajih Akram, a news release said.

Ahsan Iqbal advocated for the inclusion of private sector consultants to enhance the performance of the Ministry's ongoing

projects, adding, "The expertise of the private sector will be instrumental in improving project management and execution."

He also called for a critical review of ongoing projects, advising that those not contributing to governmental efficiency should be terminated.

He stressed the need for a more efficient and modernized approach to project planning and approval processes. "When approving new projects, their practical implications and expected outcomes must be thoroughly assessed. Ministries need to move beyond mere project initiation and focus on successful completion," he added.

The Deputy Chairman also issued strategic directives for improving the Intelligent Project Automation System (iPAS) under the Ministry of Planning, adding iPAS should evolve into a comprehensive

project management tool to ensure the highest level of efficiency in this key initiative.

As the government prepares for the next Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), Ahsan Iqbal underscored the importance of determining the availability of resources for projects initiated by various ministries. He reminded ministries to ensure that new projects are conceived within their allocated budgets. "Project directors must take responsibility for hiring project staff, and every ministry must ensure that its projects are financially viable," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal also stressed the critical role of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) in supporting the government's economic agenda, specifically through research on economic growth, governance improvements, and new project proposals.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti offering Fateha for departed soul of mother of Agha Shakeel Ahmed Durrani

Rana Mashood says: Balochistan's rising star Shah Zeb Pakistan's hero

QUETTA (APP): Chairman, Prime Minister's Youth Program Rana Mashood said on Tuesday that Balochistan's rising star athlete Shah Zeb Rind is our national hero, with his victory in World Karate Champion, every Pakistani feels pride with this triumph.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) in connection with acknowledging the national heroes.

While lauding the victory of Shah Zeb Rind, he said youth of Balochistan are so talented to represent Pakistan globally.

Shahzaib is Pakistan's hero as his tireless efforts brought title of World Karate Champion to Pakistan. The youth of

Balochistan has immense talent, if they get a chance, they can represent Pakistan in the world.

"I visited Balochistan before and met the youth, and I was impressed by these youths, he said lauding that the girl who made the logo of the National Volunteer Corps belongs to Quetta's Sariab Road, which is yet another big achievement for the province.

Just like Arshad Nadeem, Balochistan's rising star Shahzaib Rind would be invited to Prime Minister House as soon as the Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif returns to Pakistan from his official visit to the USA.

Chairman Youth Program noted that 3 Danish schools are being opened in Balochistan to promote education.

CM condoles death of mother of Agha Shakeel Durrani; offers fateha

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti visited Durrani House in Khuzdar on Tuesday.

During the visit, Chief Minister condoled the death of mother of Agha Shakeel Ahmed Durrani, Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani, Captain (Retd) Agha Shehryar Durrani and mother-in-law of Chief of Jhalawan, Nawab Sanullah Zehri.

Also accompanied him were the Provincial Ministers and members of provincial assembly.

PTA publishes framework for WLAN

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has published the Framework for Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) 2024.

According to a PTA news release, the framework designates specific unlicensed frequency bands, including the 2.4 Gigahertz (GHz), 5 GHz, and 6 GHz bands, for WLAN usage. The framework had been finalized after extensive consultation with the relevant stakeholders.



QUETTA: Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Quetta Hamza Shafiqat signing MOU between Metropolitan Corporation Quetta, Akhtar Hameed Khan Memorial Trust and Qatar Charity regarding solid waste management

BHC directs finance, health secretaries to implement orders on health care commission

Independent Report QUETTA: A divisional bench of the Balochistan High Court, comprising Justice Abdullah Baloch and Justice Iqbal Ahmed, heard a constitutional petition regarding the financial affairs and matters of the Balochistan Health Care Commission (BHCC).

The court observed that during the last hearing on September 9, 2024, the Additional Secretary, Finance Department, appeared along with the Advocate General and informed the honorable bench that Rs. 50 million had been released to the Chief Executive Officer of BHCC and would be transferred to

their account within two to three days.

However, the CEO of BHCC informed the court that no amount has been transferred to their account to date. The Assistant Advocate General, Finance Department, and Law Officers of the Health Department failed to satisfy the court regarding the release and transfer of Rs. 50 million.

Previously, the Chief Secretary Balochistan held a meeting with the Chairman and members of BHCC, Secretary Finance, and Secretary Health, where it was decided that BHCC would submit its future demands/requirements

through the Health Department to the Finance Department. Accordingly, BHCC submitted its demands, but no action has been taken yet, which was acknowledged by the Law Officers of the Finance and Health Departments.

The honorable judges expressed displeasure, stating that the behavior of the Finance and Health Departments suggests they do not want BHCC to function as a fully autonomous organization.

The court directed the Secretaries of Finance and Health to comply with its orders and appear personally on the next hearing.

Pakistan-China agreed for working together to complete mega projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China will work together for the completion of ML-1, M-6 and M-9 projects in order to strengthen trade and economic cooperation between both the countries.

While 2nd Phase of KKH and construction of Kaghan Naran, Jhal Khand, Babusar Top and Tunnel till Karakrum Highway will also be constructed.

The consensus to this effect was developed in a meeting between Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and Transport Minister of China Li Xiapeng during International Transport Conference, which was held at Beijing.

Both the ministers

held a detail discussion and agreed on 4 mega projects to be completed in Pakistan, said a press release.

According to the details Minister for Communications, Privatization & Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan reached Beijing where an hour long discussions and meeting was held with Chinese Minister for Transport Mr. Li Xiapeng who welcomed him warmly and expressed deep interest in Joint Ventures and working together for these important projects.

In the meeting Public Private Partnership and other financial modalities were came under discussion. It is mentionable that missing links of CPEC

projects will be completed which include Motorway from Sukkhar to Haider Abad and Karachi.

Similarly, railway project of ML-1 Seaport to Multan and to Lahore, Karakrum Highway Thakot to Raikot and Highway of Kaghan Naran, Jhal Khand and Babusar Top will also be constructed.

Abdul Aleem Khan thanked China for its cooperation and expressed hope that this International Conference on Transport will merge more benefits and development for Pakistan.

Transport Minister of China Mr. Li Xiapeng assured full cooperation from his Department for Pakistan in future, as well.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan addressing to the 7th Session of Joint Ministerial Commission between Pakistan and Belarus.

Asif links stability in world to solution of Gaza-like conflicts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister of Defense Khawaja Asif on Monday said there will be no lasting peace and stability in world without solving Gaza-like conflicts.

During his speech at the Summit of the Future Plenary Session in UN General Assembly, Khawaja Asif said that collective efforts have to be made to meet the security challenges.

Khawaja Asif said that security issues are a threat to our coming generations, as well as to the world's lasting peace. He said that the global system needs reforms to provide better opportunities to more than 100 developing countries.

He said that as an international community, we

have a role to play in setting a better course for our world.

The minister further said that international financial institutions should provide debt relief to poor nations as well as these institutions should cooperate [financially] with the developing countries. He said that Pakistan wants to benefit from artificial intelligence (AI). He said that the Summit of the Future offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity for change and a chance to commit to bold new solutions. "It provides an opportunity to create international mechanisms that better reflect the realities of the 21st century and can respond to today's and tomorrow's challenges and opportunities."



QUETTA: Chairman PM Youth Policy Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind honors Karate Champion Shahzeb with land grant

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Federal Minister Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind has announced the allocation of a square of agricultural land to Shahzeb Rind, Pakistan's first Karate Combat World Champion.

The announcement was made during a press conference held in honor of Shahzeb, who has made significant strides in martial arts despite facing challenges, including financial difficulties in securing travel for competitions.

At the event, Ex-Minister Rind criticized the federal and provincial Ministry of Sports for their inadequate support of Shahzeb, highlighting what he termed "double standards" in recognizing local talent.

He expressed his disappointment over the lackluster reception Shahzeb received upon returning to Pakistan after his championship win, stating that the young athlete had elevated Pakistan's status on the global stage.

Ex Minister Rind emphasized Shahzeb's dedication to the nation, noting, "The youth of Balochistan are immensely talented but often go unrecognized. I am committed to advocating for their rights." He recounted how he had supported Shahzeb financially and emotionally, encouraging him to pursue his passion for karate despite his middle-class background.

The former minister referred to Shahzeb as a son and praised his hard work, which he believes should be acknowledged and celebrated by the government and society. In a gesture of support, Rind pledged to officially register the land in Shahzeb's name upon his return to their village in Balochistan.

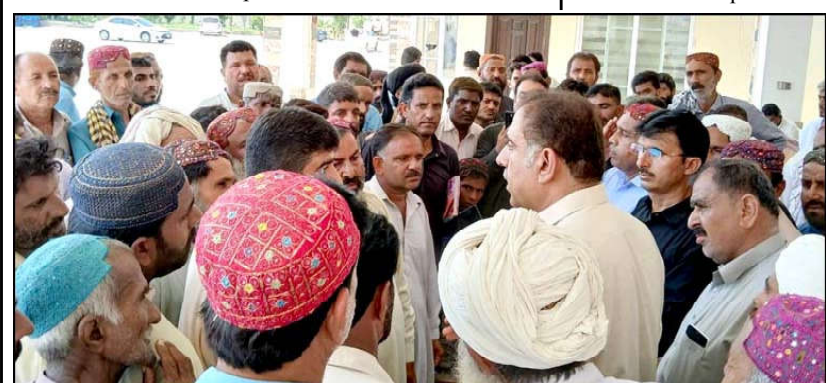
Man killed in Quetta barber shop

ISLAMABAD (APP): A man was shot killed while another was injured on Tuesday when unidentified gunmen opened fire inside a barber shop on Brewery Road in Quetta.

According to a private news channel, police said that the assailants fired indiscriminately at a man seated inside the shop, killing him on the spot.

Following the incident, police and rescue teams arrived at the scene, and after completing the necessary legal formalities, the deceased's body was shifted to the hospital for further procedures.

According to police officials, the victim, identified as 55-year-old Mujahid, hailed from the Bahawalpur district of Punjab. Eyewitnesses reported that the assailants arrived on a motorcycle and fled the scene immediately after the attack. The police have started gathering evidence and initiated efforts to arrest the suspects.



SOHBATPUR: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa listening problems of people

Inclusion of Balochistan's youth especially women in armed forces of Pak proud moment for us: Dr. Rubaba

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has said that the inclusion of Balochistan's youth, especially women, in the

Balochistan into various departments of the Pakistan Navy. Dr. Rubaba Buledi remarked, Increasing women's representation in the Navy is crucial for gender equality and for tapping into the immense po-



potential of the women in our province.

The establishment of a Bahria University campus in Quetta was also a central topic of discussion. Dr. Rubaba Buledi stated, The establishment of Bahria University in Quetta will bring world-class educational opportunities to the region, enabling our youth—especially women—to thrive in their academic and professional pursuits.

Another significant topic discussed was the development of a Maritime Technology Training Park for Balochistan's youth. This training park will provide advanced skill development in maritime technologies, offering our young people new career pathways and fostering economic growth in the region, Dr. Rubaba Buledi added.

armed forces of Pakistan is a proud moment for the province, as they step forward to safeguard the nation's defense.

Their participation highlights the growing opportunities for Balochistan's women to play an active role in the security of Pakistan, symbolizing strength, resilience, and dedication.

These remarks were given during her visit to Navy Headquarters Quetta, where she was welcomed by Navy Commandant Officer Captain Abdullah Siddiqui. On this occasion, Navy Commandant Officer presented her with a commemorative souvenir.

Dr. Rubaba Buledi discussed several initiatives aimed at advancing opportunities for the people of Balochistan. A key point of the discussion was the recruitment of women from

Pak committed to enhance cooperation with Maldives in diverse fields: PM

Independent Report QUETTA: The Hub River Bridge, a vital link between Sindh and Balochistan, is nearing completion. Following the Balochistan High Court's orders, Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Naem Bazai and National Highway Authority (NHA) Project Director Hub River Bridge Parakash are overseeing the final stages of construction.

The bridge's black topping process has begun, and NLC's Colonel Rafee is monitoring the project's progress. The federal government approved the reconstruction of the bridge, damaged in the 2022 floods, at a cost of Rs. 1198 million.

The National Highway Authority (NHA) has assured the Balochistan High Court that the Hub River Bridge will be completed this month and opened to traffic. The court was informed that the bridge's construction is in its final stages, with only the shoulder's construction remaining. NHA officials confirmed that funds are available for the project, and the remaining work will be completed soon. The court directed NHA to complete the project without delay.

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing cooperation with the Maldives in the fields of trade, tourism, education, investment and climate change.

He was talking to President of the Maldives Dr Muizzu on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

During the meeting, both leaders underscored the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and the Maldives.

Both leaders agreed on the need for increased people-to-people exchanges and collaborative efforts to promote economic growth and sustainable development in their respective countries.

The two sides also recognized the shared responsibility of South Asian nations to work together for peace, prosperity, and stability of the region.

Shahzaib Rind our pride, Govt to extend wholehearted support, says Meena Majeed Baloch

Independent Report QUETTA: The Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Ms. Meena Majeed Baloch has stated that the

Asim Kurd and Advisor to Chief Minister for Labour and Manpower, Sardar Ghulam Rasool Umrani and other high ups were also



world karate combat champion Shahzaib Rind is our pride as he has brightened the name of our province and country at the international level. Ms. Meena Majeed Baloch was speaking to the media persons along with the champion of World Karate Combat Light Heavyweight Champion, Shahzaib Rind at the Quetta airport on Tuesday.

The Parliamentary Secretary for sports reached the airport to welcome Shahzaib Rind upon his arrival after winning the World Karate Combat Light Heavyweight Championship in Singapore last week.

The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Provincial Ministers Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Mir

present there to welcome and greet the young World Champion belonging to Balochistan province.

Ms. Meena Majeed Baloch said that Shahzaib Rind raised the name of province and country at the national and international level. She said that we all have come to welcome Shahzaib Rind and we own him. She said that there is a immense talent among youth of the province, what they need just opportunities to prove and excel.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Sports also said that we would do our best to provide necessary facilities to youth so that they may brighten the name of country and province like Shahzaib Rind.

DC Quetta vows to resolve land revenue issues

Independent Report QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lt. (R) Saad bin Asad, said that all possible measures are being taken to resolve public issues related to land transfers, record corrections, land revenue, and road expansion projects. He ensured that landowners will receive prompt payments for their land acquired for development projects.

The citizens of Quetta face severe difficulties related to land revenue, and comprehensive planning is underway to address these

issues. The problems of landowners affected by road expansion projects will be resolved, and payments will be made promptly.

Asad stated that the district administration is taking effective measures to resolve public issues. The difficulties faced by people regarding land revenue and land transfers will be addressed. The issues of landowners affected by road expansion projects will be resolved quickly, ensuring the projects' completion without hindrance.