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Police enters into Parliament house, arrest several MNAs of PTI

National Assembly speaker vows action over PTI leaders' arrests; Summons Islamabad police chief, DIG, SSP with details of cases against assembly members; Says no compromise on dignity of Parliament; PTI vows nationwide protests after leaders arrested in late-night crackdown; ATC grants 8-day physical remand for PTI leaders in Islamabad rally case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Police has entered into parliament house and arrested several MNAs of PTI.

According to sources inside lights of National Assembly (NA) were switched off and police personnel in plain clothes entered into parliament house.

The police personnel took position outside parliament house. Masked men took PTI MNAs into their custody from within parliament house. Nasim Shah too was arrested.

PTI leaders Sheikh Waqas Akram, Amir Dogar, Zain Qureshi, Ahmad Chatha, Yousuf Khan, Zubair Khan MNA from south Waziristan and others were arrested.

Sources added the security personnel who were with these PTI leaders were also arrested. Security personnel were there outside parliament service centre.

On the other hand information are there Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has reached KP House.

Naeem Panjutha said he would leave for Peshawar along with KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur.

Meanwhile Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has taken notice of the late-night raid on the Parliament House, vowing to hold those responsible accountable.

Speaking during Tuesday's session of the National Assembly, Sadiq

said that 'no one will remain silent about the incident and that decisive action will be taken.'

"We will take action on last night's incident and address it seriously," Sadiq said, adding that he had requested all video footage to identify the responsible parties.

He further stated that, if necessary, an FIR will be filed, and those involved will be named.

Recalling previous attacks on the Parliament and Parliament Lodges, Sadiq emphasised the need for a firm stance against such violations.

"I was the Speaker during the first attack on Parliament, and we must stand firm this time," he remarked.

Sadiq also summoned political leaders from all parties for an urgent meeting in his chamber to discuss further steps. Ali Mohammad Khan outraged over 'masked men' entering parliament, calls arrests unacceptable.

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday held a meeting with leaders and members of parliamentary parties to address the matter of recent arrests from the premises of Parliament.

During the meeting, the leaders condemned the events of previous night and urged the Speaker to take action on the issue.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed his commitment to resolving the issue collaboratively and agreed

on the need to establish a comprehensive protocol for handling such incidents in the future.

Terming the reported arrests highly distressing, he said that the respect of all the members of Parliament was of paramount importance. He assured that there would be no compromise on the dignity of Parliament.

The Speaker issued a directive for an immediate and thorough investigation into the arrests.

He summoned the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Islamabad to his office to inquire about the incident and instructed him to ensure that the arrested members were produced in the Parliament in accordance with legal procedures.



ISLAMABAD: Members of National Assembly Muhammad Siddiqui Khan Baloch and Abdul Rahman Khan Kanju call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

SC dismisses review appeals against removal of restaurants from Margalla Hills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the review appeals and upheld its verdict for the removal of restaurants including Monal, Lamontana and Gloria Jean from the Margalla Hills National Park ('the National Park') and illegally running restaurants (La Montana and Gloria Jeans).

The top court also withdrew its observation in which it had stated that the restaurants should be given priority in lease process of any other location.

The court, in its 13-page order authored by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, said, "The cases were not heard in chambers nor by a single judge."

They were heard in open court by this Bench (of three judges) and the short order dated 11 June 2024 was dictated in open court in the presence of everyone.

"The documents filed

by the Firm and its partners in the review petition and the listed applications confirm that the Firm and/or its partners are in illegal possession of the land situated in the Margalla Hills National Park ('the National Park') and illegally running restaurants (La Montana and Gloria Jeans).

The court observed that the utter disdain and contempt for the laws of Pakistan and the degradation/destruction of the National Park was made possible by the complicity of those who were required to protect, preserve and conserve it; they were in the service of Pakistan, but were unmindful of their duty to serve the people, instead they served moneyed interests.

The order said, "The owner of Monal restaurant and La Montana and Gloria Jeans had voluntarily offered to vacate the

land of the National Park in their possession within three months, this court had approved this gesture of theirs and recorded this in order dated 11 June 2024, which was confirmed in the detailed judgment.

"The said undertakings to vacate the premises were given in the presence of their respective counsel but they want now to resile therefrom. Making a mockery of solemn undertakings and to render them meaningless cannot be permitted, and those doing so must suffer the consequences."

"Therefore, we have been persuaded by their contemptuous behaviour and misconceived contentions to review our said short order and detailed judgment and to withdraw/delete the portion where court instructed to give priority to them in lease of other locations."



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Dr. A.Q. Khan Hospital Trust, led by the Chairperson of the Trust, Dr. Dina Khan, call on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President lauds services of AQ Khan Hospital Trust, assures his support

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday commended the services of Abdul Qadeer Khan Hospital Trust for providing accessible and free medical and healthcare to the needy people and assured of his support to the organisation.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of Dr. AQ Khan Hospital Trust, led by Dr. Dina Khan, daughter of Mohsin-e-Pakistan late Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Member of the National Assembly Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present during the meeting, according to a President House press release.

The meeting was also attended by the Trustees including Habib-ur-Rehman, Raja Arshad Mehmood and Advisor Chaudhry Ghulam Yasir Abbas.

Dr. Dina Khan briefed the president about the role of the hospital in providing medical services to the people. She also apprised the president about certain problems being faced by the Trust and highlighted that some former trustees had committed financial embezzlement and had misused the accounts of the Trust.

President Zardari said that the entire nation was indebted to Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan for his services to the nation, and assured the resolution of the issues faced by the Trust.

He commended the work of AQ Khan Hospital Trust and appreciated the generous donations by the people for the noble cause of providing much-needed free health services to the underprivileged.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan.

Chinese business delegation visit SIFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level Chinese business delegation, comprising Xinjiang Iron Brothers Co Ltd with four other prominent Chinese business entities Tuesday visited Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). The delegation was headed by Mr Yuan Jianmin (Senior and renowned Economist) along with members representing various business enterprises, said a press release issued here.

The delegation was warmly received by officials of SIFC and comprehensive briefs were given covering potential and investment opportunities in priority sectors including Agriculture/Livestock, IT, Energy, Minerals, Tourism,

Industry, and policy level measures being undertaken to improve the overall investment climate in the country. The visit of delegation will further catalyze the ongoing engagements between Pakistan and China under Business-to-Business framework. The delegation was also briefed about salient features of industrial development in Pakistan.

The delegation showed keen interest for investments in key sectors under SIFC and relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan including Gilgit Baltistan. The visit of delegation will further catalyze the ongoing engagements between Pakistan and China under Business-to-Business framework.

Interior Minister meets ANP President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met with President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest and the overall situation of the country were discussed. Both leaders also talked about measures for establishment of peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Naqvi said that terrorism is condemnable in all its forms, and the national narrative against terrorism is the voice of Pakistan. He emphasized that everyone needs to be united against the terrorism.

Gillani challenges NAB jurisdiction in Toshakhana vehicles' case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani on Tuesday challenged the jurisdiction of the Accountability Court in hearing the Toshakhana vehicles reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against him.

Accountability Court Judge Abida Sajjad, who heard the reference, sought comments from NAB.

During the course of proceedings, Gillani's lawyer pleaded that the reference did not fall in the jurisdiction of NAB after restoration of amendments in the NAB law.

At this, the court served notices to the respondents and adjourned the case till September 26.

PM, MNAs discuss country's political situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Members of the National Assembly Mohammad Siddique Khan Baloch and Abdul Rehman Kanjo met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to address issues concerning their constituencies.

During the meeting, the overall political situation of the country was also discussed, a Prime Minister Office press release stated.

Meanwhile Member of the National Assembly

Pak Army gives befitting reply to unprovoked Afghan Taliban aggression at Pak-Afghan border

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Army killed at least 16 Afghan Taliban as they responded strongly to unprovoked aggression along the Pakistan-Afghan border.

As per details, Afghan Taliban opened unprovoked fire at Pak-Afghan border on September 7, which lasted till September 9 evening.

Pakistani Army responded strongly to the unprovoked firing from Afghanistan and killed 17 Taliban fighters, while 27 were injured, according to security sources.

Mehmood Khan Achakzai says: Be he any general or Shehbaz we will not allow any one to take undemocratic step

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief of Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz Constitution of Pakistan (TTCP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai has said he any general or Shehbaz Sharif we will not allow any one to take an undemocratic step.

Speaking in National Assembly (NA) Achakzai said I don't want to say anything emotionally. The democracy was restored after difficulties.

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto came to Pakistan along with her children. PPP and PML-N signed an agreement for supremacy of democracy, we all have taken oath of de-

fending the constitution of Pakistan, if there is any price of oath then speak openly on constitutional and non constitutional steps. We all stand with democracy.

Be he general or Shehbaz Sharif we will not allow any one to take unconstitutional step. If you are speaker then deliver the right you owe to chair.

PTI MNA Ali Muhammad Khan said if article 6 has to be imposed then it be imposed on who attacked parliament at night. I have come in house to contest the case of democracy.

Security sources have reiterated Pakistan's stance on border security, emphasizing that any unprovoked aggression will be met with a robust response.

The military's swift and effective retaliation underscores its commitment to defending the nation's borders against external threats.

The growing aggression and border violations from the Afghan side have raised concerns over escalating tensions.

The government did not raise any objections to the bill.

However, opposition leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai opposed the bill and pointed out a quorum issue in the assembly.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presiding over the meeting of Treasury & Opposition Members in National Assembly at Parliament House.

Bill to increase number of SC judges tabled in NA

ISLAMABAD (INP): "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2024" aimed to increase the number of apex court's judges from 17 to 23, in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

The bill was introduced by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) lawmaker Daniyal Chaudhry. As per "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024", the total number of judges, including the Chief Justice, will increase from 17 to 23.

The bill sought amendment in the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997.

It should be mentioned here that the total number of judges in the apex court other the Chief Justice is 16.

However, opposition leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai opposed the bill and pointed out a quorum issue in the assembly.

Imran Khan 'closes doors to negotiations' with all stakeholders

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has announced that negotiations with any party, including the Establishment, will be closed.

Speaking to journalists at Adiala Jail on Tuesday, the PTI founder said he had authorised six party leaders to talk to the Establishment.

Regarding the Lahore rally, Imran Khan said that whether permission is granted or not, the PTI would hold the rally in Lahore on Sept 21.

When asked about KP Chief Minister Ali Amin

Gandapur's speech in the Islamabad rally, the PTI founder responded that CM Gandapur represented the sentiments of the nation, and he stood with him.

Replying to another query, the former prime minister responded that those apologising for Gandapur's statement were cowards and should not be in the party.

When asked about Senator Faisal Vawda, Imran Khan stated that everyone knows who Faisal Vawda speaks for, and if the Arshad Sharif murder case is given an open trial, the truth will be revealed.

PTI introduced tradition of vendetta in politics: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership had introduced the tradition of confrontation and vendetta in politics.

Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister strongly condemned the PTI leaders, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, for their abusive outburst against national institutions, woman political opponents and journalists at the Sangjani meeting.

He said PTI leaders had been repeatedly asked to be careful in their dealing with other political parties as it was a question of time which ultimately changed.

The minister said that Gandapur vented out his anger against institutions,



ISLAMABAD: Chairman PM Steering Committee & Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization & Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan presided meeting on Gems Stones.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Delayed bailout

Is Pakistan's new bailout deal with the IMF in trouble? Is the Fund's Executive Board deliberately stalling the approval of the \$7bn Extended Fund Facility agreed between Islamabad and the IMF mission on July 15? Are there any geopolitical factors at play?

These are the thoughts that come to mind after Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's fresh critique of the IMF amid delays in disbursement of the much-needed funds by the lender of last resort. Speaking at a Defence Day function in London, the minister mostly recounted his personal experiences of having worked with the Washington-based agency for the revival of a previous 2019 funding plan as the country's finance czar.

In a way, Mr Dar questioned the intentions of the Fund towards Pakistan as he narrated how the agency had continued to stall its financing for eight months, despite completion of the programme review. The lender had eventually substituted that package with a short-term loan of \$3bn to help Pakistan avert looming sovereign default last year, weeks before a caretaker administration was installed to hold elections.

While the unexpected delay in the new IMF programme's approval is already causing anxiety in the markets, the timing of Mr Dar's tirade against the lender is quite confusing. Whether or not it is linked to the current status of the new bailout, it will likely add to existing uncertainties around the early disbursement of fresh IMF funds. More so because the Fund, going by the information Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has divulged to the public in piecemeal fashion, seems to be consistently changing the goalsposts.

Or should we assume that the government has yet to fully reveal the conditions agreed with it in the staff-level agreement? Apparently, the delays in the confirmation of the debt rollovers by China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, as well as the failure to arrange for fresh funds to cover the external financing gap of \$2bn for the present fiscal year, are the main reasons for the delayed approval of the IMF Board. Nonetheless, if Mr Dar, who was apparently not given his favourite portfolio in the present administration due to the mistrust between him and the IMF, is to be believed, the Fund might deliberately be deferring disbursements to the country owing to geopolitical reasons — even if this appears to be a far-fetched conclusion.

There are already speculations that the Western powers do not want Pakistan to use IMF funds to pay back the Chinese debt, and that the lender has asked Islamabad to, like Sri Lanka, first secure debt relief from Beijing, before it finally releases the promised funds. It is, therefore, crucial for the government and finance minister to clear the confusion rather than let growing uncertainty continue to grip the markets.

The master key

Gulmina Bilal
Ahmad

As both young and old hunt for better employment opportunities, it is worth reflecting on these wise words: "If education is the key, technical-vocational education is the master key." Or, in today's digital age, the master code, too. The job market is constantly in flux, with major changes in skills required for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Understandably, there is an emphasis on IT skills. However, we must not overlook (a) the consistent demand for traditional trades and (b) the changing nature and skill set of traditional trades. Both domestic and international markets still rely heavily on skilled labour, such as masons, plumbers, carpenters, and electricians. These professions remain vital globally and have been evolving simultaneously. For example, plumbers no longer work exclusively with traditional systems; they must now be familiar with smart home technologies, which demand new skills. Similarly, the job descriptions for carpenters and electricians have expanded, integrating smart technology and energy-efficient practices.

The common perception is that a lot of experience is needed, particularly for overseas jobs. However, data indicates that mid-level experience is in highest demand internationally, with about 52 per cent of employers seeking mid-level experience. Fresh graduates and workers with limited experience follow at 30pc, while only 18pc of the international market demands highly experienced workers. Domestically, the pattern is similar, with 71pc seek-

ing mid-level experience, 29pc entry-level, and less than 1pc high-level expertise.

Interestingly, vocational trades — certified through various trade programmes — are the most sought-after skill sets in both markets. In the national labour market, 65pc of jobs require trade certification, while internationally, this figure rises to 68pc. In contrast, diploma-level qualifications in health services have a smaller but notable demand: 7pc domestically and 16pc internationally. Engineering diplomas are more valued nationally (16pc) than internationally (5pc). Meanwhile, the demand for BTech degrees is 8pc internationally but only 1pc at home. These figures are from 2017, and work is underway to obtain current figures, but the indicative pattern remains the same.

Speaking of patterns, an unsurprising one is that males dominate demand in both domestic and global markets. Internationally, 98pc of skilled labour demand is for men. Domestically, the divide is slightly smaller but still substantial, with 89pc of the demand for male workers, 9pc for both genders and only 2pc specifically for women.

Despite these stark figures, the proportion of women in the annual supply of skilled workers is around 39pc. This raises critical questions about the underutilisation of female workers, especially considering the investments made in their technical and vocational education. Strategies for integrating women into the skilled labour market is a top reform need.

The demand for skilled labour also varies across different sectors. Internationally, the construction sector leads the way, account-

ing for 55pc of demand, followed by maintenance and repair (17pc), services (11pc), and manufacturing (8pc). Domestically, manufacturing is the dominant sector (33pc), followed by services (27pc) and construction (16pc). These discrepancies between national and international markets indicate a skills gap in local economies.

Understanding these trends can help us prioritise the right skills development programmes. For instance, driving and electricians' work are among the most in-demand trades, yet the supply of qualified workers in these fields lags far behind. Take driving, for example, where there is a demand for 82,015 workers, yet only 5,785 individuals are available to meet this need. Similarly, there are considerable gaps in fields such as mechanics, masonry, welding, and machine operation, many of which are either underrepresented in current vocational training programmes or completely absent from Pakistan's TVET system.

The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission has a critical role in addressing these imbalances and ensuring that the supply of skilled workers matches the demands of the national and international markets. The focus is currently on supply chain adjustments, gender inclusion and adaptation to economic transitions. More importantly, we need provincial and district-level programmes tailored to meet the specific needs of local economies. The bottom line is to ensure that vocational training is not a one-size-fits-all approach, but is, instead, sensitive to regional demands. -- Courtesy Dawn

Learning focus

Nazir A. Jomezai

With rapid industrial and technological advancements, the educational landscape has evolved to a great extent. But maximum efforts are being made to align the educational system with the needs and demands of the industrial sector. This industry-education alignment concentrates on skill-based education, a standardised curriculum and assessment, alongside homogeneous or one-size-fits-all global education reform initiatives.

The transformation in industrial trends generates new skills, which leads to new educational goals and learning milestones, making it more of an employment-oriented education system that requires graduates for industrial production. Although job security is the state's responsibility, learning has now become a means to an end — make investment to get returns on investment in the form of a job. Individuals are responsible for both success and failure as well as job attainment.

But the controlled purpose of learning prevents a broader understanding of and participation in a social-ecological framework. Education has fundamentally become a private good, determined by the need and satisfaction of private desires rather than a tool of societal progress and evolution.

Educational researcher Gert Biesta has used the term 'learnification' for marketised learning, which favours data-intensive practices. Learning has also become unidimensional in the areas of policy, research and practice; 'what' is learnt and 'why' it is learnt are obscured as the purpose is limited to excelling in a particular skill set and on being beneficial for in-

dustrial production.

In learnification, the primary focus is on a procedural array of policies and practices, individual learning and measurable outcomes. The datafication of learning for its development and outcomes is the norm in the post-digital era. The most relevant examples are standardised exams, uniform learning designs and pedagogies with grades or scores being the focal point of parental, societal and industrial goals, which drive the economic success of education providers. Quantification is the only measure of learning and success in the education system.

By categorising learning as an easily quantifiable sphere, we overlook the wider functions of education, such as critical thinking, individual growth, social engagement and societal well-being. Consequently, a large number of exam toppers are hardly a reflection of social advancement, even in basic forms such as abiding by traffic laws and being punctual.

The instructional practices simply transfer a standardised curriculum to passive learners — a monologue-oriented curriculum with stratified capital resources ignores the ground realities of a diverse educational landscape, yet expects all learners to excel equally. Our pedagogies prepare students for exams rather than nurture them as drivers of social change.

In the same learnification landscape, our policies and educational management remain more administrative than academic, trapped in superficial measures of quantification such as staff attendance through biometric attendance systems. Instead, it should analyse and nourish the academic rigour, contribution to

learning improvements and social benefits.

Renowned scholar and cultural critic Henry Giroux, therefore, terms such standardisation and quantification of education as 'neoliberal pedagogical terrorism', as it curtails any collective struggle to preserve education as the process of creating critical citizens who contribute to social advancement. Instead, it has a corporate drive for efficiency through standardisation, rigid testing and accountability methods and privatisation.

While the number of out-of-school children is becoming a national crisis, those in school are left with poor learning.

Moreover, unemployment and the rapid growth in population have become key reasons for the increase in school dropouts.

Societies such as Pakistan, unfortunately, fall into this learnification trap, which is asymmetrical to their societal and structural fabrication. Hence, the country faces mass joblessness. The state offers extensions in the employment age limit as a remedy, which further increases the unemployment rate. What is important is a shift in the purpose of learning; it must move away from corporate or industrial uplift and job-oriented perspective to societal well-being, with bottom-up education for productive learners as opposed to passive ones.

Education should not only produce skilled human capital but also nurture them holistically to address diverse societal needs so that they can contribute to the collective social good. Potential learners need to be sensible human beings, responsible citizens and drivers of social changes. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Over Rs153 billion tax refunds disbursed to exporters, ensuring market liquidity: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday told the Upper House of the Parliament that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has provided over Rs153 billion tax refunds to the exporters ensuring market liquidity.

He was responding during the Questions and Answers session to a supplementary query of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada amid the seventh meeting of the 342nd Senate Session here with Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan Nasar in chair.

Senator Zeeshan Khanzada of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in his

query noted that the trade policy imposed in 2019 had expired in 2024 and no new policy and the government stance was shared so far.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb responded that the federal government through FBR had expedited refunds and over Rs52 billion were dispersed to the exporters on July 1st, the first day of the fiscal year 2024.

He said the federal government was focussing on diversification of exports into agriculture and information and technology (IT) as these two sectors were real channels and levers of growth and a comprehensive policy was in place.

The Finance Minister

in response to another query, said the question is pertinent and agriculture was the real lever of growth in Pakistan that saved the country economically through its 6% growth rate during the past fiscal year that averted default risk.

He assured the mover that the federal government would increase the financing for agriculture sector with large- and small-scale farmer financing including livestock and dairy financing as the latter comprised 60% of country's agriculture sector GDP.

"We are trying to promote dairy and livestock financing through banks and the point of the Member is well noted," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with the K-Electric leadership to discuss energy sector reforms and renewable energy transition.

Trade Policy 2025 to be announced soon: Kamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce and Trade Jam Kamal Khan has said the government was working to announce the Trade Policy 2025 which would be presented to the standing committees of the Parliament soon.

Replying to the questions of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the 342nd session of the question and answer session of the House, he said the government was committed to facilitating trade and industry and expanding exports.

Kamal said that the

incumbent government was determined to bring institutional and structural reforms, enhance regional connectivity, and diversify exports to ensure sustainable growth and stabilise the economy.

Jam Kamal said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has conducted several meetings with relevant ministries and stakeholders to deliberate upon a range of issues so that a comprehensive strategy could be framed to do away with all the challenges being faced by the business and industry in Pakistan.

He said that the textile sector, which constitutes the major portion of the country's exports, was under stress and we are considering different options for developing the sector.

Kamal informed that the present government had appointed a competent Head of the National Compliance Center on September 1. He told the House that textiles and apparel exports slightly increased by 0.93 per cent in the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24 as compared with FY 2022-23.

Govt. committed to promote Islamic banking in country: NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik Tuesday informed the National Assembly that the government is committed to promote Islamic banking in the country. In response to a Calling Attention Notice in the House, he said that the government plans to launch new Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion under Islamic Finance this month.

He explained that two schemes under the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) were launched in July 2023, involving Rs 70 billion in instruments, though these schemes were later suspended.

The minister high-

lighted that Islamic financial instruments are asset-backed, with certificates issued against tangible assets. In 2023, certificates worth Rs 80 billion were issued against assets such as the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway and Islamabad Metro.

He said that the government has identified new assets valued at Rs 1,000 billion and has secured the necessary approvals to proceed. Consequently, Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion will be issued this month.

The minister also reported a 30 per cent increase in Islamic banking accounts and announced plans to issue new certificates based on the recently identified assets.

Businessmen can make Pakistan an economic power: Dr Gohar Ejaz

LAHORE (APP): While stressing upon the unity of business community, Patron-in-Chief APTMA and former caretaker federal minister Dr Gohar Ejaz has said that the business leadership has the potential to make Pakistan an economic power. He was speaking at a reception organized in the honour of PIAF Founders LBF Alliance candidates on Tuesday where APTMA North extended all out support to the PIAF Founders LBF Alliance in the upcoming Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) elections 2024-26. Patron-in-Chief United Business Group (UBG) S M Tanveer was also present.

Dr Gohar Ejaz said a country can only be powerful if it has strong army and a strong economy. Pakistan has a strong army and the business community is dreaming of securing a strong economy by forging alliances right from the FPCCI to Chambers and Associations. He said the country's exports would have been US \$60 billion today had the business community decided to forge unity 10 years back. He said the business community has a new leadership in the form of S M Tanveer who has united the business community countrywide and secured two-thirds majority in the FPCCI.

Sohail Pasha elected chairman PTEA unopposed

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) has elected Sohail Pasha as unopposed Chairman of PTEA, whereas Mahmood Ahmad and Ameer Ahmed were elected uncontested Senior Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively. Earlier, twenty-four members were also elected unopposed for the Executive Committee seats of PTEA for the next two-year term. Member PTEA Election Commission Rana Javed Akhtar, declaring unofficial results, said here on Tuesday that only three nomination papers were received for the office Chairman, Senior Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Association.

Chinese delegation from Shandong CCI visits LCCI

LAHORE (APP): A high-level delegation from the Shandong Chamber of Commerce & Industry, China, visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) here Tuesday. LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt presented the address of welcome to the delegation led by Li Chong. Shahbaz Siddique, Convener of the Standing Committee on "Pak-China Business Relations", was also present.

The LCCI Vice President praised the consistent interest of Chinese trade missions in engaging with the LCCI, recognizing it as a pivotal hub for enhancing bilateral trade relations. He

specifically acknowledged the vital role of Li Chong and his delegation in exploring business opportunities that could further strengthen the economic ties between the two nations.

Adnan Khalid Butt underscored the importance of mutual cooperation in various sectors, including Minerals, Steel Structures, Gold Mines, Salt Mines, Construction and Medical Equipment. He emphasized that the Pakistani business community is eager to collaborate with Chinese enterprises in these fields, with the aim of fostering long-term partnerships that could lead to significant economic growth.

Rupee gains 09 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 09 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.61 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.70.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.85 and Rs 280.45 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 70 paise to close at Rs 307.51 against the last day's closing of Rs 308.21, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

CCP enforces 'Competition Law', Rs 27 million in penalties recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has successfully recovered Rs27 million in penalties from Reliance Paints and Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) by exercising its authority under Section 40(2)(a) of the Competition Act, 2010, through the attachment of their bank accounts.

These recoveries are part of the CCP's broader strategy to enforce its mandate of ensuring a level playing field across all sectors, demonstrating its commit-

ment to tackling anti-competitive practices, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Over the past year, the CCP has recovered a total of PKR 69 million in penalties, accounting for 25% of the total amount recovered since the Commission's establishment in 2007.

This significant progress underscores the CCP's ongoing vigilance and effectiveness in promoting fair competition and protecting consumer interests.



Asad Isalm Mahni, Additional Secretary Ministry for Industry and Production, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, CEO NPO in a group photo with the participants of the International Workshop.

Maryam seeks five-year vision reports from parliamentary secretaries

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday held a meeting with Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, and Administrative Secretaries to streamline government affairs.

The CM directed the authorities concerned to invite parliamentary secretaries concerned to the departmental meetings. She also directed parliamentary secretaries to get details of the projects from their respective departments, and sought five-year vision reports from them.

In her address, the CM emphasized the equal status of parliamentary secretaries, acknowledging their pivotal role in implementing government policies. She underscored the necessity of collective effort, stating, "No one person can run this govern-

ment alone; everyone has to work together."

CM Maryam Nawaz highlighted Punjab's potential as noted by Chinese investors and criticized previous administrations for their inefficiency, which she claims undermined development. She remarked on the extensive work achieved during Shehbaz Sharif's tenure, noting that the progress had been significantly disrupted.

The chief minister highlighted recent achievements, including a decline in inflation and improvements in food prices. She said that the price of flour in Punjab is significantly lower compared to other provinces.

She announced several initiatives: the distribution of Kisan Cards, a Rs 10 lakh subsidy for green tractors, and the 'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar Programme,' which

offers loans for home construction. She also mentioned relief measures in electricity bills and the launch of Minority Cards.

The CM stressed the importance of fieldwork to address public issues and the ongoing improvement in bureaucratic performance through a new KPI (key performance indicator) system. She urged her team to embrace their responsibilities in public service and announced plans to distribute sweets for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him).

Senior Provincial Minister Mairiyum Aurangzeb, Information & Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries attended the meeting. Provincial Secretaries and other relevant officers were also present.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over the 14th BoGs meeting of Edwards College at Governor House.

Kundi chairs BoGs meeting expresses dissatisfaction over delay in minutes

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Tuesday presided over the 14th Board of Governors meeting of Edwards College at the Governor House.

Governor expressed dissatisfaction with the unnecessary delay in the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, saying that stringent action would be taken in case of further delays in the preparation and approval of minutes from past meetings.

The meeting included a detailed review of the progress on the decisions taken during the last Board of Governors meeting.

A proposal was presented to reduce unnecessary expenses and increase the number of scholarships for students. Under the proposal, 14 students from merged districts will receive 100 percent scholarships. Additionally, the proposal included five scholarships for disabled students, three for Hafiz-e-Quran students, and three for transgender students.

The discussion also covered the appointment of a permanent Principal for the college. The Governor emphasized that relevant rules and procedures should be reviewed for this appointment.

Governor Kundi directed that a proposal be prepared for establishing branches of Edwards College in Abbottabad and Dera Ismail Khan.

He also announced plans to hold a meeting with students and faculty to gather suggestions for the overall improvement of the college.

The Governor instructed to expedite work on meeting minutes and other related matters.

Special guests at the meeting included CEO of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute Shakil Durrani and renowned educationist Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Bishop Peshawar Sarfraz Humphrey Peter.

Minister holds PEF 88th BoD meeting

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat chaired the 88th meeting of Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) Board of Directors (BoDs) at the PEF head office, here on Tuesday.

Member Chief Minister's Task Force Muzamil Mehmood participated as a new board member while Secretary Schools Education Khalid Nazir Wattoo, Secretary Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education Syed Haider Iqbal, Education Expert Asma Waziri, Direc-

tor STEM, University of Education Dr. Intizar Hussain Butt, Assistant Chief, Planning and Development Department Dr. Saima Malik, Deputy Secretary Technical, Social Welfare Department Muhammad Itfikhkar Hussain Bhatti, Additional Finance Secretary Meer Raza and Technocrat Dr. Basit Khan attended the meeting.

During the session, Malik Shoaib Awan was elected as the new Chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation.



LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat, Vice Chancellor Uzma Qureshi, DG Rescue Dr. Rizwan Naseer inaugurating the Life Saver program on the occasion of World First Aid Day at Lahore College for Women University.

CM KP's derogatory remarks against journalists, women face widespread criticism

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister's recent disparaging remarks directed at journalists and women, along with attempts to exert undue pressure on the state institutions including judiciary, have been met with broad condemnation across the province. The unjustified and provocative remarks made by CM KP during a public meeting in Islamabad were described as "irrational" by politicians and civil society and demanded of Gandapur tender unconditional apology over his tirade against media professionals and CM Punjab.

Ikhtiar Wali Khan, the Information Secretary for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in KP criticized Gandapur's attack on the media, emphasizing that the press had played a crucial role in promoting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's popularity during

the 2018 general elections when other political parties were completely sidelined, paving the way for PTI founder to get majority and became the prime minister of Pakistan.

Declaring the PTI's Islamabad rally as a complete failure, the PMLN leader strongly condemned Gandapur's illogical statement pertaining to forceful release of the PTI founder, adding such premature and provocative statements was aimed to place undue pressure on state institutions, including the judiciary.

He urged the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take suo moto notice of Gandapur's derogatory remarks, highlighting PTI's pattern of pressuring institutions when favorable judgments are not secured.

The PML-N leader stressed that legal proceedings cannot be influenced through public rallies or agitation.

Four killed, two injured in road mishap at Shangla

SHANGLA (APP): Four persons were killed and two injured when a passenger jeep plunged into deep ravine near Leko Kamar area Tehsil Chakaisar, Shangla.

Four persons including Jamshaid Ali, Imran, Izat Sayed and Umar Farooq were killed in the incident and two sustained injuries.

Mills workers receive financial aid of Rs 4.6m

FAISALABAD (APP): The Labour Welfare Department west region distributed financial aid of Rs 4.6 million among workers of a textile mills from Punjab Workers Welfare Fund, here on Tuesday.

Director Labour West Ghulam Shabir Kalyar gave the cheques to workers by visiting Crescent Textile Mills.

Minister assures to resolve problems of LG employees on priority basis

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Local Government, Elections and Development Arshad Ayub Khan on Tuesday said that the problems being faced by the employees of Local Government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be resolved as soon as possible.

Talking to a delegation of Local Government Employees Federation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, he said that establishing a building control authority was a top priority of the provincial government for improving

ATC declares 2 PTI leaders as POs in May-9 case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday declared two leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as proclaimed offenders (POs) in a case of torching police vehicles in Gulberg during the May 9 violence. The court declared the accused, Mian Aslam Iqbal and Khurram Shahzad, as proclaimed offenders. The investigating officer of Gulberg Police Station had filed the application for declaring the accused proclaimed offenders. The officer stated that extensive efforts were made to arrest the accused, but they could not be apprehended as they had gone into hiding to

KP to contact Center over financial issues in tribal districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to contact the Center and prepared a document with regard to financial problems of the Merged Districts of the province.

According to official sources, the KP government has once again decided to contact the Federal Government for assistance in resolving the financial issues of the tribal districts.

A document written in this regard has demanded establishment of a special 10-year grant with a name of "Pakistan Building Grant" to address the monetary issues of the merged tribal districts.

The document seeking a solution to the financial problems in merged districts urged the Federal Government to include these districts in 7th NFC Award and recalculate and reassess its shares.

The provincial government was also seeking to send this document to the NFC as it was a constitutional forum.

In this document, the KP government has written that after the merger, tribal districts have been nearly deprived of the development projects as these districts were obtaining an amount of Rs865 billion less than the Baluchistan and other provinces of the country.

International News

UN chief calls the death and destruction in Gaza the worst he's seen

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. chief said that the United Nations has offered to monitor any cease-fire in Gaza and demanded an end to the worst death and destruction he has seen in his more than seven-year tenure.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in an interview with The Associated Press that it's "unrealistic" to think the U.N. could play a role in Gaza's future, either by administering the territory or providing a peacekeeping force, because Israel is unlikely to accept a U.N. role.

But he said "the U.N. will be available to support any cease-fire." The United Nations has had a military monitoring mission in the Middle East, known as UNTSO, since 1948, and "from our side, this was one of the hypotheses that

we've put on the table," he said.

"Of course, we'll be ready to do whatever the international community asked for us," Guterres said. "The question is whether the parties would accept it, and in particular whether Israel would accept it."

Israel's military assault on Gaza, triggered by Hamas' attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, has stretched for 11 months, with recent cease-fire talks failing to reach a breakthrough and violence in the West Bank reaching new highs.

Stressing the urgency of a cease-fire now, Guterres said: "The level of suffering we are witnessing in Gaza is unprecedented in my mandate as secretary-general of the United Nations. I've never seen such a level of death and destruc-

tion as we are seeing in Gaza in the last few months."

The war has killed over 40,900 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, part of Gaza's Hamas government, does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count though it says about half of the dead have been women and children. Israel says at least 17,000 militants are among the dead.

The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times.

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon reacted to Guterres' comments saying, "It is disappointing to see the U.N. advocate for a cease-fire without mentioning the hostages and without condemning Hamas."



Palestinians inspect the site following Israeli strikes on a tent camp sheltering displaced people, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, at the Al-Mawasi area in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

China announces joint naval, air drills with Russia

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's Defense Ministry on Monday announced joint naval and air drills with Russia starting this month, underscoring the closeness between their militaries as Russia presses its grinding invasion of Ukraine. The ministry said the "Northern United-2024" exercises would take place in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk farther north, but gave no details.

It said the naval and air drills aimed to improve strategic cooperation between the two countries and "strengthen their ability to jointly deal with security threats." The notice also said the two navies would cruise together in the Pacific, the fifth time they have done so, and together take part in Russia's "Great Ocean-24" exercise. No details were given. China has refused to criticize Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, now in its third year, and blamed the U.S. and NATO for provoking President Vladimir Putin.

UN convoy in Gaza released after being detained by Israel

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: A convoy of United Nations vehicles and staff detained for more than eight hours by Israel in northern Gaza on Monday has been released, the head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said.

The Israeli military said on Monday it detained the convoy after receiving intelligence indicating that a number of "Palestinian suspects" were aboard and that it wanted to question them.

RSF paramilitaries kill 31 in Sudanese city of Sennar, activists say

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: At least 31 people have been killed and 100 wounded since the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces renewed an assault on the city of Sennar in southeastern Sudan on Sunday, a legal activist group said.

Several parts of the city including the main market have been targeted by RSF artillery fire, said Emergency Lawyers, which has monitored civilian deaths and other humanitarian violations.

The progress of the RSF, which already controls

Bangladesh to seek Hasina's extradition from India

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's war crimes tribunal is to seek the extradition of ousted leader Sheikh Hasina from neighbouring India, its chief prosecutor has said, accusing her of carrying out "massacres".

Weeks of student-led demonstrations in Bangladesh escalated into mass protests last month, with Hasina quitting as prime minister and fleeing by helicopter to old ally India on August 5, ending her iron-fisted 15-year rule.

Ukraine attacks Russia with 144 drones, killing one and closing airports

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Ukraine on Tuesday struck Moscow and western Russia in one of its biggest ever drone attacks, killing at least one woman, wrecking dozens of homes and forcing the closure of major airports in the capital, Russian officials said.

Ukraine launched swarms of attack drones over the world's biggest nuclear power. Russia said it destroyed at least 20 over the Moscow region, which has a population of over 21 million, and 124 more over eight other regions.

Three of Moscow's four airports were closed for air traffic following the attacks, Russia's aviation authority Rosaviatsia said.

A major road leading to the capital was partially closed. The drone attacks damaged at least two high-rise apartment buildings in the Ramenskoye district of the Moscow region, setting flats on fire, Moscow's governor Andrei Vorobyov said.

A 46-year-old woman died and three people were injured in Ramenskoye, Vorobyov said.

He added that 43 people were evacuated to temporary accommodation centres.

Social media videos showed flames bursting out of windows of a multi-story residential building, saying that dozens of flats were damaged in the Ramenskoye district.

Israeli defense chief says a temporary truce with Hamas is possible

Monitoring Desk
TEL AVIV: Israel's defense minister says the window is closing on an opportunity to reach a temporary cease-fire deal with the Hamas militant group that he believes could also bring calm to the country's volatile northern border with Lebanon.

Speaking to reporters, Yoav Gallant said that conditions are ripe for at least a six-week pause in fighting that would include the release of many of the hostages held in Gaza. However, he would not commit to a permanent end to the fighting, as Hamas has demanded, raising questions about the feasibility of a deal.

"Israel should achieve an agreement that will bring about a pause for six weeks and bring back hostages," he said. After that period, he said, "we maintain the right to operate and achieve our goals—including the destruction of Hamas."

The United States, along with mediators Egypt and Qatar, has been

working for months to broker a cease-fire to end the devastating war between Israel and Hamas. A main area of disagreement has been Hamas' demand for an end to the nearly year-old war and a full withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has raised a new sticking point in recent weeks, saying that Israel must remain stationed in a strategic corridor along Gaza's border with Egypt indefinitely.

Gallant has been quoted in Israeli media as saying that Israel could withdraw from the corridor for six weeks — to allow hostages to go free without risking Israel's security. The two men reportedly got into a heated shouting match at a recent Cabinet meeting where ministers overwhelmingly sided with Netanyahu.

During Monday's meeting with foreign journalists, Gallant was asked about his relationship with the prime minister.

US and Britain accuse Iran of sending Russia missiles to use in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The United States and Britain formally accused Iran on Tuesday of supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to use in the war in Ukraine and will take measures to punish those involved.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaking alongside British Foreign Secretary David Lammy during a visit to London, said that sanctions would be announced later Tuesday.

"Russia has now received shipments of these ballistic missiles and will likely use them within weeks in Ukraine, against Ukrainians," Blinken said. "The supply of Iranian missiles enables Russia to use more of its arsenal for targets that are further from the front line." It comes as Blinken and Lammy are preparing to make a joint visit

Wednesday to Ukraine, where they will meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other senior officials to discuss bolstering the country's defenses. The Kremlin is trying to repel Ukraine's surprise offensive that has claimed hundreds of miles of territory in Russia's Kursk region.

The accusations about Iranian missiles could embolden Zelenskyy to further ramp up pressure on the U.S. and other allies to allow Ukraine to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launches aerial attacks. President Joe Biden has allowed Ukraine to fire U.S.-provided missiles across the border into Russia in self-defense but largely limited the distance over concerns about further escalating the conflict.

Nine migrants perish off Senegal's coast

Monitoring Desk
MBOUR: At least nine people died after their boat sank off the coast of Senegal, the navy said on Monday, in the latest migration-linked tragedy to occur off West Africa.

The pirogue, which was "involved in irregular emigration", capsized on Sunday off the coast of the western town of Mbour, the navy said in a post on X.

The navy said it had launched a search involving three vessels and a Spanish maritime patrol aircraft. "Nine lifeless bodies were discovered and three survivors identified. An unknown number of people have been rescued by local fishermen", it said, without giving the number of missing.

The search is ongoing along the coast. Onlookers and relatives of the victims gathered on the shore for news of the missing.

Following Quaid's guiding principles vital for a strong, prosperous Pakistan: Zardari

PM calls on nation to renew commitment for building Pakistan as per Quaid's vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has urged the nation to follow Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's principles of "unity, faith and discipline" emphasising their significance as a beacon for the country's development. "I am sure that by acting upon his (Quaid-e-Azam) teachings and advice, we can make Pakistan strong and prosperous," the president said in his message to the nation on the occasion of the 76th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah annually observed on September 11.

Paying tribute to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the president said that the Pakistani nation was indebted to him for his efforts and contribution to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent where they could live with dignity and exercise their political, cultural, and religious rights.

Calling him a vision-

ary leader, who united the Muslims of India under one banner, the president said the whole nation was proud of Quaid-e-Azam's untiring struggle and unwavering commitment to the right to self-determination that shaped the destiny of millions of Muslims.

"Quaid-e-Azam's vision for Pakistan was fundamentally democratic as he firmly believed in a state where all citizens, irrespective of religion, would be equal before the law. Muhammad Ali Jinnah's struggle not only laid the foundation of Pakistan's democratic system but continues to influence our aspirations for parliamentary democracy and communal harmony," he remarked.

President Zardari said that Quaid-e-Azam successfully steered Indian Muslims through the complex political landscape of India while maintaining an unyielding stance on the rights of Muslims.

He said that Jinnah

had envisioned a Pakistan based on Islamic principles of democracy and socio-economic justice. "It was due to his sheer will, hard work and successful advocacy of the cause of Muslims that the partition of India became a reality. On this day, we not only honour his efforts but also recommit ourselves to the values and ideals that he championed," the president added. Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif called on the nation to renew the commitment for building a Pakistan having peace.

Justice, and equal opportunities for all citizens as per the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The prime minister, in his message on the 76th death anniversary of the Quaid-e-Azam being observed with deep respect on September 11 (Wednesday), said the Quaid stood out as one of the most visionary politicians and eminent statesmen in history.



ISLAMABAD: Kevin Piccoli, Deputy Director in the Office of International Affairs at the US Commodity Future Trading Commission (CFTC) called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division.

Romina launches Recharge Pakistan—excess floodwater management initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said that Pakistan regularly experiences seasonal flooding, especially during the monsoon season, which poses significant risks to human life, property, agriculture, and infrastructure. But, managing this excess water can help overcome the risks and prove a boon to the country's socio-economic development, she added.

Addressing a launching ceremony of the 'Recharge Pakistan Programme' as chief guest here Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted that the

present government is concerned over wastage of excess floodwaters during summer monsoon season, which gush down the country's river system untapped for want of for various reasons, particularly inadequate storage facilities in the country.

She further that addressing this concern of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Recharge Pakistan programme is being launched by the climate change and environmental coordination in collaboration with different national and international stakeholders to building country's flood resilience through nature-based adaptation for

integrated flood risk management and conservation of excess flood water so as to utilise it for meeting growing water needs of domestic, industrial and agriculture sectors. Managing floodwater through the Recharge Pakistan Programme would be a crucial step for several reasons, as it would help protect lives, property, the environment, infrastructure from the devastating impacts of flooding and help recharge the groundwater level, she contended. The PM's climate aide said, "Recharge Pakistan is basically an unique collaborative initiative as it would be implemented by different national and international development partners."

Senate HR panel irked by absence of IG Sindh

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights, chaired by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, convened today at the Parliament House.

In attendance were Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur, Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri, Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand, Senator Aimal Wali Khan, Senator Jam Saifullah Khan, the Secretary of the Ministry of Human Rights, the Chairperson of Sindh Human Rights Commission and senior officials from the Sindh Police, Human Rights Commission, AIGP Gender Crime, Prosecutor General and Human Rights.

The Chairperson, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, expressed concerns over the absence of the IG Sindh in the meeting, emphasizing that his presence was essential for addressing critical issues related to the growing number of cases of domestic violence, rapes, murders and other crimes against innocent citizens of the province. She reiterated that the Committee's priority is to

work collectively towards creating a safer society and despite repeated reminders, the IG had still not managed to attend the meeting that tantamount to a serious violation of the Rules.

During the briefing, officials informed the members that complaints could be lodged by calling the helpline 1715 at the IG office. Once a complaint is reported, the concerned officer promptly responds. The committee was also briefed on the Zarra Alert and Zainab Alert systems, which have made the complaint process more accessible to the general public. The members stressed the importance of raising public awareness and suggested having a media representative to disseminate crucial information.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, while highlighting the need for awareness, added that people fear the courts and police for reporting the cases, and in cases of domestic violence, battered and abused women often remain with their abusers, enduring life-threatening conditions.



ISLAMABAD: Anti-terrorism court sent the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Advocate Shoaib Shaheen to jail on judicial remand while passing judgment in the police attack case.

Anti-polio drive continues in ICT; 2 held for violations

ISLAMABAD (APP): A five-day door-to-door anti-polio vaccination campaign entered its second day in the Federal Capital while a school principal was arrested for refusing to allow students to receive the polio vaccine.

All the Assistant Commissioners are actively participating in the field alongside polio workers to ensure the campaign runs smoothly, said the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration. On the occasion, the district administration urged full cooperation to ensure the success of the door-to-door campaign.

For this purpose, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pothohar, Aneeq Anwar, visited the Jhang Syedana area, while AC Secretariat Abdullah Khan oversaw the campaign in Bari Imam, Barah Kahu, and Phulgran.

During their visits, some challenges faced by polio workers were identified. In response, they urged citizens to cooperate with health teams.

One person was arrested for refusing to let polio workers vaccinate children.

The district administration emphasized that it is crucial for parents to ensure their children receive polio drops, warning that refusal to vaccinate is a serious offense.

In a separate incident, the principal of a private school within the Nilore police jurisdiction was also arrested after he refused to let polio workers administer the vaccine to his students. Although the principal was released after discussions with the district administration, the incident highlights the legal requirement to cooperate with polio workers. The authorities stressed that preventing polio workers from doing their job is a criminal act. The district administration has appealed to all citizens, especially school administrations, to cooperate with the ongoing polio campaign.



ISLAMABAD: A Gypsies teenage girl is looking for useful items from a garbage container at sector I-9.

IG police deploys special squads for better traffic in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the directives of Inspector General (IG) police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, special enforcement squads have been deployed to key roads in city to enhance traffic management and ensure smoother flow, aiming to improve overall road safety.

It was also directed to ensure smooth flow of traffic at major roads and to take stern action against those creating inconvenience for the road users, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad police is taking all possible measures to ensure a safe road environment in the city with maximum convenience to road users.

The special enforcement squads have been constituted to ensure the implementation of traffic rules and smooth flow of traffic in rush hours, he added.

While reviewing the overall performance report about traffic related issues, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, directed to depute special squads at Islamabad Expressway, Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Road, Srinagar Highway and other important boulevards of the city to ensure smooth traffic flow. He said Islamabad Traffic police officers were directed to ensure traffic discipline in the city and take action against violators without any discrimination. He said Police issued more than 21 thousand fine tickets to vehicles over hampering traffic flow and overloading. Efforts are underway to ensure smooth traffic flow in the city and cooperation of road users is crucial to overcome the traffic related problems, he maintained.



ISLAMABAD: Country Director, UN Information Center, Catherine Weibel inaugurating an art exhibition at Satrang Gallery in a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

HEC commits to enhancing women leadership in higher education sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has committed to enhancing women leadership in higher education sector, knowing the fact that they constitute a major part of faculty across all higher education institutions in Pakistan but their representation in senior roles remains limited.

Realizing this, three years ago, HEC initiated Women Leadership Programme under its project Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP), said a press release on Tuesday.

HEDP is strengthening HEC's National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) on various fronts — the Women Leadership

Program is one of these key initiatives. Under the Women Leadership Program a total of 161 women leaders have already been trained across Pakistan in all the four major provinces.

The program equipped female academic and non-academic staff on governance in higher education, recruitment policies, managing work-life balance, gender and workplace communication, public procurement rules, financial management and strategic communication.

The program also provided personal and professional development opportunities and exposes participants to international best practices in women's leadership.

Senator Falak suspended for two days for using abusive language

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on Tuesday suspended the membership of Senator Falak Naz of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for two days for using abusive and derogatory language against Senator Faisal Vawda and disrupting the proceedings of House despite repeated warnings.

Senator Faisal Vawda earlier in his speech levelled accusations against the PTT's founder with regard to the assassination of journalist Arshad Sharif.

Senator Falak Naz in response used derogatory language against Senator Vawda, and the latter urged the Chair to suspend her for her inappropriate remarks and conduct.

PCP takes suo moto notice against KPCM remarks

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) on Tuesday took suo moto notice of derogatory remarks made by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur against the journalist community in a public rally. Chairman of the Press Council of Pakistan, Arshad Khan Jadoon, issued the notice under Article 8 and (2)8 of the Press Council's regulations. The chief minister had been asked to tender a formal apology within 15 days from the date of issuance of notice. He said that the Press Council is committed to safeguarding freedom.

Delegation of IQRA students visits Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directives of the Director General (DG) Shakir Hussain Dawar, the Deputy Director Technical welcomed the volunteers of Islamabad Police IQRA University student delegation, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, online women police sta-

tion and the police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and advantages of Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the

safety of the city, preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center.

Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements, he maintained.

The delegation acknowledged the modern technical system of the Islamabad Police and its



The delegation expressed special gratitude to DG Safe City and his team for this successful visit.

Chandio urges all political parties to work for economic prosperity of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Maula Bakhs Chandio on Tuesday urged all the political parties to work for economic prosperity of Pakistan. All the political issues must be resolved through negotiations, he said while talking to a private television channel. Commenting on arrest of Opposition members on violation of code of conduct, he said, it is a regrettable incident but this culture was promoted by the leaders of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI), during their period of tenure of government.

He suggested all the political parties including Opposition to sit on the table and initiate dialogue for resolving political issues. There is a dire need to strengthen Pakistan's economy, he said adding that we should work for political stability and strengthening democratic system to achieve the development goals.

In reply to a question about talks with PTI to melt down political heat, he said PPP and PML-N leaders have invited PTI on many occasions to sit for talks but the PTI rejected the dialogue offer.

Parents urged to support polio workers in eradicating polio

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq, focal person of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the anti-polio campaign on Tuesday urged the parents of children under-five to cooperate with vaccination teams to get rid of the crippling disease.

Talking to a private news channel, she said that the campaign was launched yesterday on a mass scale.

The campaign will be done across 115 districts, aiming to vaccinate 33 million children against this debilitating disease, she added.

Climate change poses a significant threat to vulnerable populations in disputed territory: Speakers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers at a symposium on the effects of climate change on human life stated that a collective reaction and concerted effort were urgently needed to safeguard vulnerable communities in disputed territories who were threatened by climate change.

The seminar, arranged by Kashmir Institute of International Relations in collaboration with International Action for peace and sustainable development on the sidelines of the 57th session of the UNHRC, was attended by international

specialists, human rights advocates, diplomats, and academics from all around the world, including Mr. Talha Tufail Bhatti, environmentalist, Mr. Abdul Rehman Research officer CISSAJK, Ms. Eisha Tariq Research intern at KIIR, Syed Faiz Naqashbandi, Mrs Shamim Shwal APHC leaders and Dr Shugafta Ashraf.

While the seminar was moderated by Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan president Internal Action for peace and sustainable development, received a press release from Geneva.

Describing climate change as an issue of global concern, the speakers stated that climate change posed a major threat to those living in conflict-affected areas, where communities suffer a slew of challenges exacerbated by political conflicts, violence, and increased militarization. "Kashmir is one of the areas most vulnerable to climate change," they stated. They went on to say that while the protracted conflict poses a serious risk to people's lives, health, food, and way of life throughout the region.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers are busy cleaning and removing old paint to repaint the wall under the Faizabad Interchange.