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No leniency or talks with terrorists

## Some elements' aim to undermine Pakistan in name of nationalism: CM Bugti

State will stand with victims; Terrorists going after soft targets

LAHORE (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti said on Sunday that no Balochi had killed any Punjabi but terrorists killed Pakistanis.

Addressing a press conference at a local hotel here he said, "Terrorists have no religion, sect or ethnicity and they should be treated as terrorist only." He said that in Baloch traditions travellers are very important and the Baloch have a lot of respect and esteem for women and children. "No Islamic or even Baloch traditions allow killing innocent human beings in front of women or children. The state is standing with oppressed people and with the family members of all those who lost their dear ones in recent terrorism incidents," he added.



The Balochistan CM said that he was here to assure that no leniency would be shown to terrorists. "In the recent terrorist incidents, BLA had attacked nine places in Balochistan and hit soft targets except one which was paramilitary an installment and three Frontier Corps personnel

were martyred in it. All other targets were civilians which exposed the capacity of terrorists. The Balochistan government along with law enforcement agencies will make sure that terrorists meet their logical end," he maintained. He also thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif,

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, who had visited Balochistan and an apex committee meeting was held there. "Action was taken on demands of the Balochistan government from the federal government. As the federal government has announced compensation for the martyrs, the Balochistan government will also give Rs 2 million to each family. The Balochistan government will also compensate for damaged vehicles," he added. The Balochistan CM said that 'Disgruntled Balochs' was not a right term, "they are only terrorists and there is a ruling of the then Speaker Qudus Bizenjo in this regard which he had given in the

Balochistan Assembly. An all-out effort will be made to eradicate terrorism from Balochistan and establish the writ of state in real sense, he maintained. He said that those who commit violence in the name of religion had nothing to do with religion and likewise those involved in violence in the name of nationalism had nothing to do with it. He said that certain groups could not be allowed to create unrest and instability in the country just for their vested interests. He said that people of Balochistan equally feel the pain and agony of the families of the martyrs. He said such nefarious actions could not harm the state's resolve against terrorism.



LAHORE: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti visiting the residence of Shaheed Captain Muhammad Ali Qureshi and offering condolences to the bereaved family members. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan are also present

## PM expresses satisfaction over inflation rate drop; economic stability

Says government is committed to economic reforms and we are swiftly implementing the right-sizing policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his satisfaction over the nosediving of inflation rate in the country and the indicators of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, showing a decline in the inflation rate.

The prime minister said that "Consumer Price Index" fell to record low in July 2024, bringing inflation to 11 percent and welcomed the economists' forecast of further decline in inflation in the current month of September.

"After Fitch, the global rating agency, Moody's recently upgraded Pakistan's credit rating, which is an

acknowledgement of country's positive economic indicators by the international financial institutions," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister further said that the government was pursuing a policy of economic reforms and the implementation work was rapidly in progress over the right-sizing policy of the government which he himself was monitoring.

He expressed the confidence that its positive impact on the economy would be visible soon.

The prime minister also acknowledged that the

federal and Punjab governments had provided a big relief to the electricity consumers in respect of monthly bills, adding the prices of petroleum products were further reduced from today.

The prime minister said that the government believed in passing on all the benefits of such policies to the common man.

The economy was moving towards stability owing to the hard work of the government's economic and financial team, he added. He said the government was cognizant of the issues of the people and was striving day and night to resolve them.



QUETTA: A view of damages due to fire at Science College

## PM condoles Rana Afzaal's death

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visited the residence of Federal Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, here at Muridke on Sunday.

He offered condolences to the minister on the sad demise of his brother Rana Afzaal Hussain, a Member of Provincial Assembly.

Shehbaz Sharif prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss with patience.

The PM appreciated the political services of Rana Afzaal Hussain and said that his services for welfare of people would always be remembered.

## Minister Education takes notice of incident of fire erupted in Science College, seeks report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani has taken serious notice of the incident of fire erupted in the Government Science College Quetta.

Expressing deep concern over the incident of fire in the Science College, the Minister Education has taken report of the incident from the concerned authorities.

Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan has directed to the Secretary Colleges and Higher Education and the Principal of Government Science College to conduct inquiry of the untoward incident and submit the details in this regard immediately.

She also directed to take legal action against the responsible if there's an ele-

ment of any subversive act. The Minister also directed to lodge FIR of the incident.

Besides, Ms. Durrani also directed to make sufficient security arrangements in the educational institutions and stop entry of the unauthorized persons in the hostels. It may be mentioned here that fire was erupted in the Science College in wee hours of Sunday.

As a result of the fire, the office of Principal as well as the lecture rooms and corridor of the college were burnt. The furniture and other valuables were also burnt following the fire in the College. The fire brigades overcame the fire, which was erupted due to short circuit, as informed by the Chief Fire Officer Quetta.

## Pakistan reports fourth Monkeypox case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health on Sunday confirmed that a fourth case of Monkeypox has been reported from Peshawar. According to the spokesperson of the ministry, the affected person belongs to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The 47-year-old citizen was isolated on August 29 by Border Health Services staff based on symptoms, the spokesperson said. The affected person has come from the Gulf countries.

National Coordinator for Health Dr Mukhtar Bharath said that an effective screening system is working at all airports.

He said that Pakistan has taken effective measures to prevent Mpox.

He said that the federal capital and provinces are in close coordination. He said that the government is ensuring that all the necessary steps are taken on time.

He said that the Ministry of Health is regularly monitoring the situation.

He said that the Ministry of Health and provincial governments are engaged in ensuring advance measures.

## 'Dangerously delusional': Pakistan rejects India's stance on Kashmir

FO spox firmly rejects any notion that Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been or could be settled unilaterally

ISLAMABAD (INP): In response to recent comments by India's Minister for External Affairs, S Jaishankar, on Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan's Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch reiterated that the Kashmir dispute is internationally recognised and must be resolved according to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

"The Jammu and Kashmir dispute is an internationally recognised dispute that must be resolved in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Resolution of this unresolved conflict is pivotal to peace and stability in South Asia," Baloch said on Sunday.

Jaishankar, speaking on Friday, had stated, "I think the era of uninterrupted dia-

logue with Pakistan is over. Actions have consequences, and insofar as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, I think Article 370 is done." He further added, "The issue today is what kind of relationship can we possibly contemplate with Pakistan. What I do want to say is that we are not passive, and whether events take a positive or negative direction, either way, we will react."

In her response, Baloch firmly rejected any notion that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been or could be settled unilaterally. "Such claims are not only misleading but dangerously delusional, as they blatantly disregard the on-ground realities. India's unilateral actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) cannot and will not change this reality," she said.

## Two persons injured in blast near Chaman railway crossing

QUETTA: Two persons got injured in an explosion took place near Chaman railway crossing in Quetta on Sunday afternoon.

The police confirmed that two persons, stated to be passers-by, got injured as a result of the explosion took place near check post of law enforcement agency. Although the nature of blast is being determined, how-

ever, initial reports suggested that it was hand grenade that was used in the explosion.

The police and rescue teams rushed towards the spot of explosion. The injured persons were removed to the civil sanedman hospital where their condition is stated to be out of danger.

Further investigations are in progress.

## Joint condemnation resolution to be tabled as session of BA to be held today

QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to be held at 03:00 PM today (Monday).

It may be mentioned here that the Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail had summoned the session of provincial assembly.

According to the agenda, joint condemnation resolution would be tabled against the incidents of terrorism in the today's session.

The Provincial Ministers Ali Madad Jatak and Bakht Muhammad Kakar would table the resolution.

The call attention motion would also be tabled about rehabilitation of the flood affected districts in the session.

The member of opposition belonging to JUI, Zabid Ali Reki would table the motion.



MURIDKE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offers Fateha for late Rana Afzal Hussain, brother of Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister.

## Visits Lahore to personally condole death of martyr Captain with family: Balochistan indebted to blood of martyr Captain Muhammad Ali; sacrifices of martyrs would not go in vain: CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has stated that Balochistan is indebted to the blood of martyr Muhammad Ali Qureshi adding he asserted that the sacrifices of martyrs would not go in vain at all.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the family of martyr Muhammad Ali Qureshi whom he visited in Lahore on Sunday afternoon.

The Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Corps Commander Quetta, and Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan were also accompanied the Chief Minister.

They met the bereaved family of the Captain Muhammad Ali who was martyred during the terrorist attack in the province. They offered fateha for the departed soul and expressed condolence with the family.

Speaking to the family of martyr captain, Chief Minister said that he (Captain Muhammad Ali) rendered sacrifice of his life for protection of the home land and people. He said that the province is indebted to the blood of martyr captain and the sacrifices rendered by the martyrs would not go to waste.

He also reiterated the government's resolve to take the terrorists to task

after chasing them.

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that the war against terrorism is not merely of the security forces, rather it is the war of whole nation.

He also vowed that the families of martyrs would not be left alone.

It may be mentioned here that Chief Minister Balochistan especially visited Lahore to meet the family of martyr captain Muhammad Ali and consoled with it.

Meanwhile, he along with the Chief Secretary Balochistan also went to grave of the martyr Captain Muhammad Ali, laid floral wreath there and offered fateha for the departed souls.



QUETTA: Security personnel at the site of explosion near a security forces check post at Chaman Phatak.

## 10 die in rain-related incidents in Karachi, Balochistan

KARACHI, QUETTA (INP): Although cyclone 'ASNA' has spared Karachi and coastal areas of Balochistan and now has moved away toward Oman, still the rain and strong winds it produced resulted in the loss of seven lives besides uprooting trees and electricity poles in the city, while three people died in Balochistan, reported on Sunday.

The fatalities have been reported from Qila Saifullah and Dukki areas of the province.

Flood-hit people at Qambar await govt help. Although rain has stopped in Sindh, including Karachi, people are

still suffering from their aftereffects.

The rainwater that had entered scores of villages in Qambar, Sindh from the Kirthar mountainous range has not been drained out as yet, while the water also washed away the roads, forcing the people to use boats as means of communication.

On the other hand, nobody from the district administration has visited the area as yet to assess the damage done by the rains and start relief and rescue activities.

Residents of the area have appealed to the provincial Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah to take notice of their plight.

## Terrorist attack on police checkpoint in Kurram injures three officials

KURRAM (INP): Three police officers were injured in a late-night terrorist attack on a police checkpoint in the Murghan area of Central Kurram, according to local authorities.

The attack comes amid a surge in terrorist activity and movement in different areas of Central Kurram.

Police sources revealed that terrorists attacked the police checkpoint in Murghan, resulting in injuries to three officers. Police retaliated with heavy fire, and there are reports of several terrorists being injured or killed. However, the exact number of terrorists involved remains unknown.



NASEERABAD: Provincial Advisor Sardar Baba Ghulam Rasool Umrani inspecting damages due to flood

## Mushaal Mallick pledges to carry forward shaheed Gilani's struggle

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the 3rd martyrdom anniversary of the iconic Kashmiri leader Shaheed Syed Ali Shah Gilani, Hurriyat leader Mushaal Malik paid heartfelt tributes to his unwavering dedication and reaffirmed that Gilani's powerful slogans will continue to illuminate the path to freedom, serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration for the Kashmiri people in their ongoing quest for self-determination.

In his special message on the PTV News, she praised Shaheed Syed Ali Shah Gilani as a courageous leader who devoted his entire life to the Kashmir struggle. She emphasised that Gilani was more than just a leader he embodied the spirit of a thinker, a visionary, a revolutionary and a symbol of sacrifice and victory.

Mushaal Malik noted that Gilani's name became synonymous with resis-

tance, inspiring generations of Kashmiris to stand up for their rights and freedom. His unwavering commitment to the Kashmir cause left an indelible mark on the movement, she said. Mushaal Malik highlighted Gilani's remarkable vision, which continues to guide the Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination. She also emphasised the significance of his sacrifices, which have become a beacon of hope for those fighting for their rights.

Mushaal Malik remembered Shaheed Syed Ali Shah Gilani's two iconic slogans, which continue to resonate with the Kashmiri people. The first slogan, "Pakistan Humara hai, hum Pakistani hain" ("Pakistan is ours, we are Pakistanis"), reflected Gilani's unwavering commitment to the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and their

affinity with Pakistan.

The second slogan, "Na biknay walay hain, na jhuknay walay hain" ("We will neither sell out nor surrender"), epitomized Gilani's unshakable resolve and the Kashmiri people's determination to resist oppression and fight for their rights.

She emphasised that these slogans continue to inspire and motivate the Kashmiri people in their ongoing struggle.

Malik assured that the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people will not go in vain, and their blood will not be wasted. He expressed her conviction that the sacrifices will yield results, and the Kashmiri people will soon achieve their goals. She emphasised that Gilani's sacrifices will continue to fuel the movement until this goal is achieved, and the Kashmiri people can live with dignity and autonomy.



RAWALPINDI: Pakistani players celebrate after taking the wicket of Bangladeshi batsman Mominul Haque during the 3rd day of the 2nd Test match between Pakistan and Bangladesh at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

## Shahzad's six-wicket haul gives Pakistan 21 run lead over Bangladesh

Litton Das's 138 and Mehidy Hasan's 78 help Bangladesh recover, Pakistan are 9/2 at the close of day three

**Sports Desk**  
RAWALPINDI: The third day of the second Test between Pakistan and Bangladesh at Rawalpindi saw a dramatic turnaround as Bangladesh, led by a resolute Litton Das and an all-round performance from Mehidy Hasan Miraz, clawed their way back into the match after a top-order collapse.

Pakistan, however, managed to eke out a slender 21-run lead, setting up an intriguing final two days. Bangladesh began the day at 10 for no loss, but the morning session quickly turned into a nightmare for the visitors.

Pakistan's bowlers, particularly Khurram Shahzad, were relentless, and Bangladesh found themselves reeling at 26 for 6. Shahzad was the chief architect of this collapse.

Bangladesh looked set to crumble under the relentless pressure exerted by

Pakistan's bowlers, particularly Shahzad, who had already claimed five wickets. But Litton Das had other ideas. He scored 138, his first Test century in over two years, to rescue his side from the brink of disaster.

Litton found a reliable partner in Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who contributed a valuable 78 runs to their 165-run seventh-wicket partnership.

Bangladesh reduced the deficit to 12 runs when the final wicket fell.

Khurram Shahzad was the star with the ball for Pakistan, finishing with figures of 6 for 90. His early burst, where he dismantled Bangladesh's top order, set the tone for the day.

Despite his efforts, the persistence of Litton and Mehidy ensured Bangladesh remained in the contest, with Shahzad finally breaking the partnership by dismissing Mehidy. In response, Pakistan's

second innings began on a shaky note. Hasan Mahmud, riding high on confidence from his contributions with the bat, struck twice to leave Pakistan 9 for 2.

Abdullah Shafique and nightwatchman Khurram Shahzad were the victims, both falling cheaply.

As the day closed, Pakistan's lead stood at 21 runs, with Saim Ayub at the crease.

The home side faces the daunting task of building a substantial lead on a pitch that is increasingly favouring the bowlers. Bangladesh, buoyed by their comeback, will look to keep the pressure on and push for a series win.

With two days left and the match finely poised, both teams have everything to play for. Pakistan will aim to set a challenging target, while Bangladesh will seek early breakthroughs to keep the hosts under check.

## PML-N leader urges Opp. to put differences aside for nation's sake

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N Senior leader Ikhitar Wali Khan on Sunday made a fervent appeal to all political parties, including PTI, to accept Nawaz Sharif's offer of reconciliation, emphasizing that the time has come to put aside differences and work together for the nation's prosperity.

Talking to PTV News, PML-N leader Ikhitar Wali Khan emphasized the urgent need for political unity to address the country's pressing issues, particularly inflation, which is crippling the economy. He lamented that despite the dire situation, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan remains inflexible, refusing to compromise and work towards a unified solution.

Wali criticized Imran

Khan's unyielding stance, stating that it is detrimental to the country's progress.

He urged all political parties to put aside their differences and work together to find solutions to the nation's problems.

The PML-N leader reiterated that unity is crucial to overcome the challenges facing Pakistan and ensure a brighter future for its citizens. Ikhitar Wali Khan stressed that the soaring inflation rates demand immediate collective action. He argued that political unity is essential to implement effective policies and strategies to mitigate the effects of inflation on the common person.

By working together, political parties can find solutions to reduce the burden of inflation and restore

economic stability, he added. The PML-N leader urged Imran Khan to reconsider his approach and work towards a unified goal of addressing the country's crises.

Ikhitar Wali Khan also proudly highlighted PML-N's achievements, asserting that the party has consistently worked towards the country's betterment. He emphasized that PML-N's efforts have successfully steered Pakistan out of default, paving the way for economic stability and growth. The PML-N leader expressed optimism that the upcoming budget will bring significant relief to the common person.

He assured that the budget will be designed to alleviate the burden of inflation and economic hardships on the general public.



QUETTA: Security personnel stop the people at the site of explosion near a security forces check post at Chaman Phatak.

## Ruet-e-Hilal Committee to meet Wednesday to sight Rabiul Awwal moon

ISLAMABAD (Online): The meeting of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee will be held on Wednesday to see the moon of Rabi-ul-Awwal in the country.

Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad will preside over the meeting. The moon of Rabi-ul-Awwal will be announced in the meeting. Worth mentioning here that in Rabi-ul-Awwal, the blessed birth of the last Prophet of Allah, Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa PBUH celebrated in all over the country.



Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON, Engr. Amir Muqam addressing the Kashmiri diaspora in Toronto, Canada.

## Syed Ali Gilani's 3rd martyrdom anniversary observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The third martyrdom anniversary of veteran Hurriyat leader and the icon of the Kashmir resistance movement, Syed Ali Gilani was observed on Sunday.

Syed Ali Gilani passed away on September 1, 2021, while under house arrest at his residence in Srinagar, where he had been confined for over a decade.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called upon people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to visit the Hyderpora graveyard,

where Syed Ali Gilani is buried to pay their respects to him.

The APHC's call has been supported by all pro-freedom organizations. The APHC has also urged imams and khateeb to conduct special prayers for the veteran pro-freedom leader and other Kashmiri martyrs in mosques.

Additionally, the APHC has appealed to the Kashmiri diaspora to hold peaceful demonstrations worldwide to highlight the ongoing human rights abuses in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

## PTI-army deadlock will soon come to an end: Raof Hasan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson Raof Hasan has expressed hope that the ongoing deadlock between the PTI and the army will soon come to an end, stating that it is in the best interest of the state.

In a media interview Raof Hasan expressed that the deadlock between the PTI and the army should not continue any longer, stressed the importance of initiate talks between the PTI and the army without further delay.

He highlighted that the path to political stability in Pakistan lies in recognizing PTI's mandate, either through judicial means or fresh elections.

"PTI does not seek to involve the army in politics, engaging in dialogue with the military is necessary, as they currently hold significant power in the country," Hassan added.

The PTI spokesperson also suggested that a judicial commission should investigate the events of May 9, and if evidence is found, the party would issue an apology.

He acknowledged that some party leaders have

personal contacts within the army, which could facilitate future negotiations.

Hasan further mentioned that the PTI founder has been authorized Mahmood Achakzai to negotiate with political parties and, if necessary, with the army.

He further stated that the current government has failed to exert influence over the judiciary, stressing that the government cannot function without judicial support. He also noted a growing independence movement within the judiciary.

Raof Hassan also dismissed claims of his contacts with anti-national elements, challenging the information minister to provide evidence of such allegations.

He announced that PTI will launch a nationwide movement starting September 8, with rallies planned in all major cities, regardless of whether permission is granted.

He added that more political parties are joining their alliance, with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazi (JUI-F) agreeing to collaborate on a common strategy.

## Bilawal pays tributes to late Kashmiri leader Ali Shah Geelani

KARACHI (APP): The Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid glowing tribute to the late Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani on his third death anniversary.

He lauded Syed Ali Shah Geelani for standing as a steadfast bulwark against Indian oppression and for upholding the banner of the IIOJK people's struggle for self-determination. He remarked that Geelani's unwavering commitment and struggle for the fundamental human right of freedom will continue to inspire current and future

generations. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasized that the unresolved IIOJK conflict threatens the peace, stability, and development of the entire region.

He reiterated that the solution to the IIOJK issue lies in United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the IIOJK people.

He reaffirmed the Pakistan People's Party's commitment to continue extending political, diplomatic, and moral support to the IIOJK people in their struggle for the right to self-determination.

## Heavy rain causes flight delays and diversions at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): Severe rainfall has led to difficulties with landings at the Karachi airport, causing delays and diversions of several flights. According to aviation sources, a foreign flight from Doha was unable to land in Karachi and was diverted to Muscat.

Similarly, a flight from Addis Ababa circled for an hour before returning without landing.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-300 from Karachi to Islamabad has been delayed by over eight hours, with its new departure time moved from 7am to 4pm.

Delays also affected flights arriving in Karachi from Istanbul and Bahrain. PIA flights from Multan to Muscat and Al-Qassim

were also experiencing delays.

The revised schedule for PIA flights includes:

Flight PK-129 from Multan to Al-Qassim, now departing at 9:20 AM

Flight PK-171 from Multan to Muscat, departing at 8:15 PM

Flight PK-247 from Lahore to Dammam, delayed by three hours, would depart at 3:20 PM

Flight PK-233 from Islamabad to Dubai, delayed by one hour, would depart at 2:30 AM

Aviation sources indicated that flights from Lahore to Karachi were delayed by eight hours, Islamabad to Karachi by four hours, and PIA's Islamabad to Karachi flight by two hours.

## Minorities blossoming in China: Pakistani delegates

ISLAMABAD, (INP): Seeing in believing, Pakistani delegates witnessed "rise and shine" of Kazak minority and Xibe minority in Chabuchar County, Yining, Xinjiang. Both are among 56 ethnic groups in China.

Having physically observed living standards of Kazaks, their bustling life, kids' education, civic amenities, surrounding ambience, well-furnished homes and livelihood have answered all infested questions, a delegate from Pakistan Media delegation said, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

"It is high time of people of international community to pay a visit here as it will help distinguish truth from false," he added. Meanwhile, Head of modern village (Uzonbrak resettlement) Ms Yang Yang welcomed the delegation and apprised of details of village and dwellers.

She informed that impoverished Kazaks living in mountains along with their animal herds were resettled here under China poverty alleviation program by providing them all plenty of resources to live better.

"With share of 80 percent from government and 20 percent from one fam-

ily, handsome homes were constructed for each Kazak family. Government also provided ownership rights to them," she added.

"Here they have many new businesses to improve their income. Each shop's sale in village varies between RMB 10,000 to 15,000. Besides animal husbandry, Kazaks youth have been securing their jobs in nearby factories in economic zones.

Some have also joined the agriculture profession as per their precedence," she responded to a query.

China's ethnic policy, she said, is rooted in the country's unique history and culture, and has four features: equality, autonomy, development, and unity. Later Hassan Ali, owner of house in modern village served delegation local tea and food. Sharing his living experience here, he said that, "my two kids -- 4 years and 6 years old receive kindergarten education free of cost. This village is our heaven as it gives us honor and prosperous life."

The delegation also visited Chabuchar daily newspaper, being published for the Xibe people, a minority community in Yining.

This newspaper that serves around 30 thousand

population of Xibe community is funded by Chinese government. Statistics show that there are about 190 thousand Xibe people in China, and about 82.5% of them can use the Xibe language.

The newspaper was founded in 1946 and has a history of 78 years.

China's 55 ethnic minorities have a combined population of 125 million. China has been a unified multi-ethnic country as a result of multiple rounds of great ethnic integration in history, and this has contributed enormously to the uninterrupted development of the Chinese civilisation spanning thousands of years. Together, ethnic groups in China have long become a community with common interests and a shared future. China respect and protect the customs, languages, and religious beliefs of ethnic minorities.

A total of 28 written languages and 72 spoken languages are used by the country's 55 ethnic minorities.

There are 144,000 registered religious activity sites in China, including more than 35,000 mosques, 33,500 Buddhist temples, and about 60,000 Christian churches and gathering venues.



JHAL MAGSI: Commissioner Moeenur Rehman Khan distributing ration among flood affectees

## PeH, Tehreek-e-Shababul Muslimeen hold rallies in AJK to pay tributes to Gilani

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir and students' wing of Tehreek-e-Shababul Muslimeen Jammu Kashmir organized protest rallies in Azad Jammu and Kashmir to pay tributes to veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Gilani on his third martyrdom anniversary.

Syed Ali Gilani passed away on September 1, 2021, while under house arrest at his residence in Srinagar, where he had been confined for over a decade.

Pasban-e-Hurriyat organized a protest rally in Muzaffarabad in which a large number of people from all segments of society participated.

The rally was led by Pasban-e-Hurriyat Chairman Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, Shaukat Javed Mir, Mushtaq ul Islam, Raja Aftab Ahmad Khan, Raja Muhammad Arif Khan, Usman Ali Hashim, Chaudhry Muhammad Mushtaq, Qari Bilal Ahmad Farooqui, Ali Muhammad Butt, Abdul Hameed Lone, Chaudhry Muhammad Ismail, Shakir-ul-Islam, Jahangir Khan, Raja Sajeed Khan, Qari Maqbool Rehman, Syed Asif Gillani, Javed Ahmed Mughal, Dr. Muhammad Manzoor and others.

The participants of the rally carried banners on which pictures of Syed Ali Shah Gilani and his sayings were written. Speakers addressing the rally said that Syed Ali Gilani was the founding leader of the Kashmiri freedom movement in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They said that Gilani spent a large part of his life in the freedom struggle and fought an unprecedented struggle for the basic right to self-determination for the Kashmiri people. They maintained that Gilani even reached the remote areas of Kashmir and Jammu and organized the resistance movement. They said that Shaheed Gilani always taught respect for people of all religions in the occupied state. "Gillani always demanded to resolve the Kashmir dispute according to the resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people", they added. Protesters demanded of the UNSC and other international organizations to play their role for the solution of the Kashmir lingering dispute according to wishes of the Kashmiri people. The students wing of Tehreek-e-Shababul Muslimeen Jammu Kashmir organised the rally at Alambardar Chowk, Muzaffarabad under the leadership of Tehreek Shabab Muslim Students Wing Riaz Ahmed Awan.

Besides various political, religious and social organizations, Ashfaq Ahmad Zengiri, Siddique Dawood Nasir Khattak, Inayatullah Qureshi, Sardar Muhammad Ramadan Advocate, Central Chief Organizer Naseer Mir, General Secretary Students Wing Zahir Durrani, Vice Chairman Munir Kunsli, Shabbir Awan, Imtiaz Awan, Arshad Habibullah Mir, Asif Durrani, Nazakat Qureshi and Falak Khan participated in the rally.

The speakers on the occasion paid rich tributes to Syed Ali Gilani for his unparalleled and unprecedented sacrifices while leading the Kashmir freedom movement.

They said that Syed Ali Gilani was a symbol of Kashmir's freedom movement who remained steadfast throughout his life for the Kashmir cause.

The speakers said the Indian governments could neither buy Syed Ali Gilani's conscience, nor could the suppression and oppression of lakhs of Indian forces succeed in bowing his neck.

They said that Syed Ali Gilani was a figure of greatness and courage and a symbol of steadfastness against oppression and tyranny. He dedicated his life to the freedom struggle of Kashmir and continued the freedom struggle till his death.

## Islamabad's green initiatives model for other cities: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC & EC), Romina Khurshid Alam has lauded the initiatives launched by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration for transitioning to renewable energy and vulnerability of the capital city to climate change impacts.

In a statement on Sunday, PM's Coordinator said MoCC & EC had proposed to ICT administration a unique AI based solution to improve air quality of the city to make it model environmentally-sustainable and climate-smart city of the world. "Currently, the air quality of Islamabad is higher than interim WHO permissible limits, and the problem is getting worse because various reasons including increasing levels of emissions from gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicles", she highlighted.

The PM's climate aide Ms Alam said the proposed solution under the transition to green energy involving promotion and adoption of electric vehicles

and promotion of urban forestry would not only enhance air quality in the capital city but also reduces the associated health risks and attracts more international tourists as well.

She said various policies and initiatives such as the electric bus service, climate change fund (CCF), Margalla Hills Fund (MHF) and Carbon Credit Programme (CCP) have been already introduced for ICT to enhance climate resilience and environmental sustainability of Islamabad and its peripherial areas.

Appreciating these initiatives, Romina Khurshid emphasised the importance of collective efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change being faced by the capital city.

"These measures are setting a pioneering example in climate action, promising a greener and more sustainable future for the residents of the capital city and the adjoining areas", Ms Alam highlighted.

She acknowledged that the recently launched electric bus service in ICT is a significant step towards addressing environmental

concerns, adding: "These buses emit no pollutants, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and noise pollution compared to traditional diesel-powered buses".

Referring to different studies, she noted electric buses can be 2.5 times cleaner in terms of lifecycle emissions than diesel buses. She said the CCF, the first of its kind project, will contribute to address environmental concerns in ICT region. Referring to CCP as part of the climate change initiative, the Prime Minister's aide Romina Khurshid said under this project 4 to 5 million trees would be planted over 2000-10,000 kanals all over the capital city.

Romina said allocation of 1.5 per cent of revenue generated from recreational spots in margalla hills under MHF would be ensured to protect and conserve natural resources of the Margalla Hills National Park. The PM's aide urged the administration of other cities to follow Islamabad's model for climate action in the cities, prioritising use of renewable energy, adoption of electric vehicles.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Kashmir Committee, Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon visits corner, associated with the Syed Ali Gilani, where the belongings of the veteran Hurriyat leaders placed at Pakistan Monument Museum.

## WB team reviews progress of HEC's flagship project for higher education

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank (WB) funded Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project, being executed by the Higher Education Commission, held its 10th WB supervision mission for the project in Islamabad.

HEDP is a 400 million USD flagship project of HEC aimed to support research excellence in strategic sectors of the economy, improve teaching and learning, and strengthen governance in higher education, a press release said yesterday.

Spread over a week, detailed meetings were held on each of the six components of the HEDP project to review progress, including safeguards and fiduciary aspects.

The WB team, led by Ms. Inga Afanasieva, a Senior Economist at the World Bank, held an introductory meeting with the Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.

He assured the team that HEC is committed to successful execution of the project. The Chairman also offered HEC support for hosting the World Bank's next South Asia Regional

Cooperation event on quality assurance in Pakistan, so that neighboring countries work together to share and adopt the best practices. Executive Director HEC Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, along with the Project Coordinator Mr Awais Ahmed chaired the kick-off meeting. The Executive Director highlighted that the project missions are important as they help track progress, document lessons learnt and work as checkpoints for the project. He said that the project targets are being closely monitored for their timely completion.

## Ayaz Sadiq pays tribute to Syed Ali Shah Geelani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Sunday paid tribute to the heroic struggle of iconic Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, acknowledging his relentless and courageous struggle that gave new momentum to the Kashmir freedom movement.

In his statement, on his third death anniversary, the Speaker highlighted Geelani's enduring spirit, noting that despite enduring long and harsh imprisonments under Indian custody, his commitment to the cause of Kashmir's freedom never wavered.

He said that the sacrifices made by Syed Ali Shah Geelani would be remembered in history with

golden words, praising his powerful voice that breathed new life into the Kashmir freedom struggle. "Syed Ali Shah Geelani stood firm against Indian oppression and brutality, becoming an unyielding wall against state tyranny," the Speaker said.

Recalling Geelani's famous slogan, "We are Pakistanis, and Pakistan is ours," He noted that it continues to resonate deeply in the hearts of Kashmiris.

He expressed confidence that the sacrifices of the martyrs, including Syed Ali Shah Geelani, would not go in vain, and that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) would one day achieve the great blessing of freedom.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Humaira Tayab and others addressing a Press Conference under Save Gaza Campaign.

## Ministry of IT working to transform Islamabad into "Model Digital City"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal capital is poised for transformation into a "Model Digital City," aiming to integrate a broad spectrum of technological advancements for the benefit of its residents.

According to officials from the Ministry of Information Technology, Islamabad will serve as the pilot project for this initiative. This transformation aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of digitalization.

The "Model Digital City" project will enable residents to access 150 government services through a new City Super Application. This mobile app will facilitate a range of governmental and administrative services, including those from the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad Police, health services, and educational institutions. The aim is to encourage citizens to use the app for more efficient access to these services.

The app will also feature an e-parking facility, designed to streamline parking management and alleviate congestion in the city. The project will include the installation of AI-integrated smart cameras across Islamabad. These cameras will play a vital role in monitoring street crime, enhancing security, and improving traffic management for residents and travellers alike.

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## Women of twin cities turning towards scooties as mode of transport

ISLAMABAD (APP): Civil society has hailed the increasing number of women turning towards scooters as a mode of transport due to their hectic routines in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Talking to APP, a scooti rider Nihea Azmat, a student of National University Of Modern Languages (NUML) said that not only several students but also working women have started using their bikes and scooties.

Scooty, the name given to the smaller versions of scooters mostly painted in light colours to give a feminine touch, are

becoming popular in women for being affordable and offering speedy mobility for routine work, Ziant a working lady said in her remarks.

Mehwish, working in a private bank has said that over a few years, many women have adopted the scooty culture, gaining independence on the roads. Now, numerous companies are successfully offering scooties for girls due to the rise in demand.

Urban areas in the country already see many girls riding scooters due to their hectic routines, creating a demand for independent transportation, she added.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery is being used as construction work on Club Road in the Federal Capital.

## Experts offer way forward for Pakistan's education reform failures

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an era where the world is rapidly embracing artificial intelligence and technological advancements, Pakistan's education system remains stuck in a cycle of ineffective reforms. Despite over 27 different plans and substantial investments, the system continues to grapple with persistent challenges. The ambitious promises of reform have often been derailed by inconsistent implementation, political interference, inadequate funding, and systemic inefficiencies.

Numerous initiatives over the years have been launched to address the challenges facing Pakistan's education system. The National Education Policy (1998), Education Sector Reforms (ESR 2000-2003), and the Prime Minister's Education Reform Program (PMERP) aimed to en-

hance infrastructure, modernize schools, and improve learning resources. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2017 sought to address access and quality issues by increasing enrollment, upgrading teacher training, and modernizing curricula.

Yet, these reforms have frequently been undermined by a lack of consistency and frequent government changes. "Most of the time, educational policies were derived from the National Education Commission 1959 report. We have just generated documents instead of implementing them," said Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) talking to APP. He attributed stagnation to political and bureaucratic hurdles, emphasizing that effective implementation of existing policies is crucial.

Prof. Dr. Nasir pointed out that governance challenges and administrative inefficiencies have complicated these issues, resulting in delays, resource misallocation, and difficulties in executing educational programs. Efforts to decentralize education administration have faced obstacles, with some local governments struggling to implement reforms effectively.

Dr. Zaigham Qadeer, Director of Policy Research at the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE), observed that past reforms, though well-intentioned, were often limited in scope and regionally confined. PIE is now focused on addressing these gaps through evidence-based research and policy recommendations. "Effective reforms need to be scaled up and adapted to local contexts," he said,

## Shaheed Ali Gilani was a great supporter of Pakistan: Rana Qasim

ISLAMABAD (APP): Youth Forum for Kashmir organized a public awareness campaign and media briefing to pay tribute to eminent Kashmiri leader Shaheed Syed Ali Geelani on his 3rd martyrdom anniversary here at Lok Virsa Pakistan Monument Museum on Sunday.

Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon was the chief guest at the event. Chairman Standing Committee on Defense Fateh ullah, All Parties

Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leadership, students from different schools and representatives of civil society participated in the event. While talking about the contribution of Syed Ali Geelani to Kashmir cause, the Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon said that Shaheed Syed Ali Geelani was a strong voice of Kashmir in support of Pakistan and he faced all kind of injustice with great courage and never gave up for the demand of right to self-determination.

## IHC to hear the petition against stopping journalists from coverage on 10th

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Islamabad High Court will hold a hearing on September 10 on the request of the Pakistan Cricket Board against preventing journalists from covering the issue. Court remarked that if these are journalists, they have been covering the series in the past, how can their accreditation be stopped? The hearing was conducted by Justice Babar Sattar, meanwhile, senior lawyer Wahid appeared on behalf of journalists.



ISLAMABAD: Containers being placed on Jinnah Avenue at Shaheed Millat, D-Chowk also blocked with heavy containers to secure red zone of the Federal Capital.

## Islamabad Police to constitute special squads for action against signal violators

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has decided to accelerate efforts to ensure implementation of traffic laws and take strict action against those involved in violation of red-signal, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police has decided to constitute special squads for

taking stern action against those violating red signals. A special campaign is underway to check violations while various squads are performing duties at main roads and boulevards of the city and taking action against the violators. Efforts are underway to ensure a disciplined traffic system in the city.

Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk directed the Islamabad Police personnel to ensure implementation

on traffic rules and regulation irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience and politeness while issuing traffic violation tickets to the road users.

The Islamabad Police are utilizing all available resources to facilitate the general public. The force issues traffic violation tickets not as a punitive measure but as the purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the capital and secure the lives of the people.

## FDE team visits ICT rural schools to assess damage caused by rain

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Director General of the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), along with senior officials, visited six schools in Islamabad's rural areas on Sunday to assess the damage caused by recent heavy rains and to reinforce ongoing government initiatives to enhance educational facilities.

The delegation included the Area Education Officer (AEO) Bhara Kahu, Director (Planning & Development), Director (Coordination), and the Project Director of the Project Management Unit (PMU).

During the visit, the Director General announced a comprehensive plan for urgent repairs, committing to complete the restoration work within 10 days. This plan includes whitewashing all institutions, electrification, wash-room repairs, and the repair

of window panes. These efforts are in line with earlier inspections by Parliamentarians, reflecting the government's focused approach to uplifting rural educational institutions.

Specific tasks were assigned to the Project Director, including, the establishment of a computer lab with 40 computers at Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB) Maira Begwal, the construction of a boundary wall at Islamabad Model School for Boys (IMSB) Phulgran and the establishment of a library at Islamabad Model School for Girls (IMSG) Phulgran.

The Director General emphasized the importance of enhancing enrolment in rural schools and highlighted key initiatives by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MOFEPT).

## AIOU commences spring 2024 exams

ISLAMABAD (APP): Final exams for Matric, FA, and ICom programs offered in the Spring 2024 semester by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) are set to begin today (Monday, September 2) across the country.

According to the University, the roll number slips have been uploaded to the students' CMS portals, and the date sheet is available on the university's website at [www.aiou.edu.pk](http://www.aiou.edu.pk).

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has instructed to ensure the provision of basic facilities for students at the examination centers.

On the special instructions of the Vice-Chancellor, the roll number slips for Matric and Intermediate exams have also been uploaded to the AIOU Mobile Application, which is available on the Google Play Store.

## MoFEPT announces designated routes of Pink Bus Service

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT) announced designated routes of the Pink Bus Service to facilitate female students and teachers in Islamabad.

According to MoFEPT official, the program will deploy 20 pink buses to provide free transportation services for female students and teachers traveling within the capital.

The designated routes for the Pink Bus Service are as follows;

Route 1-A Nilore to F-11/1 FGCH&E&MS, Route 1-B Nilore (Ziarat Stop to Secretariat) Route 2-A Bhara Kahu to F-11/1 FGCH&E&MS (via F-6)

Route 2-B Bhara Kahu to F-11/1 FGCH&E&MS (via G-6) Route 3-A Humak to Secretariat.

Route 3-B Humak to F-11/1 FGCH&E&MS.

The 20 buses, acquired for various schools and colleges in Islamabad, feature a distinctive pink design and will operate in both rural and urban areas of the city. The initiative will allow female students and teachers in the federal capital to benefit from a new, free bus service to and from educational institutions. This joint venture between MoFEPT and the district administration aims to tackle the transportation challenges faced by women in accessing educational facilities.

## 15 govt rural schools equipped with digital learning materials

ISLAMABAD (APP): Aiming Change for Tomorrow (ACT) International, in collaboration with Federal Directorate of Education, has equipped 15 government schools located in rural areas of Islamabad with Chromebooks and high-resolution LEDs, along with digital learning materials on Life Skills-Based Education.

This initiative represents a move towards establishing smart classrooms in public schools in ICT, particularly in rural areas, the spokesman of the Education Ministry told on Sunday.

The initiative will chance students learning outcomes.



ISLAMABAD: Rawal Dam authorities open spillway of the reservoir after dam water level rose to alarming level due to heavy rain.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Monday September 02, 2024

**In demand**

Important people have been lining up outside the maulana's residence, seemingly hoping to win his favour. What gives? Pictures of the beaming JUI-F chief, arm in arm with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, were splashed across the newspapers on Saturday.

About a week earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had paid Maulana Fazlur Rehman a similar visit. In between, a delegation of senior PTI leaders, including party chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Asad Qaiser, Shibli Faraz and Raof Hasan, knocked on the maulana's doors. A PTI leader said the maulana wanted two seats in the Senate; the prime minister promised him that all his grievances would be resolved by the government if he parted ways with the PTI. After months in the political wilderness, the maulana must be feeling good about being back in demand. After all, he was the only one left high and dry when the last election results were announced.

It seems important to outline the context. It may be recalled that these meetings started a day after the JUI-F and PTI reached an agreement on challenging the government. The PTI will be staging its first 'power show' in the federal capital next Sunday, for which it has vowed to push ahead with or without the state's permission. If the JUI-F decides to join its troops, it could become a more complex challenge to handle. Separately, the JUI-F has a significant presence in Balochistan, which was recently rocked by a series of coordinated terror attacks. The state could be planning a major counterterrorism effort there and may consider it important for the maulana to extend his backing to the state's plans. Then there are rumours that the coalition government is planning to move important legislation through parliament, in which Maulana Fazl's buy-in may make the difference between a constitutional amendment being passed or not.

This is, after all, what politics is about, and the maulana is one of the most seasoned wranglers on the national stage. His party can exert considerable street power, and he can be quite direct when criticising the state. For this reason, both factions would want him to be on their side. As long as the tug-of-war over his loyalties is confined to whether he wants to sit on the treasury benches or the opposition, the PTI and the coalition government can continue slugging it out.

However, it is hoped that the JUI-F will not become part of any scheme to amend the Constitution till the question of reserved seats is resolved by the Supreme Court. Last Tuesday, bills to amend the Constitution were sought to be tabled by a lawmaker elected on a JUI-F ticket. It is hoped that they will only be considered once parliament is fully constituted.

**Abbas Nasir**

As violence erupted in Balochistan on the 18th anniversary of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti's killing, about two dozen unarmed civilian bus travellers and lorry drivers, mostly from southern Punjab, were among the 50 killed. Baloch insurgents also targeted infrastructure, such as a railway bridge and a number of security force bases.

Those killed included a woman suicide bomber and one man, who reportedly drove a VBIED (vehicle-borne improvised explosive device or a vehicle bomb) to breach a security force base's perimeter. They were followed by other attackers who entered and engaged law-enforcement personnel.

There were at least seven coordinated attacks, from Musakhel near the Punjab border, where the murders of unarmed travellers took place, to other areas where different sites were targeted. In my memory, these were some of the most violent, coordinated attacks targeting state writ in the province.

The province has been on the boil since the

**Balochistan — a way forward**

killing of Nawab Bugti in a military assault on his mountain hideout near Dera Bugti, where he had moved from his ancestral home anticipating state action. (Suffice it to say that it was the ego of the late General Pervez Musharraf and some horrendous counsel by his belligerent Military Intelligence chief, a relative of his, that led to the escalation and blocked a peaceful resolution).

Since then, the state has relied solely on an iron fist to 'deal' with the 'Balochistan issue', rather than address the 'issue of Baloch rights' against the backdrop of increasing alienation of the local population and escalating violence.

While the lead security player in the province, apart from reissuing past statements, remained largely silent on the Aug 26 violence, it was left to the civilian leading lights of the hybrid set-up to speak and share their understanding of the gravity of the situation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presided over a security meeting attended by the army chief and all security officials. The official statement high-

lighting the decisions taken at the meeting informed Pakistanis that the country's chief executive had decided to "post police and administration officers of the 48th Common ... to be followed by the 49th Common."

Officers from the two batches, or courses, of the Police Service of Pakistan and the Pakistan Adm-i-nistrative Service were offered a number of incentives to serve in the restive province, including two tickets every quarter to visit their families.

Perhaps the prime minister had read the excellent piece by respected former law-enforcement boss, Tariq Khosa, in last Saturday's Dawn, headlined 'Quest for justice', and was inspired by it. (Please do read it if you missed it). But if that is all he found inspiring in that all-encompassing piece, I can only despair.

Despair is what many Pakistanis have to live with, and this must include all of us who try and analyse the situation and comment on it. But there is despair and then there is despair, if you know what I mean. And if you don't, allow me to ex-

plain. How would you react if the day after some four dozen of your citizens, half of them or more unarmed, have been killed by a hail of bullets, even if they survived the suicide bombing, and your interior minister has this to say: Dehshatgard ek SHO ki marhein (The terrorists can be sorted out by an SHO). An SHO is a local, low-level police officer.

This statement comes against the backdrop of an escalation by both sides and after years of enforced disappearances and apparent kill-and-dump state policy and insurgent violence. If we add up the total number of police, paramilitary personnel, including FC and Levies, I am sure it'll run into thousands across the province. And everyone knows that the military back-up is also there. This indicates that far too many of our brave security personnel have perished in the spiral.

Asma Jahangir, the iconic human rights advocate-campaigner, once told her critics, who were targeting her for supporting talks with Baloch separatists while opposing any

such dialogue with TTP, that, 'There is a difference'. The Baloch are struggling for their political and economic rights, while the Taliban want to impose their warped interpretation of faith on the country at gunpoint.

I wish the state could make that distinction. It has ushered poster-boy proxies into public offices and disenfranchised Baloch of legitimate and credible representation — to disastrous results. Perhaps it is time to look for a different approach. In fact, it is the patriotic duty of each and every decision-maker to explore other avenues.

And if such a path is pursued, it should be adhered to with more sincerity than when Dr Malik Baloch, as the chief minister, and retired Lt-General Qadir Baloch, then of the PML-N, established contact with an estranged Baloch leader who was willing to enter dialogue, promised to revert to him with a response to his queries, and were, in all probability, vetoed by the security establishment and never returned to the discussions.

This lack of political engagement will have very

definitely strengthened the hands of the hostile external forces invested in fueling instability in Pakistan and would, in fact, play directly into their agenda. That is neither wise, prudent nor will it deliver any security dividend.

Perhaps, once they are done reiterating their iron hand resolve to deal with it, they might be persuaded to look at the British government's policy formulation and execution in its dialogue with the IRA, or how Spain ended its years-long war with the Basque separatist group ETA. Both countries and their people benefitted from peace, and nobody accused their governments of being lily-livered. Specifically, if they agree, there should be a brainstorm among Balochistan experts such as Tariq Khosa, Akhtar Mengal, Dr Malik Baloch, Aslam Bhoonani (an old friend of mine; just go and see the development in his constituency in Dureji, in the Hub-Lasbela area), the current DGI Lt-Gen-eral Nadeem Anjum and Dr Mahrang Baloch, who continues to support a peaceful struggle for rights. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Muhammad Amir Rana**

An unprecedented wave of province-wide violence in Balochistan, launched by the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), has raised significant concerns about the level of unrest in the province and the state's response. The situation escalated further when passengers were forcibly removed from trucks and buses and shot after their identities were checked in Musakhel district. This incident sparked outrage in Punjab, as the victims were targeted due to their ethnic identity, being from Punjab.

In response, a few social media users from Punjab initiated a campaign against Quetta-based restaurants spread across Punjab, run mainly by Pakhtuns. These individuals also called for the expulsion of Baloch students from universities in Punjab. This reaction played directly into the insurgents' hands. In conflicts, the identities of the real perpetrators and victims often become blurred, exacerbating the situation and widening the scope of the conflict.

The Musakhel incident has once again sparked

debate about why Baloch insurgents specifically target labourers and travellers carrying computerised national identity cards from Punjab. The existing literature on the subject fails to provide a convincing and updated explanation of the insurgents' motivations, typically focusing on the historical grievances of the Baloch against the federation, ethnic differences, and a sense of political disenfranchisement. To gain a more comprehensive understanding, it's crucial to consult informed individuals on the ground and consider observations that offer a broader perspective on how insurgents and counterinsurgents view the issue.

A common perception is that Baloch insurgents target Punjabi labourers and travellers because they believe the Punjabi establishment is exploiting their resources. While this may be one factor shaping their narrative, it is not the whole story. The insurgents also target Baloch labourers and travellers from south Punjab, a region with a sizeable Baloch population and where Baloch nationalists lay claim to several districts. The insurgents argue

that they target those whom they believe are serving in security services or are part of any state-led development project, regardless of their ethnic background. In the past, they have similarly targeted Sindh and Pakhtun labourers under the same suspicion. However, most victims have proven to be ordinary citizens without ties to the security services. For instance, Sindh working as private labourers or in fruit markets have generally not been targeted, unlike those employed by public contractors.

Targeting civilians is a challenging decision for any insurgent or violent movement, as it can be counterproductive, damaging their image and raising questions about their ideological and political foundations. A similar situation occurred with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) when they began targeting civilians, leading to divisions within their ranks. Internal discussions eventually forced them to alter their strategy of targeting non-combatants.

A similar dynamic might occur within the Baloch insurgent ranks, where the BLA is more radical than other factions.

The BLA justifies targeting non-combatant Punjabis by arguing that these are 'retaliatory attacks' in response to the disappearance and mutilation of Baloch individuals in the province. The BLA believes that targeting Punjabis inflicts the most harm on the military and stirs anger in Punjab against state institutions.

However, since the inception of the current phase of insurgency from 2002 to 2007, insurgents began threatening and killing Punjab settlers in Quetta and later in other Baloch districts, despite Nawab Akbar Bugti condemning these actions and arguing that targeting innocents cannot be justified. In response to this criticism, insurgents developed the narrative that these settlers, particularly barbers, are the eyes and ears of intelligence agencies.

Beyond these justifications, targeting Punjabis is a well-developed strategy for the insurgent groups. By doing so, they can provoke the security forces into launching large-scale military campaigns, which often lack widespread acceptance among

the population and generate more sympathy for the insurgents. Military operations reduce the space for political dialogue, which benefits the insurgents, as they feel more threatened by political initiatives than military action.

The insurgents are well aware of the consequences of attacking innocent Punjab civilians, knowing it can provoke anger against the Baloch, particularly the youth studying and living in Punjab. However, Baloch insurgents, especially the BLA, believe that their survival depends on complete isolation from the rest of the country, particularly from Punjab.

Hard-line Baloch nationalists also support this view, arguing that retaliation against Baloch students in Punjab and Islamabad is beneficial, as it will fuel anti-Punjab sentiments and deepen the divide, increasing hatred against Punjab. State institutions can counter the insurgents' designs through a well-crafted strategy rather than reacting impulsively. There is growing support for the idea that one of the most effective counterinsurgency strategies would be to sincerely address the issue of missing persons — unlike past attempts, such as the Justice Javed Iqbal-led Commission, which proved counterproductive and further eroded public trust in the state.

Engaging with figures like Mahrang Baloch could be a strategic move, as she has gained significant influence in the province, outshining nationalist parties, including Maulana Hidayatur Rehman. Rehman, who once championed the rights of the people of Gwadar, has remained silent since his election to the provincial assembly. If state institutions are unwilling to engage her in any political process, they must devise a policy to address the issue that earns the complete trust of the victims' families. Such an initiative could involve trusted parliamentarians and civil society actors. In either case, it would help to pacify the anger among the broader Baloch community. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Problem with Punjab CNIC****Tourism potential****Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry**

At a time when tourism has emerged as a major sector of the global economy, many nations have invested heavily in the industry to contribute to their GDP and also create employment. For Pakistan, too, tourism has the potential to not only bring socioeconomic dividends, but also improve the country's image. In fact, there are very few countries in the world that can match Pakistan's combined potential for mountain, religious, heritage, and coastal tourism.

Of the many facets distinguishing Pakistan are its mighty mountains, that have attracted adventure tourists from around the world. Home to the meeting point of the Himalayas, the Karakoram, and the Hindu Kush, the northern areas of Pakistan are an authentic destination for mountain lovers. Of the 14 peaks above 8,000 metres, five are in Pakistan: K-2 (8,611m), Nanga Parbat (8,126m), Broad Peak (8,047m), Gasherbrum-I (8,068m), and Gasherbrum-II (8,035m).

According to the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, Pakistan is home to 108 peaks above 7,000 metres and an equal number above 6,000 metres. This spectacular landscape is complemented by extensive glacier systems, gorgeous ridges, fabled lakes, picturesque passes, and high-altitude meadows.

The territories of Pakistan have also been the bastion of major religions. Buddhist holy places in the Gandhara region — Mardan, Taxila, Swat, and Takhti-i-Bahi — attract tourists from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Japan etc. Eighty per cent of the Sikh religion's holy sites are situated in Pakistan, no-

tably Nankana Sahib, Punjab Sahib, and Kartarpur Sahib. Each year, thousands of Sikh yatraees visit these gurdwaras. Likewise, several temples in the country are revered by Hindus, including Hinglaj Mata in Balochistan, Katas Raj in Chakwal, and Hanuman mandir in Karachi. The Sufi culture of Pakistan also attracts spiritual pilgrims, particularly to the shrines of Data Ganj Baksh, Baba Farid Ganj Shakar, and Lal Shahbaz Qalandar.

Pakistan is also the proud inheritor of great civilisations, including Mehrgarh, and Indus Valley sites at Mohenjodaro and Harappa. Prof Michael Jansen, who studied and wrote about Mohenjodaro, was convinced that this site alone can change Pakistan's image from a terrorism-afflicted country to a bastion of proud heritage.

Pakistan's coastline also offers vast opportunities for tourism because of its sandy beaches, boating basins, beach huts and restaurants. Yet, despite this evident potential, Pakistanis wonder why the country is not able to benefit from this rich national resource. In the Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 of the World Economic Forum, Pakistan ranks 101st out of 119 countries. (The US is at first place, while China is at nine, India 39 and Sri Lanka 76). Several reasons can be attributed to Pakistan's low standing in the tourism index.

Firstly, there appears to be no comprehensive national tourism policy framework. There are media reports that the PTDC has developed a five-year plan for 2024-2029 to promote international and domestic tourism, but it is not clear if this has been approved. In any policy framework,

**Under the influence****Muna Khan**

I am currently struggling to embrace the era of the influencer, especially as it enters the newsroom. This is despite me attempting to convince my previous employer to let us — a legacy media outlet — join TikTok in 2022. I knew our younger audiences were on TikTok, so I wanted to train a young journalist, armed with all the principles of journalism, to engage with new audiences there. The channel was apprehensive, I guess, because change is daunting — so we didn't move forward with it.

The next year, I returned to the classroom to find students were getting their news (read views) from influencers; many even aspired to become one themselves. I felt sort of validated, save the part where students weren't really getting balanced, even well-informed information. The news media, they told me, was lying to them. And they weren't wrong, especially on the Gaza issue, which we watched unfold in class following the Oct 7 attack. In Pakistan, however, I take exception to the term lying media, which is better suited to describe the men in charge. Journalists can't say it how it is because of censorship and boss' interests, but that doesn't make us liars.

I digress. I was talking about influencers, whose global industry was worth around \$21bn in 2023, according to Harvard Business Review. Around 300m people globally consider themselves content creators. "It is difficult to imagine an organisation or a consumer today who is exempt from contending with the realities of a world shaped by influencers," they write.

While there are a lot of problems with tradi-

tional media, there are no safety rails in place when it comes to influencers. You name a product, and arguably, the Kardashians and their minions are selling it. This industry is, as the report says, a place for entrepreneurship but also exploitation. The influencer industry has grown from beauty, fashion, hospitality and travel to non-profits, news and politics.

Nowhere was this more visible than the Democratic National Convention last week, where content creators jostled for space with journalists and were getting access to top Democrats, like journalists would. The party gave these influencers press-like credentials and a "front row seat to history". DNC's communication director told Reuters.

Democrats understood they needed to tap into a younger audience which consumes information on social media. According to the latest figures from Pew Research, 83 per cent of adults use YouTube, 68pc use Facebook, 47pc use Instagram, and 33pc use TikTok. The mainstream media is no longer the gatekeeper of political news.

Of course, it rankled a lot of journalists who feel the press box is, well, for the press. The number of journalists at the convention was slashed and reporters say they faced restrictions in access as well. Meanwhile, content creators got a (real) platform from where they could record their videos. While there's never been any consensus anywhere on who gets to call themselves a journalist, the way of reporting or covering events hasn't changed. Journalists work from a place of balance, whereas influencers are partisan from the get-go. They are not accountable to anyone. That is the fundamental difference, and if the DNC is roping

in influencers to spread their message, is it because they have lost confidence in journalism or in its product; ie, their candidate?

At the time of my writing, Kamala Harris and Tim Walz were giving their first joint interview, an anomaly in itself. Harris has come under criticism for not giving an interview since becoming the presumptive candidate. There is a lot of speculation as to why: from she's avoiding scrutiny, to she doesn't think the media industry plays fair. My guess is that she wants to win (duh) and doesn't think she needs air time to get there.

Maybe she's taking her cue from Joe Biden, who gave the least amount of interviews and press conferences as president since Ronald Reagan. Or she is confident her polling figures are strong enough. Whatever the reason, it hurts the media and the electorate it reports for.

To reiterate, I have no skin in this — or any country's — electoral game. What does it matter if we are bombed or sanctioned by the first Black and Indian female president? But it matters if countries take their cues from a superpower like the US and dismiss the press as an increasingly irrelevant institution that will be replaced by TikTokers. This is worrying and requires a serious re-think by media managers. They must embrace change, whether it is learning technological innovations, research from audience insight, or exploring new business models. I don't want officials to be answerable to influencers. I want to keep asking tough questions and ensure elected officials are held to account. That is my job. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Punjab Governor says: National duty of scholars to highlight true face of Islam, play role in inter-faith harmony

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chairman Islamic Ideological Council, Mufti Raghob Hussain Naimi called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, the president of PPP Ulama Mashaikh Wing Punjab and member of Islamic Ideological Council Allama Muhammad Yusuf Awan and others were present. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said Islam has laid emphasis on love and tolerance and by following these orders, the society can be made a cradle of

peace. He said that it is the national duty of the scholars to highlight the true face of Islam and play their role in inter-faith harmony. Governor Punjab further said that everyone should make individual and collective efforts to improve the society. Meanwhile, Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan today visited the farm house of Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain located on Narowal Road. He extended his heartfelt condolence to him over the death of his brother, Member Provincial

Assembly, Rana Afzal Hussain. Governor Punjab also offered his heartfelt condolences to Rana Ahmed Atiq Anwar, Member of National Assembly and other members of his family. He said that he equally shares the grief of the bereaved family in this time of sorrow, trouble and difficulty. On this occasion, Member National Assembly of Muslim League-N, Shaista Pervez Malik, Ali Pervez Malik, Sardar Irfan Dogar, Mohsen Shah Nawaz Ranjha, Pir Ashraf Rasool, Leader of People's Party Haji Azizur Rahman Chan, Allama Yusuf Awan and



**KARACHI:** Governor Sindh and Patron-in-Chief of Legends Trust, Kamran Khan Tessori chaired a high-level meeting at Governor House. Managing Trustee of the Trust, Suhail Wajahat Siddiqui, along with Trustees Sultana Siddiqui and Qaiser Nizamani are also present.

## Governor Sindh says: National legends to get increased stipend

**KARACHI (APP):** Governor Sindh and Patron-in-Chief of Legends Trust, Kamran Khan Tessori chaired a high-level meeting at Governor House here Sunday. The meeting gave principal approval to increase the monthly stipend provided to the families of national legends. A scrutiny committee was also formed to present its recommendations in the next meeting.

The Governor emphasized that every possible step would be taken for the welfare of these families. He stated that these legends were the pride of the nation and their contributions in their respective fields would always be remembered. The meeting was also attended by the Managing Trustee of the Trust, Suhail Wajahat Siddiqui, along with Trustees Sultana Siddiqui and Qaiser Nizamani.

## Malik Iftikhar vows digitization, reforms in affairs of shrines

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** Parliamentary Secretary for Auqaf and Religious Affairs Punjab, Malik Iftikhar Ahmed, said on Sunday that, under the special directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, comprehensive efforts will be undertaken to digitize the shrines, residential, and commercial properties managed by the Auqaf department across Punjab's 41 districts. Speaking to various delegations who visited him, Malik highlighted the importance of an online donation system to

enhance transparency within the department. "Eliminating bureaucratic hurdles in the Auqaf department will be a top priority," he said, expressing his gratitude to Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz for entrusting him with this responsibility. He vowed to use all his capabilities to implement institutional reforms to fulfil her trust. Malik outlined immediate measures aimed at improving Punjab's shrines and providing modern facilities to pilgrims.

## Full-scale operation for sanitation in rural areas from Sept 16: Minister

**SIALKOT (APP):** Provincial Minister for Local Government Punjab Mian Zeeshan Rafique has said that a full-scale operation for sanitation in rural areas under the 'Suthra Punjab Programme' will start from Sept 16. He made this announcement while addressing a meeting of district administration, district council, municipal corporation/committees administrator and chief officers in the office of Deputy Commissioner Sialkot. DC Sialkot Muhammad Zulqarnain and Administrator

Municipal Corporation Sialkot Muhammad Iqbal were also present. According to the plan, door-to-door garbage collection would be done in each rural union council (UC) under the supervision of the local government department, with at least 10 sanitary workers and four loader rickshaws, who would transport garbage to the temporary garbage collection point, established in villages. From there, it would be responsibility of the district council to lift the garbage with trolleys and dump it at the dumping,



**LAHORE:** The deserted roads of Provincial Capital on holiday.



**PESHAWAR:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi addressing National Dialogue session organized by Oxford Alumni Community of Pakistan in Governor House.

## CM promises realising low-income people's dream of own house

**LAHORE (APP):** Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said she will fulfill the dream of low-income people to have their own house, across the province. She was talking to Dr. Amjad Saqib, the founder and chairman of Akhut, here on Sunday. Dr. Amjad thanked the CM for her initiative of public relief in electricity bills and carrying out other important public welfare projects.

The Punjab chief minister said the low-cost housing programme had been started in Punjab, and every year the scope of the project would be expanded. 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' [Own roof, own house] is the biggest programme in the history of Pakistan, she added. It would be a cheap residential project, she told Dr. Amjad. The chief minister said the main goal of the

project was to provide housing to the financially weak classes. The government would give subsidies and set the easiest monthly installments, under the sustainable project, she promised. The CM said that with the implementation of the revolutionary housing project, millions of people would get a job and millions of families would be able to live a better life. She said under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme, three plans were being launched; the owners of 10-marla plots in villages and 5-marla plots in cities could borrow Rs 15 lakh, under the scheme with approx. Rs 14,000 in monthly installments, without any interest. The CM said that in big cities, the government would construct four-storey flats.



**LAHORE:** Chairman Islamic Ideological Council, Mufti Raghob Hussain Naimi called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

## CM Sindh orders to drain rainwater accumulated in Thatta, Badin, Kandhkot

**KARACHI (APP):** The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while taking notice of rainwater accumulation in the urban areas of Thatta, Badin and Kandhkot has directed the local administration to drain rainwater immediately. He said that the rain had stopped and

drained rainwater today and restored the flow of roads. The Chief Minister also sought a report on the reasons for the accumulation of rainwater. He warned that if water was accumulated due to management's incompetence he would take action.

## Hina Pervaiz promises justice to chemical attack victim girl

**LAHORE (APP):** Following instructions from Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, Hina Pervaiz Butt, chairperson of the Punjab Women Protection Authority, visited the Khidmat Markaz in Faisalabad to meet 27-year-old Saadia, a victim of a chemical attack. During the visit, SSP Operations Abdul Wahab, SP Madina Division Saad

Arshad, and ASP Mohsin briefed the chairperson on the progress made in the case of the injured woman, said a handout issued here on Sunday. According to details, an unidentified person threw chemical on Saadia the other day, resulting in severe injuries. Hina Pervaiz Butt stated that in line with the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz,



**LAHORE:** People participating in demonstration in front of Press Club to pay tribute to Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani on 3rd death anniversary.

## Faisal Amin inaugurates emergency vehicles, items at Rescue 1122

**DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP):** Member National Assembly (MNA) Faisal Amin Gandapur on Sunday inaugurated the emergency vehicles and equipments given to Rescue 1122 headquarters Dera Ismail Khan. Faisal Amin Gandapur along with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's Focal Person Kamran Shah visited Rescue 1122 headquarters Dera Ismail Khan where they were welcomed by District Emergency Officer

Eng Faseeh Ullah and Emergency Officer Noman Ullah Marwat. The MNA inaugurated two fire vehicles, an ambulance equipped with all modern facilities, two motorbikes. On this occasion, the district emergency officer briefed the visiting MNA about the available machinery and vehicles of Rescue 1122. He also gives suggestions to Faisal Amin Gandapur for further strengthening of the rescue services in the district.

## Governor Kundi issues directives to ensure women representation in syndicate, senate in universities

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, has issued directives regarding women's empowerment to ensure representation in syndicate and senate in universities through out the province. In line with the Governor's instructions, the Principal Secretary has sent a letter to all universities in the province on Sunday. The letter highlights the Governor's concern about the lack of women representation in the syndicate and senate of these universities, as mandated by the Universities Act of 2012 sections 19(7) and 22(3A)

of the Act stipulate that each university must include three women in both its syndicate and senate. However, this provision has been ignored in several universities, which is a violation of the law and contrary to the efforts towards women's empowerment. It was directed the administration universities to immediately ensure the inclusion of three women in both their syndicate and senate to guarantee equal representation and promote women's empowerment in society. Universities have been given a deadline of 15 days to comply with these directives and issue the necessary notifications.

Meanwhile, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, has paid tribute highlighting Syed Ali Geelani's significant role in the Kashmir liberation movement. Governor Kundi highlighted Syed Ali Geelani's struggle as an indelible chapter in the history of Kashmir. He commended Geelani's relentless efforts and affirmed that democratic forces in the self-determination movement salute Geelani's contributions. The Governor said that the atrocities committed by Indian forces could not deter Syed Ali Geelani from his path of righteousness.

## Encamped man shot dead in DI Khan

**DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP):** The unknown armed persons shot dead an encamped person near the Naivela drain within the limits of Paroa police station, said a police official on Sunday. He said that a man living in a tent named Fazlur Rahman son of Khaliq Dad Chheena was shot and killed by unknown armed assailants near Naivela drain within the jurisdiction of Paroa police station. After receiving information about the incident, the Paroa police reached the site and started investigation into the matter.

## Azma Bukhari says: Nawaz lifeblood, pride of nation

**LAHORE (APP):** Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari said on Sunday former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-N President Mian Nawaz Sharif "is the lifeblood, honor and pride of the nation". In response to a statement of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) main leader Asad Qaiser, she said Nawaz Sharif made Pakistan a nuclear power and put it on the road to progress, and his brother, Shehbaz Sharif, saved the country from bankruptcy, when former PTI government had pushed it into severe crises. The minister said that Maryam

Nawaz, the daughter of Nawaz Sharif, was currently serving the people of Punjab day and night as the chief minister of Punjab. She said Nawaz Sharif is a leader who talks about the country and the nation. Azma Bukhari said Pakistan and established governments both at the federal and provincial levels, and his brother Shehbaz Sharif was working tirelessly for the country's progress. The day was not far when Pakistan would stand on its own feet, and those dreaming of Pakistan's bankruptcy would be defeated, she added.



**MUZAFFARABAD:** A protest being held against Indian atrocities under the auspices of Pasban e Hurriyat on the occasion of the anniversary of Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

## Family members of abducted guards protest at CM's house

**DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP):** The family members of security guards of a private security company, who were abducted about 52 days ago during robbery of a cash van, held a protest demonstration in front of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's residence in Dera Ismail Khan on Sunday. The protestors demanded of the chief minister to take practical steps for immediate release of the security guards. They threatened of self-immolation if their loved ones were not recovered. They said that after the passage of 52 days of the abduction of their loved ones, they had no information about them.

## Ramesh lays foundation stone of new building for Sikh pilgrims

**LAHORE (APP):** Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs and President of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora Sunday laid the foundation stone of a new building in Nankana Sahib to facilitate Sikh pilgrims. This building will include construction of 100 rooms, dedicated to accommodating and providing comfort to pilgrims visiting from around the world. The minister stated that providing better facilities

for Sikh pilgrims remains a top priority, ensuring that they could perform their religious duties in a comfortable environment. Earlier, the provincial minister also visited various Gurdwaras, including Gurdwara Lila Ram and Gurdwara Bhatti Sahib. During the visit, Sardar Ramesh Arora inaugurated the Langar Halls in these Gurdwaras. The purpose of these Langar Halls is to provide free meals to the pilgrims, which is a tradition of the Sikh religion.

## Toru reviews performance of WSSCM; vows to provide maximum relief to people

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Minister for Food, Zahir Shah Toru has vowed to continue efforts to provide maximum relief to people by addressing their problems and said that the government is focusing on improving the living standards of people. He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Water and Sanitation Services Company Mardan (WSSCM). The Chairman of the BoD, Engr. Adil Nawaz briefed the

Provincial Minister for the KP Cities Improvement Project and the challenges faced by WSSCM. Zahir Shah Toru expressed satisfaction with the company's performance and assured that the issues faced by the company would be addressed on a priority basis. Under the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's "Awami Agenda," there has been a significant improvement in service delivery, and citizens' issues are being resolved with just one click, the minister added.

Provincial Minister for the KP Cities Improvement Project and the challenges faced by WSSCM. Zahir Shah Toru expressed satisfaction with the company's performance and assured that the issues faced by the company would be addressed on a priority basis. Under the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's "Awami Agenda," there has been a significant improvement in service delivery, and citizens' issues are being resolved with just one click, the minister added.

## Eight Children injured after roof of school collapsed in Tando Adam

**TANDO ADAM (APP):** Eight children were injured when the plaster on the roof of Government Primary School in Muhammad Rahim Malokhani village collapsed in Tando Adam on Sunday.

## Israeli forces kill 48 Gazans ahead of polio drive

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Israeli strikes on Saturday killed at least 48 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, ahead of the planned start of a polio vaccination campaign, the Palestinian health authorities said.

The United Nations is due to start vaccinating some 640,000 children in the territory against polio, relying on daily eight-hour pauses in Israeli strikes in specific areas of the besieged enclave. Yousef Abu Al-Reesh, Gaza's deputy minister of health, said vaccination teams would try to get to as many areas as possible to ensure wide coverage but he said only a comprehensive ceasefire could guarantee enough children are reached.

"If the international community truly wants this campaign to succeed, it should call for a ceasefire, knowing that this virus does not stop, and can reach anywhere," he told reporters at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan

Yunis. On Saturday, medicines administered vaccines to some children at Nasser Hospital wards in a symbolic move before the official campaign begins. The campaign follows confirmation last week that a baby was partially paralysed by the type 2 polio virus, the first such case in the territory in 25 years.

WHO officials say at least 90pc children need to be vaccinated twice with four weeks between doses for the campaign to succeed, but it faces huge challenges in Gaza.

On Saturday, as more than 2,000 medical and community workers prepared for the start of the campaign, medicines in Nuseirat, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, medics said Israeli strikes killed at least 19 people, including nine members of the same family.

More than 30 other people were killed in a series of strikes in other areas

of Gaza, medics said.

The Israeli military said it continued to operate in the central and southern Gaza Strip. In Khan Yunis, however, families returned to their areas after the army ended a 22-day offensive it said was aimed at preventing Hamas from regrouping.

Medics said they recovered at least nine bodies from the area where the army operated.

Footage showed large areas were flattened, and buildings and infrastructure destroyed.

Over the last 11 months, Israel's assault on the Hamas-governed enclave has killed more than 40,600 Palestinians, according to the local health ministry.

Nearly the entire Gaza population of 2.3 million has been displaced and the enclave has a hunger crisis. Israel faces genocide allegations according to the International Court of Justice ruling.



Azeri President Ilham Aliyev casts a ballot at a polling station during parliamentary elections in Baku, Azerbaijan.

## Death toll from Bangladesh floods rises to 59

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: The death toll in Bangladesh from heavy rainfall and subsequent floods caused by river overflows continues to rise, with media reporting 59 deaths as of late Saturday.

The Dhaka Tribune said monsoon rains have wreaked havoc across the country for nearly two weeks, severely impacting millions of lives.

According to authorities, the floods have af-

fecting approximately 5.5 million people in 11 districts, the majority of whom live near the Indian border.

The number of fatalities has risen to 59, with 37 of them in the northeastern regions of Feni and Cumilla.

Around 600 healthcare teams are on the ground in the affected areas, while over 500,000 people have been relocated to 3,403 temporary shelters as a result of the disaster.

## Russia will change nuclear doctrine due to West's actions in Ukraine: official

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia will make changes to its nuclear doctrine in response to the West's actions over the conflict in Ukraine, the TASS state news agency cited Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying on Sunday. Ryabkov did not say what the changes would entail. Russia's existing nuclear doctrine, set out in a decree by President Vladimir Putin in 2020, says it may use nuclear weapons in the event of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatens the existence of the state.

## Israel's Lapid calls for labour strike after hostages' bodies recovered

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid called on Sunday for a strike to shut down the country's economy in order to pressure the government to reach a deal to release the remaining hostages in the Gaza Strip.

Lapid, who is also a former prime minister, called on every Israeli "whose heart was broken this morning" to join a major protest in Tel Aviv later in the day. He also called on Israel's main labor union, businesses and municipalities to go on strike.

## Israel recovers bodies of six hostages in Gaza, including Goldberg-Polin

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: Israel recovered the bodies of six hostages from a tunnel in southern Gaza where they were apparently killed long before Israeli troops reached them, the military said on Sunday.

"According to our initial estimation, they were brutally murdered by Hamas a short time before we reached them," military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari told reporters in a briefing.

The bodies of Carmel Gat, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Eden Yerushalmi, Alexander Lobanov, Almog Sarusi and Ori Danino had been found underground in the city of Rafah and returned to Israel, he said.

"The heart of an entire nation is shattered to pieces," said President Isaac Herzog, whose post is largely ceremonial. "I embrace their families with all my heart, and apologize for failing to bring them home safely."

There was no immediate comment from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is under pressure at home and abroad to reach a ceasefire deal that includes the release of remaining hostages.

US President Joe Biden, who has closely followed the fate of the hostages seized on Oct. 7, said the six included Israeli American Goldberg-Polin.



OCCUPIED WEST BANK: An Israeli bulldozer drives as a fire breaks out in a fruit market in the city of Jenin amid ongoing Israeli raids.

## Doctors in Bangladesh begin indefinite strike, crippling healthcare services

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: Doctors across Bangladesh launched an indefinite nationwide strike on Sunday, severely disrupting the country's healthcare system and leaving patients in distress.

The strike was triggered by an incident on Saturday night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), the largest healthcare facility in Bangladesh, where the emergency department was vandalized by relatives and friends of a student protester who had been injured during recent demonstrations that led to the ousting of the Hasina regime.

The injured student later succumbed to his injuries, with some of his peers accusing the attending physicians of neglect.

In response to the at-

tack and to demand justice and improved safety measures, doctors at DMCH suspended emergency medical services Sunday morning. Attempts by hospital authorities to negotiate with the doctors were unsuccessful, leading to the escalation of the protest into a nationwide strike.

On Sunday afternoon, Dr Abdul Ahad from DMCH's Neurosurgery Ward announced the strike, outlining four key demands: the arrest of those responsible for the assault on doctors, the establishment of a safer working environment, restrictions on unauthorized access to hospital premises, and the resolution of any alleged negligence by doctors through proper channels, rather than through violence.

## Poland marks 85 years since outbreak of WWII

**Monitoring Desk**  
GDANSK: Poland on Sunday marked 85 years since the outbreak of World War II during an annual commemoration ceremony held at the town of Westerplatte, on Poland's Baltic coast, where a Nazi German battleship had opened fire on a Polish fort 85 years ago to the day.

The remembrance ceremony on Sunday was traditionally held in Westerplatte, on Poland's Baltic coast, where a Nazi German battleship had opened fire on a Polish fort 85 years ago to the day.

## Taipei former mayor arrested in graft probe

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: A former mayor of Taipei who heads a small opposition party was arrested early on Saturday as part of a graft probe of a major property development in the Taiwanese capital.

Ko Wen-je, mayor from 2014 to 2022 and who came third in January's presidential election, was arrested after investigators raided his home and party on Friday and questioned him for hours, his Taiwan People's Party said.

Ko has denied wrongdoing in the case, which involves approvals given for a property project when he was mayor, telling reporters on Friday that "I know I have no problems."

The TPP, in a statement on Saturday, said it "calls on the court to carefully examine the legality of the arrest procedure during the arraignment process, and to return justice to Chairman Ko Wen-je as he deserves."



People gather at an election campaign rally of Alternative for Germany (AfD) party ahead of the Thuringia state elections, in Erfurt, Germany.

## Prosecution, defence clash over timeline for Trump case

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The prosecutor pursuing US election interference charges against Donald Trump and the former president's lawyers have clashed over next steps in the case, according to jointly filed briefs.

The Trump side, in a filing late on Friday to federal judge Tanya Chutkan in Washington, proposed a calendar that would push any pretrial arguments not just past the November election

but until after the next president takes office, in January 2025. Trump's lawyers expressed confidence that they would, in any case, be able to get the charges against the Republican nominee thrown out before the matter comes to trial. On the prosecution side, Special Counsel Jack Smith did not propose a specific timetable but said he would be ready to offer written arguments on the question of presidential immunity whenever the court requested them.

## Trump threatens to imprison Mark Zuckerberg in upcoming book

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump has threatened to imprison Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg in his forthcoming book.

According to US media reports, Trump made this threat in his upcoming book. He commented on a photo of himself with Zuckerberg, that while Zuckerberg used to visit the Oval Office and apparently displayed good behavior, he was secretly involved in scheming against him.

Trump stated that they were now monitoring Zuckerberg closely, and if he engaged in any illegal activities.

## Hunt for rare bird shows how Ecuador narco violence impedes research

**Monitoring Desk**  
QUITO: Biologist Cesar Garzon was searching for a small, endangered parakeet in southern Ecuador when he was warned he may be kidnapped, highlighting the danger for scientists in the biodiverse country engulfed in narco violence.

"Do your work somewhere else because it is dangerous here," he said a man told him in April, in the troubled mining town of Camilo Ponce Enriquez.

That night, the town's mayor was shot dead. Earlier this month, a clash between criminal groups in the town left five dead, two of whom were found decapitated, and one burned.

Garzon, a bird expert at the state-run National Institute of Biodiversity (Inabio), tried to continue his research in a neighboring town, whose mayor was also killed.

Tired of the ever-present danger, he packed his bags and returned to Quito.

Garzon has been studying the El Oro parakeet for two decades, working for its conservation and supporting the sustainable management of its habitats.

Mostly green, with a red forehead, the bird is endemic to Ecuador and has only been seen in the country's southwest provinces of Azuay and El Oro.

## Hong Kong news editor found guilty of sedition

**Monitoring Desk**  
HONG KONG: While on trial for sedition, Hong Kong editor Chung Pui-ken became the defiant face of the city's media over his leadership of Stand News, a now-shuttered news outlet accused of inciting hatred against Beijing.

The 54-year-old served as editor-in-chief of the popular online news portal, which gained prominence for its coverage of Hong Kong's democracy protests in 2019, as well as the government's ensuing crackdown.

## Chinese and Philippine vessels collide at a disputed atoll and governments trade accusations

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: China and the Philippines accused each other of causing a collision between their two vessels Saturday in the latest flareup of tensions over disputed waters and maritime features in the South China Sea.

In a statement posted on social media, Chinese coast guard spokesperson Liu Dejun was quoted as saying that a Philippine ship maneuvered and "deliberately collided" with a Chinese coast guard ship "in an unprofessional and dangerous manner."

Philippine officials in Manila said it was their coast guard ship, the BRP Teresa Magbanua, that was rammed thrice by the Chinese coast guard without

any provocation, causing damage to the Philippine vessel.

It was the second confrontation in days near Sabina Shoal, about 140 kilometers (85 miles) west of the Philippine province of Palawan, in the internationally recognized exclusive economic zone of the Philippines.

The Philippine ship, the Magbanua, has been anchored in Sabina since mid-April after Manila suspected that China may construct a structure to seize the uninhabited atoll. China harbored the same suspicions and recently filed a diplomatic protest against the Philippines due to the ship's prolonged presence at the shoal.

## Zelenskiy urges US Approval of deeper strikes into Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy increased pressure on the United States to let Kyiv strike military targets deep inside Russian territory after his representatives met senior U.S. officials in Washington on Saturday.

Washington has provided Ukraine with more than \$50 billion worth of military aid since 2022, but has limited the use of its weapons to Ukrainian soil and defensive crossborder operations.

Zelenskiy said guided aerial bombs killed six people and injured 97 in Kharkiv on Friday, with more attacks on Saturday. These could be averted only "by striking Russian military airfields, their bases, and the logistics of Russian terror." In his nightly video address, he said, "We talk

about this every day with our partners. We persuade. We present arguments."

He said that clearing the Ukrainian sky of Russian guided aerial bombs would be "a strong step to force Russia to seek an end to the war and a just peace."

Appealing to the United States, Britain, France and Germany, he said, "We need the capabilities to truly and fully protect Ukraine and Ukrainians. We need both the permissions for long-range capabilities and your long-range shells and missiles." Without providing specifics, he said his representatives had "provided all the necessary details" to Ukraine's partners.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, in Washington with a delegation on Friday and Saturday to meet U.S. officials and experts.

## Japan protests Chinese naval incursion following airspace violation

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japan voiced "strong concern and protest" Saturday after a Chinese naval ship entered its territorial waters, days after Tokyo accused Beijing of sending a military aircraft into Japanese airspace.

A Chinese naval vessel was spotted entering Japanese territorial waters near the southern Kuchinoerabu island at around 6:00 am Saturday (2100 GMT Friday) and exiting southwest of Yakushima island nearly two hours later, the defence ministry said.

Following the incident, the foreign ministry "issued Japan's strong concern and protest" to China's embassy in Tokyo.

The ministry took "into account the past activities of Chinese naval vessels and others in the waters around Japan, and the recent intrusion into Japan's territorial airspace by a Chinese military plane," it said late Saturday.

Japan on Monday scrambled fighter jets after

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## Sudan's rains spread wartime suffering across the country

**Monitoring Desk**  
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Floodwaters from heavy rains that started surging in earlier this month have brought devastation across a country already shattered by 500 days of fierce fighting between the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Now, the natural disaster has spread destruction further than the conflict.

Near the town of Tokar, in the country's eastern region which has so far escaped the violence, a Reuters reporter saw people pulling each other out of the water onto the remnants of a bridge with ropes. Elsewhere in the eastern Red Sea State, the Arbaat Dam collapsed on

Sunday, threatening the freshwater supply for Port Sudan, the country's de facto capital, up to now a relative refuge for the government and aid agencies and hundreds of thousands of displaced.

At least 64 people from the area are missing.

Others are stranded on higher ground with no food and little hope of rescue, according to locals. Many hundreds of households are also displaced in Sudan's Northern State, another region largely untouched by the fighting, according to the United Nations.

In Darfur, where millions are threatened with extreme hunger, the rain has damaged displacement camps and delayed the arrival of crucial aid according to the World Food Programme.

The UN estimates that, over all, more than 300,000 people are impacted by the flooding. It has brought cholera for the second year running with 1,351 cases reported as of Wednesday, likely an undercount as the army-aligned health ministry struggles to access the large portion of the country occupied by the RSF.



People wade through flood water carrying sacks amid severe flooding in the Fazilpur area of Feni.

## Israeli forces kill 48 Gazans ahead of polio drive

### Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Israeli strikes on Saturday killed at least 48 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, ahead of the planned start of a polio vaccination campaign, the Palestinian health authorities said.

The United Nations is due to start vaccinating some 640,000 children in the territory against polio, relying on daily eight-hour pauses in Israeli strikes in specific areas of the besieged enclave. Yousef Abu Al-Reesh, Gaza's deputy minister of health, said vaccination teams would try to get to as many areas as possible to ensure wide coverage but he said only a comprehensive ceasefire could guarantee enough children are reached.

"If the international community truly wants this campaign to succeed, it should call for a ceasefire, knowing that this virus does not stop, and can reach anywhere," he told reporters at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan

Yunis. On Saturday, medics administered vaccines to some children at Nasser Hospital wards in a symbolic move before the official campaign begins. The campaign follows confirmation last week that a baby was partially paralysed by the type 2 polio virus, the first such case in the territory in 25 years.

WHO officials say at least 90pc children need to be vaccinated twice with four weeks between doses for the campaign to succeed, but it faces huge challenges in Gaza.

On Saturday, as more than 2,000 medical and community workers prepared for the start of the campaign, medics in Nuseirat, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, medics said Israeli strikes killed at least 19 people, including nine members of the same family.

More than 30 other people were killed in a series of strikes in other areas

of Gaza, medics said.

The Israeli military said it continued to operate in the central and southern Gaza Strip. In Khan Yunis, however, families returned to their areas after the army ended a 22-day offensive it said was aimed at preventing Hamas from regrouping.

Medics said they recovered at least nine bodies from the area where the army operated.

Footage showed large areas were flattened, and buildings and infrastructure destroyed.

Over the last 11 months, Israel's assault on the Hamas-governed enclave has killed more than 40,600 Palestinians, according to the local health ministry.

Nearly the entire Gaza population of 2.3 million has been displaced and the enclave has a hunger crisis. Israel faces genocide allegations according to the International Court of Justice ruling.



OCUPIED WEST BANK: An Israeli bulldozer drives as a fire breaks out in a fruit market in the city of Jenin amid ongoing Israeli raids.

## Doctors in Bangladesh begin indefinite strike, crippling healthcare services

### Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Doctors across Bangladesh launched an indefinite nationwide strike on Sunday, severely disrupting the country's healthcare system and leaving patients in distress.

The strike was triggered by an incident on Saturday night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), the largest healthcare facility in Bangladesh, where the emergency department was vandalized by relatives and friends of a student protester who had been injured during recent demonstrations that led to the ousting of the Hasina regime.

The injured student later succumbed to his injuries, with some of his peers accusing the attending physicians of neglect.

In response to the attack and to demand justice and improved safety measures, doctors at DMCH suspended emergency medical services Sunday morning. Attempts by hospital authorities to negotiate with the doctors were unsuccessful, leading to the escalation of the protest into a nationwide strike.

On Sunday afternoon, Dr Abdul Ahad from DMCH's Neurosurgery Ward announced the strike, outlining four key demands: the arrest of those responsible for the assault on doctors, the establishment of a safer working environment, restrictions on unauthorized access to hospital premises, and the resolution of any alleged negligence by doctors through proper channels, rather than through violence.

## Poland marks 85 years since outbreak of WWII

### Monitoring Desk

GDANSK: Poland on Sunday marked 85 years since the outbreak of World War II during an annual commemoration ceremony held at the town of Gdansk to remember Nazi Germany's first attacks that triggered the deadly conflict.

Nearly six million Poles died in the conflict that killed more than 50 million people overall, including the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust, half of them Polish.

The remembrance ceremony on Sunday was traditionally held in Westerplatte, on Poland's Baltic coast, where a Nazi German battleship had opened fire on a Polish fort 85 years ago to the day.

## Taipei former mayor arrested in graft probe

### Monitoring Desk

TAIPEI: A former mayor of Taipei who heads a small opposition party was arrested early on Saturday as part of a graft probe of a major property development in the Taiwanese capital.

Ko Wen-je, mayor from 2014 to 2022 and who came third in January's presidential election, was arrested after investigators raided his home and party on Friday and questioned him for hours, his Taiwan People's Party said.

Ko has denied wrongdoing in the case, which involves approvals given for a property project when he was mayor, telling reporters on Friday that "I know I have no problems".

The TPP, in a statement on Saturday, said it "calls on the court to carefully examine the legality of the arrest procedure during the arraignment process, and to return justice to Chairman Ko Wen-je as he deserves".



Azeri President Ilham Aliyev casts a ballot at a polling station during parliamentary elections in Baku, Azerbaijan.

## Death toll from Bangladesh floods rises to 59

### Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: The death toll in Bangladesh from heavy rainfall and subsequent floods caused by river overflows continues to rise, with media reporting 59 deaths as of late Saturday.

The Dhaka Tribune said monsoon rains have wreaked havoc across the country for nearly two weeks, severely impacting millions of lives.

According to authorities, the floods have af-

ected approximately 5.5 million people in 11 districts, the majority of whom live near the Indian border.

The number of fatalities has risen to 59, with 37 of them in the northeastern regions of Feni and Cumilla.

Around 600 healthcare teams are on the ground in the affected areas, while over 500,000 people have been relocated to 3,403 temporary shelters as a result of the disaster.

## Israel recovers bodies of six hostages in Gaza, including Goldberg-Polin

### Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: Israel recovered the bodies of six hostages from a tunnel in southern Gaza where they were apparently killed long before Israeli troops reached them, the military said on Sunday.

"According to our initial estimation, they were brutally murdered by Hamas a short time before we reached them," military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari told reporters in a briefing.

The bodies of Carmel Gat, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Eden Yerushalmi, Alexander Lobanov, Almog Sarusi and Ori Danino had been found underground in the city of Rafah and returned to Israel, he said.

"The heart of an entire nation is shattered to pieces," said President Isaac Herzog, whose post is largely ceremonial. "I embrace their families with all my heart, and apologize for failing to bring them home safely."

There was no immediate comment from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is under pressure at home and abroad to reach a ceasefire deal that includes the release of remaining hostages.

US President Joe Biden, who has closely followed the fate of the hostages seized on Oct. 7, said the six included Israeli American Goldberg-Polin.

## Russia will change nuclear doctrine due to West's actions in Ukraine: official

### Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia will make changes to its nuclear doctrine in response to the West's actions over the conflict in Ukraine, the TASS state news agency cited Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying on Sunday. Ryabkov did not say what the changes would entail. Russia's existing nuclear doctrine, set out in a decree by President Vladimir Putin in 2020, says it may use nuclear weapons in the event of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatens the existence of the state.

## Israel's Lapid calls for labour strike after hostages' bodies recovered

### Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid called on Sunday for a strike to shut down the country's economy in order to pressure the government to reach a deal to release the remaining hostages in the Gaza Strip.

Lapid, who is also a former prime minister, called on every Israeli "whose heart was broken this morning" to join a major protest in Tel Aviv later in the day. He also called on Israel's main labor union, businesses and municipalities to go on strike.



People gather at an election campaign rally of Alternative for Germany (AfD) party ahead of the Thuringia state elections, in Erfurt, Germany.

## Prosecution, defence clash over timeline for Trump case

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The prosecutor pursuing US election interference charges against Donald Trump and the former president's lawyers have clashed over next steps in the case, according to jointly filed briefs.

The Trump side, in a filing late on Friday to federal judge Tanya Chutkan in Washington, proposed a calendar that would push any pretrial arguments not just past the November election

but until after the next president takes office, in January 2025. Trump's lawyers expressed confidence that they would, in any case, be able to get the charges against the Republican nominee thrown out before the matter comes to trial. On the prosecution side, Special Counsel Jack Smith did not propose a specific timetable but said he would be ready to offer written arguments on the question of presidential immunity whenever the court requested them.

## Hunt for rare bird shows how Ecuador narco violence impedes research

### Monitoring Desk

QUITO: Biologist Cesar Garzon was searching for a small, endangered parakeet in southern Ecuador when he was warned he may be kidnapped, highlighting the danger for scientists in the biodiverse country engulfed in narco violence.

"Do your work somewhere else because it is dangerous here," he said a man told him in April, in the troubled mining town of Camilo Ponce Enriquez.

That night, the town's mayor was shot dead. Earlier this month, a clash between criminal groups in the town left five dead, two of whom were found decapitated, and one burned.

Garzon, a bird expert at the state-run National Institute of Biodiversity (Inabio), tried to continue his research in a neighboring town, whose mayor was also killed.

Tired of the ever-present danger, he packed his bags and returned to Quito. Garzon has been studying the El Oro parakeet for two decades, working for its conservation and supporting the sustainable management of its habitats.

Mostly green, with a red forehead, the bird is endemic to Ecuador and has only been seen in the country's southwest provinces of Azuay and El Oro.

## Trump threatens to imprison Mark Zuckerberg in upcoming book

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump has threatened to imprison Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg in his forthcoming book.

According to US media reports, Trump made this threat in his upcoming book. He commented on a photo of himself with Zuckerberg, that while Zuckerberg used to visit the Oval Office and apparently displayed good behavior, he was secretly involved in scheming against him.

Trump stated that they were now monitoring Zuckerberg closely, and if he engaged in any illegal activities.

## Hong Kong news editor found guilty of sedition

### Monitoring Desk

HONG KONG: While on trial for sedition, Hong Kong editor Chung Pui-kuen became the defiant face of the city's media over his leadership of Stand News, a now-shuttered news outlet accused of inciting hatred against Beijing.

The 54-year-old served as editor-in-chief of the popular online news portal, which gained prominence for its coverage of Hong Kong's democracy protests in 2019, as well as the government's ensuing crackdown.

## Chinese and Philippine vessels collide at a disputed atoll and governments trade accusations

### Monitoring Desk

TAIPEI: China and the Philippines accused each other of causing a collision between their two vessels Saturday in the latest flareup of tensions over disputed waters and maritime features in the South China Sea.

In a statement posted on social media, Chinese coast guard spokesperson Liu Dejun was quoted as saying that a Philippine ship maneuvered and "deliberately collided" with a Chinese coast guard ship "in an unprofessional and dangerous manner."

Philippine officials in Manila said it was their coast guard ship, the BRP Teresa Magbanua, that was rammed thrice by the Chinese coast guard without

any provocation, causing damage to the Philippine vessel.

It was the second confrontation in days near Sabina Shoal, about 140 kilometers (85 miles) west of the Philippine province of Palawan, in the internationally recognized exclusive economic zone of the Philippines.

The Philippine ship, the Magbanua, has been anchored in Sabina since mid-April after Manila suspected that China may construct a structure to seize the uninhabited atoll.

China harbored the same suspicions and recently filed a diplomatic protest against the Philippines due to the ship's prolonged presence at the shoal.

## Zelenskiy urges US Approval of deeper strikes into Russia

### Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy increased pressure on the United States to let Kyiv strike military targets deep inside Russian territory after his representatives met senior U.S. officials in Washington on Saturday.

Washington has provided Ukraine with more than \$50 billion worth of military aid since 2022, but has limited the use of its weapons to Ukrainian soil and defensive crossborder operations.

Zelenskiy said guided aerial bombs killed six people and injured 97 in Kharkiv on Friday, with more attacks on Saturday. These could be averted only "by striking Russian military airfields, their bases, and the logistics of Russian terror." In his nightly video address, he said, "We talk

about this every day with our partners. We persuade. We present arguments."

He said that clearing the Ukrainian sky of Russian guided aerial bombs would be "a strong step to force Russia to seek an end to the war and a just peace."

Appealing to the United States, Britain, France and Germany, he said, "We need the capabilities to truly and fully protect Ukraine and Ukrainians. We need both the permissions for long-range capabilities and your long-range shells and missiles." Without providing specifics, he said his representatives had "provided all the necessary details" to Ukraine's partners.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, in Washington with a delegation on Friday and Saturday to meet U.S. officials and experts.

## Japan protests Chinese naval incursion following airspace violation

### Monitoring Desk

TOKYO: Japan voiced "strong concern and protest" Saturday after a Chinese naval ship entered its territorial waters, days after Tokyo accused Beijing of sending a military aircraft into Japanese airspace.

A Chinese naval vessel was spotted entering Japanese territorial waters near the southern Kuchinoerabu island at around 6:00 am Saturday (2100 GMT Friday) and exiting southwest of Yakushima island nearly two hours later, the defence ministry said.

Following the incident, the foreign ministry "issued Japan's strong concern and protest" to China's embassy in Tokyo.

The ministry took "into account the past activities of Chinese naval vessels and others in the waters around Japan, and the recent intrusion into Japan's territorial airspace by a Chinese military plane," it said late Saturday.

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a two-minute incursion by Chinese Y-9 surveillance aircraft off the Danjo Islands in the East China Sea, which Tokyo slammed as a "serious violation" of its sovereignty.

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People wade through flood water carrying sacks amid severe flooding in the Fazilpur area of Feni.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Kashmir Parliamentary Committee Rana Qasim Non addressing a seminar on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Gilani.

## Pak always raises Kashmiri voice at all global forums: Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam has said that considering its national duty, Pakistan has always raised its voice for Kashmiri right to self-determination at every international forum and continue to raise its voice till realisation of the Kashmiris goal of freedom.

Addressing Kashmiri Diaspora in Toronto, Canada, Engr Amir Muqam

said that Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif effectively advocated Kashmir dispute in his address at UN General Assembly forum and all international forums, said a press release. The participants given standing ovation to Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam on arrival to stage. They also chanted slogans Pakistan Zindabsd and PML N leadership Zindabad.

He said that Pakistan and particularly present

government will continue to lend its unstinted moral, political and diplomatic support to the rightful and just cause of the freedom struggle of Kashmiris.

The Indian actions of 5th August 2019 a blatant violation of the UN Charter, the 4th Geneva Convention and international laws. For the last three years India had tried every tactic of oppression against the Kashmiris but their resolve and passion for freedom could not be weakened.

The barbaric and brutal occupation of IIOJK by India not only violates international law, but also makes a mockery of the globally accepted norms of fundamental rights and freedoms. The international community can no longer remain silent while India continues to perpetrate its oppression in Kashmir. Despite more than seven decades of Indian occupation, including four painful years of continuous military siege and media blackout.

## Gilani calls health a fundamental right of every citizen

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Sunday highlighted the importance of health as a fundamental right of every citizen, stressing the collective responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to the knowledge and resources needed to lead a healthy life.

While addressing a celebration ceremony and health awareness seminar organized by TIENS International he extended heartfelt congratulations to TIENS International for their remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment to health and wellness. "Today's seminar is a testament to their ongoing efforts to raise health awareness and promote well-being," he said.

For over two decades, TIENS has made a profound impact on the health and entrepreneurial landscape of Pakistan.

The chairman praised TIENS's dedication to promoting Traditional Chinese Medicine and related products, which has significantly improved the lives of countless individuals.

He specifically com-

mended TIENS for addressing critical health issues such as ageing, obesity and personal care, aligning perfectly with national health objectives.

Gilani underscored the importance of health awareness in today's society, particularly in Pakistan, where the population faces numerous health challenges.

He emphasized the critical role of preventive healthcare and lauded TIENS for its efforts in promoting health awareness, which resonates with national goals of improving public health outcomes and reducing the burden of disease. He also praised TIENS for empowering individuals by providing access to reliable health information and resources, enabling them to make informed decisions about their well-being. "By preventing diseases and promoting a higher quality of life, TIENS is making a significant contribution to our society," he added.

He highlighted the importance of fostering an environment where individuals can achieve financial stability, contributing to

the economic growth and prosperity of the nation. TIENS, through its innovative business models and support systems, is helping many realize their dream of financial independence. The Chairman Senate also recognized TIENS International's commitment to people development education, particularly through its capacity-building and personal grooming training programs. These initiatives, he said, are instrumental in uplifting the social IQ of the youth, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the challenges of a rapidly evolving world. Reflecting on Pakistan's 77th Independence Day, Gilani urged the nation to remember the sacrifices of the forefathers and renew their commitment to building a stronger, more united Pakistan.

He called all stakeholders—government, the private sector, and civil society—to collaborate in promoting health awareness and entrepreneurship, creating an environment where health education is prioritized.

## One million youths to get IT education every year: Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday said that government has planned to train youths in the IT sector through Chinese cooperation.

In a statement issued here, he highlighted the contribution made by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) government, asserting, "The PML-N led governments have distributed 1 million laptops among students."

"One million youngsters will get IT education every year," he added. The minister said that

the incumbent government was creating opportunities to provide digital education to people, stressing the need for increasing literacy. "We will have to boost literacy by up to 90 percent in a bid to steer the country towards prosperity," he added.

The minister announced the release of the district education index report. "Schools from 124 districts of the country have scored 53 percent. The prime minister has established a task force in connection with the educational emergency," he added.



QUETTA: Pro-Vice Chancellor BUTTEMS Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan and Prof. Dr. Salman Shahzad signing MoU between BUTTEMS and Institute of Clinical Psychology Karachi University

## Historic climate camp in Balochistan: a milestone in climate awareness

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan, located on the frontline of the global climate crisis, is bearing the brunt of climate change's impacts. Rising temperatures, droughts, and extreme weather events are affecting the region's ecosystems, livelihoods, and communities.

These issues were discussed extensively at the first-ever youth camp organised in Balochistan on climate crisis, said a press release issued on Sunday.

The statement said Madat Balochistan, a women-led indigenous organisation, successfully hosted the first-ever climate camp in Balochistan, held in Ormara.

Co-founded and lead organiser of the event, 17-year-old Nafeesa Baloch said, "I represented Balochistan at COP27, COP28, SB58, and the UN

Water Conference and this groundbreaking event with about 50-70 attendees aimed to raise awareness about climate change in the region."

Alongside Madat Balochistan, youth organisations from all over the country participated and helped organise two-day event. Booni Environmental Academy from the Gilgit Baltistan region and Youth Climate Activists Pakistan presented various sessions on climate adaptation and resilience.

Hania Imran, another youth climate activist and organiser, shared, "Balochistan's youth are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, and productive climate education camps that share resources and opportunities with them are a step in the right direction."

Didar Ali, an organiser from Gilgit, said, "The aim

of the camp was to empower local communities to take action against climate change and foster global leadership."

The event mainly featured interactive sessions around climate crisis issues, informative presentations and a tree plantation session. In the end, 95% of participants reported a better understanding of climate change and its impacts and 80% expressed a willingness to take action in their local communities. The event ended with a certificate and award distribution ceremony.

The participants said that by amplifying the voices of Balochistan's climate activists, Nafeesa and Madat Balochistan are bringing attention to the region's overlooked climate crisis, demanding action, and inspiring a new generation of climate leaders.



QUETTA: Chief of Haq Do Tehreek and Naib Amir JI, MPA Maulana Hidayatullah Rehman Baloch and others meeting with President Quetta Press Club Abdul Khaliq Rind

## Rain-wind, thundershower expected in parts of Balochistan today

QUETTA (APP): Regional Meteorological Center Quetta on Sunday predicted that rain-wind/thundershower was expected in Quetta, Zhub, Sibi, Sherani, Qila Abdullah, Pishin, Killa Saifullah, Harmai, Ziarat, Kalat, Naseerabad Awaran, Lasbela and Barkhan districts from Monday to Wednesday with occasional gaps.

The Meteorological Center has forecasted that the coastal belt of Makran, Jiwani, Gwadar, Pasni and Ormara and the adjacent areas of Kech are expected to experience thundershowers with winds of up to 50-60 kilometers per hour.

On Monday, the weather will remain hot and dry in most parts of the province, while there is a possibility of thundershowers in Zhub, Sherani, Qila Abdullah, Pishin, Killa Saifullah, Loralai, Quetta,

Mastung, Kalat, Khuzdar and Harmai districts.

The Cyclonic Storm (CS) "ASNA" having moved further southwestward during last 12 hours weakened into a Deep Depression and now lies at around Latitude 22.0 N and Longitude 61.2 E at a distance of about 320km northeast of Masirah Island (Oman), 340km east-southeast of Muscat (Oman) and 370km south of Gwadar.

The system is likely to continue moving southwestwards and further weaken into a Depression by late night/early morning of September 2.

Sea conditions are likely to remain rough/very rough with squally winds of 40-50 Km/hour gusting 60Km/hour till tonight.

The fishermen of Balochistan are advised not to venture in open sea till tomorrow.

## Governor condoles death of Zareef; pays tributes on services

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of former Senator Sheikh Zareef Khan Mandokhail.

In a condolence statement issued here on Sunday, the Governor said that late Sheikh Zareef Khan Mandokhail was a thoughtful gentleman and a kind person. He said that services of late Mandokhail would be remembered for long.

He prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family members to bear the loss of his death.



NAROWAL: Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal addressing faculty members of Narowal Medical College

## Federal Minister introduces tougher axle load enforcement & road safety measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization, and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday has announced new measures to enforce axle load restrictions on highways and GT Roads.

According to a press release in a bid to enhance road safety and infrastructure integrity, Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization, and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan has mandated stricter enforcement of axle load restrictions on all highways, including the Grand Trunk (GT) Road.

Federal Minister chairing a joint meeting with the National Highway Authority (NHA) and the Frontier Works Organization (FWO), Khan emphasized the importance of replicating motorway standards for heavy vehicle regulations across national

roads. Minister directed that weigh stations, akin to those on motorways, be established to ensure compliance with weight limits, preventing potential damage to road infrastructure.

Additionally, Abdul Aleem Khan underscored the need for comprehensive surveillance and e-Challenges to address violations such as speeding, not wearing seat belts, and mobile phone use while driving.

Federal Minister also highlighted future planning for highway construction, stipulating that new motorways must feature at least two lanes in each direction and no fewer than six lanes in total.

Aleem Khan called for expedited efforts to complete ongoing projects, including the Sialkot, Kharian, and Islamabad motorways, through coordinated policies between NHA and FWO.

## No desire to hold talks with govt: Asad Qaiser

ISLAMABAD (INP): If Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) form an alliance, the politics of other political parties will come to an end, said PTI leader Asad Qaiser in a statement issued here on Saturday. "Fair and free election is the only solution to the problems. PML-N has lost its senses," added the former speaker of National Assembly.

"I could not understand the mind of Khawaja Asif. We do not desire for holding talks with the government. "We believe elections could steer the country out of the quagmire of crisis. The government seems helpless to put the things in order," the PTI central leader said.

## Indian troops martyr seven Kashmiris in August in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism martyred seven Kashmiris in the last month of August in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, the Kashmiris were martyred in different fake encounters while one woman was disgraced by the Indian police personnel in the territory.

During the period, the personnel of Indian army, police, paramilitary, Special Investigation Agency (SIA)

and National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested 96 civilians, mostly political activists, youth and students, during 186 cordon and search operations and house raids while several of them were booked under black laws, including Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA).

Properties, including house and lands, of the five Kashmiris were attached and eight Kashmiri Muslim employees were suspended from their government services by the New Delhi-controlled Bharatiya Janata Party regime .



QUETTA: An injured of explosion near a security forces check post at Chaman Phatak being treated at Civil Hospital.

## After Germany, Austria also decided to deport Afghan citizens

VIENNA (Online): Austria's Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum has announced that deportations to Afghanistan will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the evolving security situation in the country, Euro News reported.

Following Germany's recent action of deporting 28 "convicted criminals" to Afghanistan—the first such deportations since the Taliban regained power in 2021—Austria has indicated its intention to begin similar efforts.

Chancellor Karl Nehammer stated that Austria aims to collaborate closely with Germany on joint deportations. He noted that Interior Minister Gerhard Karner has engaged in extensive negotiations with his German counterpart to find solutions for deporting Afghan and Syrian nationals. The next step, according to

Nehammer, is to facilitate direct deportations to Afghanistan or Syria.

Karner has praised Germany's recent decision to deport convicted criminals to Afghanistan, calling it "very good." In March, he emphasized the need for discussions on potentially reassessing the EU-wide ban on deportations to Afghanistan and Syria, labeling the issue as "necessary and urgent." Karner noted that under current EU law, Austria is unable to repatriate individuals to such countries. He highlighted that Afghanistan and Syria account for approximately three-quarters of all asylum applications in Austria.

Austria's Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Office for Foreign Affairs are actively working to implement deportations to Afghanistan, with ongoing discussions involving several European countries.

## Hafiz Naem says JI to unite public against feudalism and corruption

LAHORE (PR): Hafiz Naemur Rehman, chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, has vowed to unite the public to challenge the "oppressive feudal lords and corrupt capitalists," rejecting any divisions based on ethnicity.

Speaking at the launch of the membership campaign and a community breakfast in Johar Town, Lahore on Sunday, Rehman said, "Pakistan does not belong to any general, bureaucrat, or politician. The state is defined by its people, not by the military or judiciary."

He criticised the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), claiming they were entrenched in power since

1947 based on wealth rather than democratic principles.

Prominent party leaders including Secretary General Ameerul Azeem, Secretary Information Qaiser Sharif, and other regional heads were present at the event. Rehman emphasised Jamaat-e-Islami's commitment to peaceful political resistance, urging the people of Balochistan to fight their case at Minar-e-Pakistan.

"Today, we officially launch the second phase of the Haq Do Awam Ko (Give People Their Rights) movement," he announced. "I invite everyone to join Jamaat-e-Islami, become our allies in ending injustice, establishing justice."

## UK newspaper lambasts Imran Khan's candidacy for Oxford's chancellorship

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Guardian, a reputed English newspaper, has found fault with the decision of PTI founder Imran Khan to contest for the Oxford University Chancellor's post.

Catherine Bennett, a regular columnist for the paper, voiced her opinion and said Khan had called Osama bin Laden a "martyr" in the past while mentioning he also refused to call him a terrorist.

Not only that, the columnist noted that Khan had congratulated the Taliban for "breaking the shackles of slavery."

The paper also added that the PTI founder has excused the Taliban's ban on women's education.



JHAL MAGSI: Commissioner Naseerabad Division Moeenur Rehman Baloch being briefed by Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi Syed Rehmatullah Shah about flood affected areas