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Pay tribute to counter-terrorism sacrifices

Military's top brass vows not to let hard-earned successes be reversed

Military commanders deliberate on measures to neutralize threats posed by Pakistan's external and internal adversaries; Underscores critical need to safeguard national cyber space through stringent measures

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Pakistan Army's Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held here at GHQ on Tuesday underscored the critical need to safeguard national cyber space through stringent cybersecurity measures.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir presided over the Corps Commanders' Conference, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

At the commencement of the conference, the participants offered Fateha and paid profound tribute to the ultimate sacrifices made by the Shuhada of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and citizens who

have laid down their lives in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in pursuit of peace and stability of Pakistan.

The forum was briefed on the prevailing geo-strategic environment, national security challenges, and strategic and operational responses to emerging threats.

In assessing the inimical forces, malicious actors, subversive proxies, and the facilitators of Pakistan's external and internal adversaries, particularly those active in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the forum deliberated on a range of measures to neutralize these threats.

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RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir presiding over Corps Commanders' Conference.

PM stresses redoubled efforts for economic stability as inflation down to single-digit

Federal Cabinet endorses Trade Framework Agreement between Pakistan, Southern Common Market

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that after bringing the inflation rate down to the single digit of 9.6%, more efforts were required to bring in economic growth and stability besides addressing the challenges of circular debt and tax evasion.

"Alhamdulillah, the burden of inflation is reducing gradually. A single-digit inflation rate of 9.6% was reported in August this year which was 27% this month of last year. But we have to keep up our efforts to achieve economic growth and stability, create pro-

ductive employment, reduce expenditures by rightsizing and downsizing, shrink circular debt, curb evasion of receipts and eliminate smuggling," the prime minister said addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him.

He congratulated the finance minister, State Bank governor and other economic team members for the achievement and said that serious and tireless efforts were underway to achieve the challenging task.

"This gradual improvement to achieve economic growth and stability, create pro-

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Elements behind Balochistan ghastly killing not to be spared, says CM Bugti



QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday said that those who took innocent lives would not be spared at any cost reiterating government resolve to establish its writ, elements behind ghastly killing of innocent Pakistani people were not Baloch but terrorists and the state would go all out against them.

He expressed these views on the joint condemnation resolution of the government and the opposition in the Balochistan Assembly, on 26th August massacre.

CM Balochistan in a strong term, flayed the ghastly incident of Musakhail in which 23 passengers were offloaded and killed for their specific identity.

"Those who killed were not Baloch, rather terrorists and unfortunately, those killed were not Panjabis but the proud Pakistanis," the CM clarified.

He dispelled the prevailing misconception about the certain gathering under the garb of political rights was struggling for the legitimate and constitutional rights of the people as saying "The proxies of our countries enemies are furthering the single agenda

of breaking Pakistan which would not be allowed. "There is no need to launch a major operation, he said adding that intelligence based raids would be carried out to crush the elements challenging the writ of the government.

He offered that our doors are always open for those who agreed to set on dialogue table with us for any kind of talks in order to maintain peace in the province, adding, the dialogues would not be held with those who took the path of violence and killing people.

CM Bugti said that the government is providing higher education to Baloch girls in the world's top universities while these elements were leading the youth towards violence and the youth should decide their future goals.

Sarfraz Bugti said that there is cleared evidence of RAW-driven war initiated in Balochistan to create unrest and boost terrorism to divide the country.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

"Terrorism incidents are part of international game": BA unanimously adopts resolution condemning recent incidents of terrorism in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution condemning incidents of terrorism took place in different parts of the province, here on Tuesday.

The Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in the chair with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti also in attendance.

The joint condemnation resolution was tabled by the Provincial Minister

for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak on behalf of some fellow Ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

The resolution was approved after lengthy debate on it. The Chief Minister wended up debate on the resolution.

Expressing view on the resolution, the Provincial Minister for Livestock, Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that there was blood bath of innocent people on highways of the province on August 26.

He said that the passen-

gers were assassinated in front of their families. He also said that the conspiracy was made against the federating units of the country.

He said that the elements involved in the incidents of terrorism are closing doors of livelihood on the Balochi and Pashto speaking people doing business in other provinces by carrying out such acts.

He said that the economic massacre of the truck

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CM assures to extend wholehearted assistance to police deal with challenge of terrorism

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has assured that the government would extend wholehearted assistance to the police force to deal with the challenge of terrorism in the province.

He said that we would provide all required resources to the police, however, we would also review its performance on permanent basis.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the newly posted



Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Moazzam Jah Ansari, who called on him here on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister issued certain directives to the IGP for brining improvement in the overall law and order situation and prevention of the crimes and terrorism in the province.

He directed to the IGP to take effective steps for prevention of the incidents of kidnaping for ransom, robberies and street crimes in addition to the terrorism.

He further directed to take those involved in the kidnaping for ransom and land grabbers to the task.

In addition to this, he directed to make coordination among the police stations more effective by updating the profiling of the criminals.

Similarly, he also directed to improve the process of interrogation making the training courses of the police compatible with the current circumstances.

Bill moved in NA seeking ban on dual nationality of judges, bureaucrats

ISLAMABAD (INP): An amendment bill to impose a ban on the dual nationality of judges and bureaucrats has been laid in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

According to media reports, the bill was moved by the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl group (JUI-F) parliamentarian Noor Alam Khan in the assembly. Noor Alam Khan argued in the house that dual citizenship for judges of the

Supreme Court and High Court, as well as for bureaucrats, should be terminated to uphold the integrity and impartiality of these key public service roles.

The JUI-F parliamentarian highlighted that a similar ban is already in place for the President, Prime Minister, and members of Parliament. The bill has been referred to the Standing Committee by the Chair, where it will undergo review.

Deputy PM, US Ambassador discuss bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (Online): US Ambassador Donald Blome called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad Tuesday.

The discussion covered various aspects of Pakistan-US bilateral relations including avenues for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields.

They also discussed matters relating to the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly.

SSGC MD Imran Maniar steps down

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Managing Director (MD) of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) Imran Maniar has resigned from his position to "pursue other opportunities".

Imran Maniar was already working on a six-month contract extension going to be ended on September 13.

Imran Maniar excused from taking another extension as Managing Director SSGC and maintained that he would not be available after September 13.

Imran Maniar was appointed as managing director of SSGC in February 2021.

Meanwhile, the SSGC informed the Stock Exchange about the resignation of the development through a notice.

Akhtar Mengal resigns from NA over Balochistan crises

"I am announcing my resignation today. I am unable to do anything for my people. There is a lack of interest in the issues of Balochistan, and whenever we discuss these issues, they are blacked out"



ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Sardar Akhtar Mengal has announced to resign from National Assembly (NA) seat.

Talking to media men with Mehmood Khan Achakzai after NA session he said whosoever he is Pushto speaking, Balochi speaking, Urdu speaking or any one else has been killed, the courts are killers of them which don't administer justice.

He went on to say the key murderers are politicians who used politics for business. There was a meeting in PM House on

July 23, 2023 wherein I said if you don't need my politics then I abandon politics. No one will be responsible for my workers who go where and join what party.

It is better to run shop of pikoras than this politics, he held. Who has advised me has passed away and I have come here leaving his burial. I came here to talk but I was not heard. Today I announce to resign from assembly. If this assembly does not hear our voice then there is no use of sitting in this assembly. 65000 voters will become displeased with me. But I apologize.

IMF rejects Punjab's electricity bill subsidy, warns of loan program risk

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has rejected the proposal to provide subsidies on electricity bills, warning that such measures could jeopardize Pakistan's ongoing loan program.

According to sources, the IMF has taken a firm stance, asserting that neither the central nor provincial governments are authorized to offer subsidies on electricity bills. The IMF specifically raised concerns over the Punjab government's recent subsidy initiative, which provided a significant relief of PKR 14 per unit for consumers using between 200 to 500 units of electricity.

The IMF has emphasized that subsidies in the energy sector, including electricity and gas, are not permissible under the current agreement with Pakistan. The financial institution has demanded that all such subsidies be withdrawn by September.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat meeting with Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Nazar Muhammad Baloch

Use of social media without permission by govt employees banned

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has imposed ban on government employees for using social media without permission.

It has been said in a circular issued by establishment division that government employees cannot use social media platform without permission.

According to memorandum this decision has been taken for preventing official information and documents from becoming leaked. The government employees therein have been directed to uphold government servants (conduct) rules 1964.

It has been said in the memorandum government employee cannot express views or give statement on social media without permission. Government employee cannot share documents or information with irrelevant persons. The government employees cannot give any opinion or state the facts which affects government prestige.

Durra Baloch posted as Secretary Industries & Commerce

Independent Report QUETTA: The Grade-19 Officer of Balochistan Secretariat Service (BSS), Durra Baloch, who was awaiting posting, has been posted as the Secretary Industries and Commerce, Balochistan.

This was announced in an official notification issued here on Tuesday.

According to the notification, Secretary Public Health Engineering, Imran Taj Gichki, who was assigned additional charge of the Secretary Industries, has been relieved from the responsibilities.

SC issued judgment for removal of restaurants to protect environment: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday remarked that the top court has issued judgment for removal of restaurants from Margalla Hills National Park to protect the natural environment.

The court reserved its verdict on the review petition against the verdict for removal of restaurants including Monal from national park.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing the participants of the Seminar on "Parliamentary consultation on strategic options for electricity distribution system in Pakistan."

Parliament committed to building consensus for tackling collective challenges like energy crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday said that Parliament is the right platform to deliberate upon and find workable solutions to common problems.

Addressing the conference "Parliamentary Consultation on Strategic Options for Electricity Distribution Systems in Pakistan" he said that the energy sector in Pakistan has been grappling with challenges for decades.

He also said that although Pakistan has become successful in tackling the issue of load shedding, however, rationalizing the energy sector is pivotal for

tackling the high cost of electricity in Pakistan.

Ayaz Sadiq said that energy cost is a global challenge. Energy costs have skyrocketed even in developed countries, as has happened in Pakistan. The government is committed to rationalizing the energy cost for end users, he added.

While highlighting the importance of the right person for the right job, he said that soon after taking oath as Speaker of the National Assembly, he conducted interviews of all officials and officers of the National Assembly Secretariat to deputee the right person for the right job.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MPs expressing their views on resolutions presented in Balochistan Assembly

History made as Bangladesh whitewash Pakistan in Test series

Visitors outclass Shan Masood-led side in Rawalpindi to secure their first-ever Test series win over Green Shirts

RAWALPINDI (INP): Bangladesh beat Pakistan by six wickets in the second test to complete a 2-0 series sweep in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. Zakir Hasan (40), Najmul Hossain Shanto (38) and Mominul Haq (34) chipped in with useful cameos as Bangladesh chased down the 185-run victory target with more than a session left in the game. At the start of play on the shallow target meant that Bangladesh tightened their grip on the match and the series, reaching the 100-run mark in the 29th over. Najmul Hossain Shanto on 33 and Mominul Haque, 20, dug in to stop any further inroads with the captain bringing up their fifty partnership off the last ball before lunch. He has hit four boundaries so far in his 33 off



RAWALPINDI: Bangladesh's players celebrate with trophy after winning the second and last Test cricket match between Pakistan and Bangladesh, at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, in the city.

the fifth and final day of the match, Bangladesh resumed their innings at 42-0 in pursuit of their 185-run target. Pakistan got the first breakthrough after 16 runs were added when Mir Hamza bowled Hasan with a delivery that moved away. Fellow pace bowler Khurram Shahzad got in on the act when Shadman Islam miscued a drive, chipping to Shan at mid-off. However, a lack of further breakthroughs and 68 balls while Mominul found the ropes twice in his 30 off 46 balls. Bangladesh leads the two-match series 1-0 after a surprise win in Rawalpindi last month, their first in 14 tests against Pakistan. They have only won two series away from home — against the West Indies in 2009 and Zimbabwe in 2011. On the fourth day of the match on Monday, Hasan Mahmud took 5-43 while Nahid added

PM stresses redoubled efforts...

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ment. We have to take it forward swiftly... The task is cumbersome but we will reach our destination if we remain focused on targets," he remarked. He said sincere efforts always led nations to excel and Pakistan too could achieve the same as the country had immense resources including competent minds, natural resources and youth. Prime Minister Shehbaz told the cabinet members that the prerequisites of IMF program were under supervision and all-out measures were being taken to fulfill the conditionalities. "Insha Allah, we will fulfill all the IMF conditionalities timely which will follow the consideration and approval by the IMF Board. This will start a new journey. But we should keep in mind that this should be the last IMF program in Pakistan's history," he remarked. Earlier, in the day, the prime minister wrote on his X time that the reduction in Pakistan's annual inflation rate to 9.6% was not an accident but an outcome of the government's efforts. "Pakistan's annual inflation rate has dropped to 9.6% in August, first single-digit figure in nearly 3 years according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. This is not an accident! These are results," the prime minister said. He said that his government's focus was on providing relief to the common man. "Our work is not done, and a lot more needs to be done but we are making real progress," he remarked. Meanwhile the federal cabinet on Tuesday gave ex-post facto approval and endorsed the signing of Trade Framework Agreement between Pakistan and Mercosur, a South American trade bloc comprising Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The prime minister, who chaired the meeting of the federal cabinet, said that the South American Market could prove advantageous for the Pakistani products which could not be explored yet, he remarked. He instructed the authorities concerned to swiftly pursue the agreements and MoUs related to the economy which had been pending for long. The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the inflation rate declined to single-digit in August this year and appreciated the finance ministry, State Bank governor, and other allied departments for their efforts in this regard.

BA unanimously adopts...

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deprivation would be created if all people of the country are not given due rights. Speaking on the resolution, the Provincial Minister Noor Muhammad Durrani said that some "fake" people are spoiling the peaceful environment of the province. He said that several precious lives have been lost in the terrorism. He said that we have to take practical steps for elimination of terrorism. He said that the terrorists have become stigma for the province. Provincial Minister, Mir Saleem Khosa, while condemning the incidents of terrorism said that these incidents are part of international game. He said that we should not wait for dialogue after large scale terrorism in the province. He said that talks should be held with those who want to do so. The Minister Education, Ms. Rahila Hameed Durrani also strongly condemned the incidents of terrorism saying that all are grieved over them. She stressed the need to talk with all stakeholders. She also pleaded to sit with Dr. Mah Rang and hold talk with her. She also urged the House to conduct in-camera briefing for the members of assembly on the situation. She said that there is solution to the issue, but for that we have to come on one page. Besides, Ms. Durrani also suggested to hold All Parties Conference. Speaking on the condemnation resolution, the leader of Opposition said that he condemned the incidents of terrorism took place on August 26 in the province. He said that we would accept whatever decision to be made by the House in this regard.

Military's top brass vows not...

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The forum reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army, with the unwavering support of the people, will not allow the hard-earned successes against terrorism to be reversed. The forum emphasized that the Army is a disciplined institution, upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and loyalty to the state and institution. The institution's well-established and rigorous system of accountability ensures that these values are preserved with unwavering commitment, allowing no room for exceptions or partiality. This strict adherence to accountability fortifies the Army's integrity, ensuring that no individual is above the law or exempt from scrutiny. Recognizing the urgency and significance of a robust and effective legal system, COAS emphasized that the Pakistan Army would continue to extend comprehensive support to the government, administrative apparatus, and Law Enforcement Agencies in taking swift and lawful action against terrorists, anarchists, and criminal mafias. The forum also expressed satisfaction over ongoing efforts against illegal spectrum operating in collusion with terrorist networks. In a show of solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, who continue to suffer gross human rights violations, the forum honored the martyrs of the Freedom Movement. The blatant continued violence and genocide of Palestinians by Israel were also condemned in the strongest terms. The forum expressed confidence in the operational preparedness and readiness of the Pakistan Army and vowed to continue to uphold the standards in pursuit of professional excellence.

Akhtar Mengal resigns from...

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He underlined he had decided today to talk on the problems of Balochistan but people are not interested in the problems of Balochistan. He observed parliamentarians said by themselves that Balochistan is slipping out of our hands. I say Balochistan is not slipping out of your hands but it has slipped out. Blood of several persons has been shed in Balochistan. All should unite on this issue. One session should have been convened to discuss this issue. Here when people raise voice in support of truth they are not allowed to speak. The apex committee which was constituted on August 25 incident, bodies of 4 youths were thrown to welcome it. There is no consensus between Chotay Mian and Baray Mian. You made chief minister of Balochistan such a person who has mentality of havaldar. Balochistan has reached this point due to his wrong decisions.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Sohail Aftab, Director of Public Relations and Spokesperson for the National Highway Authority presenting winning shield to the champion team of NPC Carrom Tournament 2024.

Notice regarding the National Highway Authority Carrom Tournament 2024, including details about the prize and the organizing committee.

TENDER NOTICE: Construction of Washuk Court Room at Basima District Washuk PSDP. Includes details on bid submission, tender fee, and contact information.

TENDER NOTICE: Construction of GBPS Hidayatullah Shah Meera District Duki and Construction of GBPS Haji Mazar Sumand District Duki. Includes details on bid submission, tender fee, and contact information.

TENDER NOTICE: Construction of water supply schemes in Killi Sadiq, Killi Yakhail, and Killi Ghulam Jan. Includes details on bid submission, tender fee, and contact information.

TENDER NOTICE: Construction of office and residential accommodations for District Attorney Ziarat. Includes details on bid submission, tender fee, and contact information.

PMYP provides platform to empower Youth: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Program (PMYP) Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday said that PMYP was taking various initiatives to highlight the potential and provide more employment opportunities, resources and support to the youth.

Addressing the awards ceremony of the “China Scholarship for Youth Skill Development” held in collaboration with China TANG International and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), he said that youth is the future of Pakistan and equipping young individuals with both high-tech and conventional skills was the priority of the government.

The Chairman PMYP congratulated the selected students on merit for the Chinese Scholarship programme and said that Pakistan has a talented youth and has a central role

in progressing the country towards fast-paced development.

“Our goal is to ensure that every young Pakistani has the skills necessary to succeed in today’s competitive landscape. By focusing on both high-tech and traditional skill development, we aim to enhance employment prospects and foster economic growth”, he remarked.

Calling Youth the “Ambassadors of Pakistan,” he urged them to work hard honestly and glorify the name of Pakistan.

Rana also acknowledged the strong bond between Pakistan and China and gratitude for China’s support in poverty alleviation, youth employment and development.

He informed that China had offered to provide training to around 200,000 youngsters in various fields during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to China while during

the tenure of the former PM Nawaz Sharif in 2013-18 students were sent to China on scholarships. He added that as many as 7000 to 10,000 students were getting an education in Chinese universities and making their future prosperous.

On the occasion, he also asked the management of NAVTTTC to increase the number of females in the fields of technical education and for scholarships abroad as Malaysia’s development of its GDP increased up to 2 to 3 per cent after the inclusion of skilled women.

The chairman said that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar were also launching new initiatives to empower youth.

C o m m e n d i n g NAVTTTC’s, TEVTA and TANG’s ongoing efforts in cultivating a skilled workforce, he emphasized the pivotal role of skill education in national development.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid chairs a meeting with delegation from the Pakistan People’s Party Minority Wing, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, at BISP headquarters.

SECP Issues warning against fraudulent social media groups

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a public alert regarding the increasing number of fraudulent social media and WhatsApp groups that are operating under the guise of investment training courses.

A press release issued by the SECP said that these groups are impersonating well-known local and international business personalities or reputable international financial companies to deceive the public.

The operators/handlers of these groups are charging fees from individuals to grant them membership, promising exclusive access to insider tips and training on investments.

SECP warns the public that these activities are fraudulent and are aimed at looting innocent people.

SECP urges the public to exercise extreme caution and verify the authenticity of any investment-related offers or groups before engaging or making any payments.

SECP advises not to share any personal or financial information with these unverified sources, as it could lead to significant financial loss.

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Ahsan for capacity building of youth in advanced computing education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday stressed the need for capacity building of youth in advanced computing education, as digitalized education could play an important role in achieving the national goal of development and prosperity.

He expressed these views while chairing a committee meeting of the National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC), which was attended among others by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema, Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission

(HEC) Mukhtar Ahmed and senior officials of the Ministry of Planning.

Ahsan Iqbal said the country needed to focus on teachers’ training along with curriculum education, regretting that students were still being taught a 100-year-old curriculum.

He said, “We need to increase capacity in the field of advanced computing. An action plan should be made to become signatories of accords.”

The minister emphasized the need to train teachers to improve the quality of education in line with modern requirements.

“There are many opportunities available in digital computing and hardware. Equipping the youth with the jewel of education

is the most important need of the hour,” he said, stressing that no society could develop without education.

He noted that Pakistan had no shortage of talented youth, who have proven their mettle in the field of information technology globally.

The minister said that it was the responsibility of the council to select the best experts, as “we have to not only educate the youth but also equip them with modern skills.”

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed that merit and transparency be ensured in the selection of the chairman of the NCEAC and that talented youth be included on a merit basis by adopting international standards.

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik presenting souvenirs to Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan during his visit to NDMA Headquarters.

PDI takes serious steps to curtail intestinal worms in children: Zoraiz Riaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Asst. Chief Health Ministry of Planning & Development, Zoraiz Riaz, said on Tuesday that the children in Pakistan are suffering from intestinal worms due to poor sanitation and hygiene.

Talking to a private news channel, he described that the worms are parasites, which live in human intestines for food and survival.

They consume nutrients meant for the human body and cause blood loss, poor nutrition, and stunted growth, he added.

He said that the government, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), is working to solve this problem across the country.

The Pakistan Deworming Initiative (PDI) is led by the Ministries of Planning, Education, and Health in collaboration with provincial health and education departments, he added.

A 2016-2017 survey found that around 17 million school-aged children in 47 districts of Pakistan are at risk of intestinal worm infections and need annual treatment, he further included.

He disclosed that, under the Pakistan Deworming Initiative, more than 25 million children have been dewormed so far.

He said that the program operates using two main models, a teacher-based approach and a health worker model.

PAL bids farewell to retired colleagues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) on Tuesday organized a ceremony to honour its retired colleagues who completed their tenure.

The ceremony was attended by President PAL Dr Najeeba Arif, Director General Sultan Nasir and other colleagues.

Dr Najiba Arif praised the retirees for their dedication and hard work, saying, “You have given the best years of your life to the Academy.” She emphasized the importance of institutions over individuals, stating, “Our aim should be the empowerment of institutions for social and national purposes.”

Sultan Nasir paid tribute to the outgoing officials, especially Malik Mehr Ali, for their services.

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IG Islamabad chaired important meetings

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chaired important meetings at the Central Police Office (CPO) and Safe City Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that during these meetings, DIG Security Jawad Tariq, DIG Law and Order Shakir Hussain Dawar, AIG Establishment Abdul Haq Imrani, SSP Safe City Shoaib Khan, along with the Director of IT, Director Technical and other police officers were present.

IG Islamabad reviewed the recruitment process of Islamabad Police. He issued orders to recruit officers on merit while maintaining transparency in the recruitment process. He

emphasized that all police officers should work to integrate educated youth into the police force, ensuring that merit remains a priority.

IG Islamabad also chaired a meeting at Safe City Islamabad, where he reviewed the performance of the Safe City departments, assessed the execution of tasks assigned to officers and issued further directives.

IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi also met with the Director IT at the CPO Islamabad. During the meeting, IG Islamabad received a comprehensive briefing on the performance of all software used by Islamabad Police, including the renewal of the Safe City project and an overall review of performance and public service delivery.

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The way out

Our politicians seem to have no appetite for politics; they would all rather ride to power in a jeep than on the shoulders of the masses they claim to represent. Despite the wanton destruction wrought on the structural framework of Pakistani democracy over the last two years, neither its victims nor its beneficiaries seem to have had enough.

Instead of reverting to the constitutional order, they want things to continue hurtling towards more instability and disorder. Politicians repeatedly reject the most sensible paths forward, thereby ensuring that any salvation for the country keeps being put off. This is an immense disservice to the people of Pakistan. Politics and leadership are not a zero-sum game, yet they are now regarded as such. Perhaps this is an inevitable outcome of the militarisation of politics, but the notion needs to be consciously rejected for the country to move forward.

The PTI has once again ruled out the possibility of talks with the government. The snub came in response to a proposal made by PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif for an all-parties effort to pull the country out of its crises. The PTI's position is that it does not see the PML-N or its allies in the coalition government as legitimate counterparties because it believes they won through a rigged election. Instead, the PTI only wishes to speak to the security establishment, which, paradoxically, it also repeatedly condemns as the main force behind its ongoing victimisation.

But if the PTI is willing to let bygones be bygones when it comes to the armed forces, why can it not extend the same courtesy to its rival parties, which, for all their flaws, represent the people of Pakistan? For this, it has no reasonable answer.

Meanwhile, the PML-N and its allies continue to dig deeper into the hole. Once seen as the protectors of Pakistan's democratic order, they have lately defaulted to using scorched-earth tactics in their desperation to keep the PTI out of power. In April 2022, when they ousted the PTI government over its oppressive policies, few would have expected they would midwife Pakistan's rapid slide towards totalitarianism.

Yet here we are, with each day bringing with it a new scheme to thwart the Supreme Court or subvert the constitutional order. Due to their clumsy wielding of power, they have made it progressively more difficult for all stakeholders to retreat from their positions. For instance, negotiation and dialogue would have seemed much more plausible had the government kept its distance from the persecution of political opponents and refused to upend democratic principles in exchange for retaining power.

There are now only difficult ways out of this mess. Politics requires compromise. Till the civilian leadership accepts this, nothing can be expected to change.

Arifa Noor

Delulu is the solulu
Origin: Gen Z fans
Meaning: The latest version of 'fake it till you make it' or being delusional is the solution
Current location: In the minds of the boomers and Gen X ruling the roost in the land of the pure
Over the weekend, a university professor in Karachi was picked up for some hours after he tweeted about the pressure on the university syndicate which was faced with a case about a student's degree.
It may seem like a small, local issue, but it was not. Students, degrees and university administrations are hardly out of the routine. But as the professor spent hours at one police station and then another while his wife, colleagues and others tweeted up a storm of protest, those of us who were following it on X just couldn't look away.
And not just because of the professor's incarceration but because of who the 'student' he

tweeted about was. A judge of the high court, the same high court, by the way, the judges of which had complained in a letter about being harassed.
And since then, it seems there is no end to the skeletons in their closet so much so that cases about their 'misconduct' have reached the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC). One of them had a fake degree and another dual nationality. And while the SJC slept on, the university where he studied was alerted to his 'fake' degree, after decades of his practice as a lawyer and years of 'judgery'.
But to return to the professor.
He spent hours at two police stations, was then released after which he proceeded to speak publicly about the matter before the university syndicate. And how his 'arrest' (or was it a detention?) meant he was unable to voice his views during the syndicate meeting. And he wasn't wrong — because after his quick 'arrest' and return, the newspapers the next day reported that "a

judge" has had his degree cancelled!
In some of the reports, the judge remained nameless while in others the cancellation was reported without any official confirmation. The ever-reliable zari or 'sources' come to the rescue of those who matter. That the degree was revoked without the 'student' having been given the opportunity to defend himself is perhaps a minor issue. Very minor.
To some extent, none of this was surprising. The manipulation by those in power is now about as subtle as Mr Bean's expressions or Joan Rivers' cosmetic procedures.
And yet, some think they can explain it away.
So the next day, the police in Karachi put out a tweet (remember the app is banned) to 'explain' the 'incident'. Apparently, the police were informed about a 'wanted' (ishthehaar) and this is why the professor was brought in for questioning. But once he explained why the case had been registered against him but that he was acquitted by the courts, he was

allowed to leave.
Indeed! In a country where militants carry out attacks on a regular basis, mullahs and others on the Fourth Schedule even leave the country for travel before returning and cases against politicians open and shut with surprising ease, the police in one thana became an efficient machine for a few hours and were not willing to relent till they had reached the truth in the case of one professor.
As Gen Z says, delulu is the solulu. And so the powers that be are convinced they will continue to fake it, till they make it because the rest of us have been lobotomised.
In Islamabad, parliamentary sessions are called abruptly, with much speculation over the agenda. As the government looks away, lone rangers in parliament, many of them newbies who are quick to please, present complicated legislative bills, as private members' bills. The government ministers bat their eyelashes like innocent Disney princesses while the

backbenchers on the treasury benches along with allies all decide to vote for bills. Because the legislation put together by individuals was so brilliant, it was backed by all other individuals who just happen to be entire parties in the legislatures.
If these bills happen to deal with difficult decisions or judges who are causing a few headaches to some people somewhere on elections, and related matters, what a coincidence. Just like a meet-cute sets up for a rom-com which will lead to happily ever after and a couple of hours of oblivion for the viewers. No one is there to look for loopholes.
So if the judiciary wanted to give the independent members in parliament to be given the chance to join PTI, the new laws passed by our legislators say members can't make this choice after three days. Another new eager beaver has presented a bill, which as law, will give the government power to move judges from one high court to another. If these

judges happen to include the one with the "fake degree" or "dual nationality" it will be another coincidence.
And why shouldn't the people believe it? After all, there was no ban on X for the longest; there was no firewall or "fibre wall" slowing down the internet, till one day a web management system was being upgraded which then gave way to bad, bad VPNs slowing down the internet. But then it turned out the cables had been damaged. The issue will be fixed in October, though this remains subject to further updates.
And on the other side of the aisle, the PTI tells us it believes in democracy and the rule of law and will hence hold talks with the military establishment within the confines of the Constitution.
The boomers and Gen X have gone delulu, convinced that they will make it eventually by faking it. The rest of us watch on, knowing no one has a solulu.

The arrested professor

Stop fearing ordinary people

Jawed Naqvi

The legendary public intellectual and political analyst Abdul Ghafoor Noorani, who passed away at 93 in Mumbai last week, had believed that Narendra Modi's foreign policy flowed from his ideological prejudice cradled in Hindutva.
What that entailed was threefold: making India umbilically inseparable from the West given Hindutva's visceral hatred of communism from its inception. It is another matter that the Cold War is over and the hatred of communism has outlived its utility. The US is courting communist Vietnam without giving up entirely on communist China. Second — even though it required a marked paring down of Hindutva's love of Hitler — a fawning relationship with Islamophobic Israel has defined India's recent policy preferences.
Modi's seeking a second term for Donald Trump in 2020 was of a piece with his anti-Muslim politics. India's recently unveiled citizenship laws came from this prejudice. A third constant

in the Modi foreign policy, according to Noorani sahib, was the lure of acceptance with the Indian diaspora, chiefly the type managed and plied by Hindutva's overseas infrastructures. The Howdy Modi element has thus remained a mainstay of the policy.
How does the South Asia neighbourhood appear in this preordained ideological posture?
"The era of uninterrupted dialogue is over," says India's foreign minister although the claim is problematic on two grounds. First, there's scant evidence of any uninterrupted dialogue happening ever with Pakistan. Two, who will talk to Pakistan about issues raised by India on the political violence in Kashmir if not India?
The foreign minister's remarks, reportedly made at a private event last week, were said to re-frame the country's future ties with Pakistan. S. Jaishankar said India would respond in kind to adverse signals from Pakistan. The threat has been milked dry by the current government. Many Indians, including a former

governor of Jammu and Kashmir, once closely allied with PM Modi, have learnt to take such claims with a pinch of salt. S. Jaishankar also said India would yield to positive gestures from across the border. That's a relief.
Given that the current ruling dispensation in Pakistan is also known to take its cue from Washington, there should be room for some kind of rapprochement between the leaders who belong to the same international corner. Except that with his vague remarks, the foreign minister has added needless mystery to the suspense about whether Modi would attend the Shanghai club's summit in Islamabad in October or skip it as he did with the one in July in Kazakhstan.
Now, Kazakhstan has had no axe to grind with New Delhi over Kashmir or any other dispute that Pakistan obviously does. Yet Modi didn't go to Kazakhstan, citing engagements at parliament, reportedly. Ergo: India can have more than one reason to skip an international gathering, particularly if led by China or Russia.

One can't be faulted for concluding that India thinks hard about being on a diplomatic circuit if it has the potential to rile its Western minders. It has been argued that India kept the Russian oil imports going, which deserved to be hailed as a brave and defiant stand. A closer scrutiny reveals that the embargoed trade suited the West in a duplicitous way given that substantial quantities of refined petroleum from Russian oil treated in Indian refineries were destined for European markets. The BBC did once report that the UK government was looking into the "loophole" about its indirect imports of Russian oil refined in India.
We have been waiting for a follow-up on the story by the outlet ever since.
The Modi government's unusual business interests had somehow eluded Noorani's radar in assessing Indian foreign policy. One such interest reportedly underpinned the policy towards the unpopular and autocratic Hasina Wajed government in Bangladesh. A controversial coal-fired thermal

power deal with Dhaka was struck with the Adani group whereby electricity produced allegedly with imported dirty coal in Jharkhand would be sold to Bangladesh.
The Adani group has been in the crosshairs of Indian opposition parties for its unhealthy proximity to the prime minister. His deal doesn't seem to have found favour with the drastically changed circumstances in Dhaka and is cited as one of the lapses by the ousted regime in dealing with India. In an interview with Karan Thapar, a Bangladeshi editor regrettably noted that there was palpable antipathy in his country towards India.
One had asked a similar question of former military ruler Gen H.M. Ershad in 1997. Ershad was the host of the first Saarc summit in Dhaka in 1985. I asked him the reason for hosting the disparate group and then setting up a formal club. His comments were recorded in a TV documentary on Saarc sponsored by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. "We were all allergic to India. So, we decided to come together to deal with

our common challenge."
Looking back at the 1985 meeting, it comprised leaders who didn't see eye to eye with India. Junius Jayewardene from Sri Lanka, Gen Ziaul Haq from Pakistan, King Birendra from Nepal all had a Cold War mistrust of Delhi. It was difficult to understand Bangladesh's grouse with Rajiv Gandhi though. "India helped you win independence, so why this bristling?" Ershad's reply could at least partly explain the journalist's complaint to Thapar the other day. "First you sent the army to help us. Then you sent the bania to subjugate us."
The remedy? Try re-imagining our governments from the frame in dealing with each other in South Asia. What you would find are ordinary people from a different stratosphere. Like the one shared by the javelin heroes of the two countries whose mothers told us ever so movingly that they prayed for Arshad Nadeem and Neeraj Chopra with equal love and faith.
As Noorani sahib would say, the bonding was the missing antidote to the narrowness with which South Asians are kept separate from each other.

Schools and climate

Dure Sameen Akhund

As a mother of two school-going children, the record-breaking heatwave experienced in Karachi this year has heightened my concern about the growing impact of climate change on our children's health, safety, and education. According to the Asian Development Bank, heatwave days in Pakistan increased by 31 days annually between 1980 and 2007, with coastal temperatures rising by one degree Celsius. Pakistan's temperature rise is set to exceed the global average, making this relentless heat our new reality. Despite this, educational institutions have remained disturbingly inactive. With climate risks now the norm, the education ministries and schools must step up, take decisive action, and ensure our children have a safe and supportive learning environment in the face of this escalating crisis.
Schools, as microcosms of society, are on the front line of this crisis. The intense heat is more than uncomfortable — it's harmful, impacting students' health and learning. Reports of dehydration and heat-related illnesses highlight our education system's inadequate infrastructure, with many schools lacking proper ventilation and shade. The response from institutions and policymakers has been sluggish, relying on temporary fixes like adjusted timings. It's time for meaningful, structural changes.
The 2022 floods destroyed over 30,000 schools, underscoring the vulnerability of our educational infrastructure. This crisis is an opportunity to rebuild climate-resilient schools. We must

implement a uniform building code that prioritises climate adaptation — improving ventilation, installing reflective roofs, and creating shaded areas. Schools should lead in sustainability by adopting solar panels, which reduce energy costs, cut reliance on non-renewable sources, and ensure power during outages, providing a more comfortable learning environment for our children.
The National Climate Change Policy adopted in 2021 overlooks the impact of climate change on educational institutions, leaving them without clear guidelines for adapting to rising temperatures and extreme weather. This gap highlights the urgent need for the climate change and education ministries to collaborate on long-term strategies that go beyond short-term solutions like reduced school hours or rainy season closures, which disrupt education. Private schools should engage consultants to develop sustainable plans that address climate risks and protect the education and well-being of our future generations.
All education ministries must revise the academic calendar to align with new climate realities. Adjusting summer and winter vacations to account for delayed winters and earlier peak summers will better protect students' health and ensure effective learning, rather than relying on temporary schedule changes. Schools also play a crucial role by making small but impactful adjustments, such as planting trees and creating green spaces all around school premises. Research shows that vegetated areas lower temperatures, creating cooler, more comfortable spaces. This

is a cost-effective way for schools to enhance the learning environment, while fostering ecological awareness among students.
The standard school uniform needs a redesign to suit the hotter climate. Lightweight, breathable fabrics and mandatory caps during peak summer months should become standard to enhance student comfort and safety. Schools must ensure that uniform vendors meet quality standards to protect all students adequately. Scheduling school activities also requires immediate revision. Out-do--or sports and other activities should be held during cooler parts of the day to minimise heat-related illnesses. Scho-ols can enhance outdoor areas by planting trees and installing canopies to provide ample shade, ensuring a safer environment for students.
Curriculum reforms are crucial for shaping how students understand and respond to climate change. By integrating comprehensive environmental education, students will not only learn about climate impacts but also develop the skills to take sustainable actions. Practical experiences, like gardening and recycling, foster environmental stewardship and a deep connection with nature.
Schools can lead by example, demonstrating sustainable operations and green infrastructure as real-world applications of classroom lessons. This approach ensures students practice sustainability daily, embedding these critical values in their lives. By embracing these changes, Pakistan's schools will not only become safer and more conducive to learning but will also prepare students to lead sustainable lives in a climate-challenged world.

Election imbroglio

Dr Niaz Murtaza

More than six months after one of our most blatantly rigged elections, we have barely inched forward on resolving election disputes. A recent Fafen report shows that 23 election tribunals have so far decided only 25 petitions, on average one each, with 16 rejected and nine abandoned by petitioners.
Balochistan tribunals alone have decided 14 of them. But tribunals in Islamabad and Punjab — the sites of the most serious rigging charges and handling nearly 50 per cent of the 377 national and provincial petitions against 36pc of all assembly seats — have decided only one case. They have been largely inoperative due to disputes between the executive, ECP and courts over their formation. Common sense and justice say that since the executive and ECP stand accused of rigging, high courts must decide this matter. Yet, the matters drag on in the SC and IHC strangely even after months.
Thus, the deadline for petitions' disposal will be violated in most cases. Such delays are routine in Pakistan. However, delays this time are more iffy as in many cases, the rigging charges centre simply on the ECP having doctored the consolidation in Form 47 to change the Form 45 results issued by each polling station for a seat. Such a simple matter should have taken two to three weeks to resolve for all cases. That it remains in limbo even after months suggests foul play and foot dragging by the ECP, executive, the invisibly omnipresent establishment and even parts of the judiciary.
This is unsurprising as their quick disposal may cause a political

earthquake. PTI-backed candidates have filed the most petitions: 188 or nearly 50pc of all petitions, including 76 for national and 72 for Punjab assemblies. Smaller progressive parties have petitions too. There are also the contested reserved seats that rightfully are PTT's. If all these issues are justly resolved, the rigged centre and Punjab set-ups led by the uncle-niece Sharifs may quickly fold. The key person for resolving matters is the Supreme Court chief justice. That is why we see the tornado of gossip engulfing Islamabad about the PML-N's devious plans to retain the current CJP to protect its interests. The new CJP may not nix the 2024 polls directly, as some fear, but by acting quickly on the tribunals and reserved seats issues, he may open the floodgates that quickly drown the sorry-looking PML-N setup.
This would not just be a blow for the PML-N but also for the establishment. The fundamental logic governing Pakistan is not its Constitution but the unwritten law that every institution and law, including Constitution, courts, ECP, executive, parliament, bureaucracy, media and civil society can be manipulated or damaged to give even tactical gains to the establishment. If the new CJP takes over and acts freely, one may see a ferocious reaction. Thus, the coming months may see much mayhem.
These are not the first elections to be rigged. The 2018 ones were rigged too, though not as badly as 2024. But the 2018 rigging had its own significance as it came after two relatively fair polls (2008 and 2013). That had given hope to diehard democrats that we are finally seeing the political le-

gitimacy that may lead to political stability, security and economic progress. Yet, that was not to be and now we are so far from all those outcomes that it is hard to even see a U-turn back to them in the foreseeable future. And then there are numerous earlier polls rigged by the powers that be against only one rigged by civilians (1977). The victim parties in one election have often been aggressors/victims in others, like PTI and PML-N, but with the establishment always being the real covert winner.
Neutral caretakers was our way to stop rigging. They do have their value aga-i-nst rigging by ci--vilians as Ba--ng-l-i-adesh's case shows. It had three fair polls under them and three rigged polls after nixing them. But even they fail when the elephant in the room tramples over electoral integrity. Constitutional tools won't stop it; only huge political mobilisation will.
Our four partly fair polls ('71, '88, '08 and '13) were all held after each of the three eras of open establishment rule for around a decade each and there was immense foreign, domestic and even pressure within the ranks for it to quit politics.
It has ruled covertly since 2018 but has caused huge problems to Pakistan in every field.
Thus, the time is ripe for civil society actors to organise themselves to put pressure on the three major and other parties to stop being pawns and sign charters of democracy and governance to keep the establishment out and deliver civilian sway and able rule.

CM KP Gandapur approves implementation of APS project

PESHAWAR (APP): In a landmark move towards transforming the social protection regime in the province, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has approved the proposed strategy for implementing the Adaptive Social Protection (APS) Project of the provincial government and authorized the Planning & Development Department to enter into an agreement with the concerned development partner (GIZ) for this purpose.

Secretary Home and Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Muhammad Abid Majeed, Additional Chief Secretary P&D Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah, SMBR Ikramullah Khan, administrative secretaries of the concerned departments, and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

The Adaptive Social Protection project, to be implemented with the technical assistance of GIZ, aims to strengthen the social protection system with a special focus on improving linkages among relevant sectors as well as institutionalizing the use of social protection in disaster management. Under this project, an Integrated Social Protection Information System (Data Centre) would be established, thereby ensuring the all-time availability of complete and accurate information about the initiatives, programs and activities carried out in the field of social welfare sectors. Similarly, developing a legal framework, governance and coordination mechanisms, and a monitoring and evaluation framework are also among the important features of the project. Apart from this, research would be conducted on studying poverty dynamics and vulnerability assessments for evidence-based planning.



HYDERABAD: View of stagnant floodwater and destruction after flash flood caused by heavy downpour of monsoon season, showing the negligence of concerned authority, at Sehrishnagar area in Hyderabad.

Rahmatul Lilaalameen moot to be observed with religious fervor: Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Hajj, Auqaf Religious, and Minority Affairs Sahibzada Adnan Qadri has said that the National Rahmatul Lilaalameen Conference will be celebrated with religious fervor, dignity, devotion and respect.

He expressed these views while presiding over the National Rahmatul Lilaalameen Conference meeting at his office here.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Auqaf Adil Siddiq, Administrator Hamid Gaghiani, and other officers.

The meeting had a detailed discussion about

PPP Senator visits Sanghar to review post-rain situation

HYDERABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Dr. Imran-ul-Hassan Khowaja, visited various areas in the district and city of Sanghar to assess the situation following recent rains.

During her visit to Gulshan-e-Kamal Colony, she expressed satisfaction



MULTAN: Chairman Chief Minister Directorate of Evaluation Inspection and Monitoring Unit Brigadier (Retd) Babar Ala ud Din addressing a press conference at Circuit house.

Anti-smog drive: Over 4,000 vehicles fined in August

LAHORE (APP): In response to increasing environmental concerns, Punjab Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan has directed a ramp-up of the anti-smog campaign across all districts. The campaign, supervised by Secretary of Transport Ahmad Javed Qazi and Secretary of the Punjab Transport Authority (PTA) Faisal Sultan, has seen significant enforcement actions. Secretary Faisal Sultan reviewed reports from all Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs) on actions taken in August. According to the report, approximately 78,000

vehicles were inspected between August 1 and 31. Out of these, 4,205 vehicles emitting excessive smoke were fined, and 1,260 vehicles were impounded. Additionally, around 3,000 vehicles operating without fitness certificates were fined. Over the course of the recent anti-smog operations, more than Rs 9.3 million fines have been imposed. Other enforcement actions include fines for overloading, with approximately 3,000 vehicles, and 2,363 vehicles were penalized for operating without route.

Mayor Karachi briefs MNA Faryal Talpur on development projects

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday informed Pakistan Peoples Party's Women Wing President and Member of the Provincial Assembly Faryal Talpur about the ongoing development projects in Karachi.

Murtaza also congratulated MNA Faryal Talpur on performing Umrah and presented her with flowers.

The Mayor Karachi further informed her about the performance of municipal institutions during the recent rains in Karachi.

He mentioned that the PPP was committed to the development and progress of Karachi and assured that "we will live up to the expectations of the people of Karachi, with visible progress being made."

Barrister Murtaza Wahab also had a detailed discussion with Faryal Talpur about various issues regarding Karachi.

Cybercrime case: Court dismisses bail plea of Orya Maqbool Jan

LAHORE (APP): A sessions court on Tuesday dismissed bail petition of former bureaucrat and senior analyst Orya Maqbool Jan in a cybercrime case registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

Additional District and Sessions Judge Rafiqat Ali Qamar heard the post-arrest bail petition of the senior analyst.

Earlier, Jan's counsel, Mian Ali Ishaq, argued before the court that the FIA had registered a case against his client based on mere assumptions. He submitted that the agency did not have any evidence against his client, and no recovery was made from him. He pleaded with the court to grant bail to his client, as his custody was no longer required for investigations.

However, the FIA's prosecutor opposed the bail petition and requested the court to dismiss it.

The court, after hearing detailed arguments from both parties, reserved its verdict for a short while. Later, announcing the verdict, the court dismissed the bail petition of Orya Maqbool Jan.

The FIA had registered a case against the analyst on charges of spreading religious hatred and making statements against institutions.



LAHORE: Punjab Ministers for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazeer receiving Tyvek Suits from World Health Organization for Rescuers.

Governor Kundi underscores concerning law and order in southern districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday underscored the concerning state law and order in the province, which has particularly affected the southern districts.

In a meeting with former federal minister Saleem Saifullah Khan Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the necessity of better law and order situation for the development of the province.

They also discussed the political situation and public issues in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially

in the southern districts. During the meeting, Governor Kundi praised the federal government's allocation of 19 billion rupees for the Chashma Lift Canal project, a long-standing demand of the province.

He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for this allocation and promised that the project would be inaugurated this year.

Governor Faisal Kundi emphasized the necessity of political unity to secure provincial rights from center and said that the province is not receiving its constitutional share of electricity, gas, and oil.

He stressed the need for a unified political front to advocate for these rights.

Saleem Saifullah Khan commended the Governor's efforts to unite political parties, involve youth in consultative processes, empower women, and promote sports.

He praised the Governor's dynamic and hardworking approach. He suggested the initiation of small dam projects in the southern districts, such as in Kurram Tangi and Tank Zam.

CM Inspection Team chairperson visits Multan

MULTAN (APP): Chairperson of Chief Minister's Inspection Team for Crime Surveillance and Special Monitoring Unit Babar Alawadin called on Additional Chief Secretary Fuad Hashim Rabbani after visiting the South Punjab Secretariat here on Tuesday.

In brief conversation, the both agreed on evolving a mechanism to promote tourism in South Punjab, particularly focusing on potential of events like Cholistan Desert Jeep Rally, Thal Jeep Rally, water sports in Panjnad, marketing of hill station Fort Munro, Sufi tourism

LDA seals 40 properties

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority (LDA) teams, in an on going operation against commercialization fee defaulters, sealed another 40 properties here in Gulshan Ravi and Shadman on Tuesday.

Acting on the directives of LDA Director General Tahir Farooq, action was taken against properties including electronic shops, private offices, schools, paint shops, workshops, furniture stores, and others.

The sealed properties had outstanding commercial fee payments amounting to millions of rupees prior to the operation.



LAHORE: Group photo of the participants with Dr. Samia Raheel Qazi from the Hijab Ceremony on the occasion of International Hijab Day organized by Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Women's Department at the press club of the provincial capital.

CS KP Aslam directs accelerated restoration of roads in Chitral, Kumrat

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry on Tuesday chaired a review meeting wherein he instructed the Communications and Works (C&W) Department to expedite the restoration of link roads in Chitral and Kumrat valleys.

These areas have been significantly affected by recent Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF), he said. The Chief Secretary underscored the urgency of completing the restoration work before the onset of winter, ensuring that communities in these valleys remain connected through restored

roadways.

He commended the district administrations, and rescue and line departments for their swift rescue and relief efforts to support the affected communities and tourists.

In addition, the Chief Secretary directed the district administration to develop a comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation or relocation of households affected in Upper and Lower Chitral districts.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary also highlighted the need to address the educational demands of local communities in Upper Chitral, particularly regarding girls' higher education.



KARACHI: Workers at Fish Harbor are busy in preparing a large cargo ship.

Talented youth, a valuable asset of country': Maryam

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that talented youth is a valuable asset of any country.

Chairing a review meeting on matters related to Punjab Skills Development Fund in order to make youth a productive human resource, here on Tuesday, the CM said youth will be trained in modern market-driven technologies to excel in global job market.

Through Punjab Skills Development Fund, youth will be guided on the path of financial independence, she added.

The CM was briefed by the authorities concerned that youth will be given IT skills and on-job training through Punjab Skills Development Fund.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi is called on by Federal Minister Saleem Saifullah Khan at Governor House.

Law Minister chairs meeting on restorations of hospitals in Kohat

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority (LDA) teams, in an on going operation against commercialization fee defaulters, sealed another 40 properties here in Gulshan Ravi and Shadman on Tuesday.

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The sealed properties had outstanding commercial fee payments amounting to millions of rupees prior to the operation.

E-transfer policy to ensure impartiality, merit: Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Minister for Education, Faisal Khan Tarakai on Tuesday said that e-transfer policy has been launched to ensure transparency and impartiality in transfer procedure of teachers.

He was chairing a meeting that among others was attended by Secretary Education, Masood Ahmad, Special Secretary, Qaisar Alam, Additional Secretary, Fayaz Alam and concerned officials.



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari inspecting the newly constructed building of DGPR. DGPR Dr. Shehshah Faisal Azeem is also present.

GRSC-IoBM hosts seminar on future of Pakistan-Bangladesh ties

KARACHI (APP): The Global and Regional Studies Center - the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) hosted a seminar on "Understanding Political Developments in Bangladesh and the Future of Pakistan-Bangladesh Relations" here on Tuesday. The event brought together national experts in international relations who shared in-depth discussions on Bangladesh's evolving political landscape and its impact on relations with Pakistan, said a statement.

Chairperson, Pakistan Institute of International Affairs Dr. Masuma Hasan, Executive Director, Center for International Strategic Studies Qazi Khalilullah, Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Sciences at NED University Professor Noman Ahmed, Advisor to the Sindh Ombudsman Rafuzzaman Siddiqui, and Head of the International Relations Department.

NA told Plan devised to bring barren land for cultivation under Green Pakistan Initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab and Sindh have transferred land. However, other provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan have not yet transferred land.

The minister said a company has also been registered under green initiatives. Under the plan, 40 per cent revenue each would be given to the respective province and investors while remaining 20 per cent revenue would be purely specified for research and development (R&D) in this sector.

He said required irrigation water for the scheme would be provided from share of the respective province. Around 400,000 acres command area would come under the Cholistan scheme in Punjab, he said.

He said the project would cost Rs 211 billion under which 296 kilometer long canal would be constructed. It would

consist of 176 km long Cholistan Canal and 120 km Marur Canal, he added.

He categorically said that water distribution in the said canals would be purely met through the share of respective provinces and Indus River System Authority (IRSA) would issue proper certificate in this regard.

The Cholistan Canal would get water for four months from share of Punjab province while for 2 months it would feed through flood water, he said.

Responding to a point raised by Syed Naveed Qamar, the minister said the federal government could not ask from the provinces about their water share distribution in their respective provinces after the 18th constitutional amendment.

Responding to a calling attention notice raised by Syed Naveed Qamar and others regarding the news in the media of 4.8 million acres of land being given for corporate farming resulting in diversion of water, he said 812,000 acres of land has been acquired so far to bring barren land under cultivation.

He said it would be a joint venture and so far



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja chairs the 50th Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy Committee meeting.

Jazz, Mobilink bank forge strategic alliance to strengthen digital financial inclusion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, and Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), the country's leading digital microfinance bank, have combined their strengths to advance financial inclusion and empowerment throughout Pakistan.

This partnership marks a significant milestone in the digital transformation of the nation's financial services, with the dual objectives of substantially enhancing customer engagement, and expanding digital literacy and inclusion, said a news release.

By synergizing their unique capabilities, this partnership will spearhead a women's entrepreneurship initiative dedicated to empowering female customers by providing them with essential digital assets.

As part of this initiative, female lenders will be provided with complimentary smartphones equipped with Jazz SIMs, which will come with 12 months of free data and preloaded applications to improve data accessibility and

PSX gains 73 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 73.02 points on Tuesday, showing a positive change of 0.09 percent, closing at 78,356.32 points against 78,283.30 points on the last working day. A total of 436,672,976 shares were traded during the day as compared to 457,280,204 shares the previous day.

ensure smooth access to essential financial services.

In addition, the collaboration introduces an innovative RRBT (Reverse Ring Back Tone) loan recovery campaign, which will deliver personalized MMBL messages to customers during their calls, thereby fostering more effective engagement.

This RRBT service, while serving as a tool for payment reminders, also presents an opportunity to showcase MMBL's new products and services, cultivating a more informed and engaged customer base.

Kazim Mujtaba, President Consumer Division at Jazz, commented, "This partnership with Mobilink Bank underscores our commitment to innovation and customer-centric solutions. By drawing on each other's strengths, we are leveraging digital technology to not only enhance customer communication but also advance women's empowerment through digital inclusion and entrepreneurship. This initiative aligns with our new ServiceCo model and our broader vision of a digitally inclusive Pakistan."



PESHAWAR: A representative delegation of Clearing Agent Association led by Ziaulla Afridi called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where two ships, Meratus Jayawijaya and DSI Pyxis carrying Container and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Pakistan Bulk Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Ph Minh Giang, CP Shenzhen, New Levant and Clipper Kythira scheduled to load/offload River Sand, Cement, Peas and Coal are arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Lusail.

Pak-US trade witnesses over 9% surplus in July

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's goods and services trade with the United States (US) witnessed a surplus of 9.62 per cent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2024-25) compared to the corresponding month of last year.

Trade surplus during the month under review was recorded at \$290.962 million against \$265.411 million last year showing 9.62 per cent growth, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to US were recorded at US \$476.017 million during July (2024-25) against exports of US \$439.892 million during July (2023-24), showing an increase of 5.16 per cent.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to US rose by 7.26 per cent during July 2024 compared to the exports of \$443.789 million in June 2024, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to all other countries increased by 12.84 per cent in the first month, from US \$ 2.118 billion to US \$ 2.390 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from US into the country during the month under review was recorded at US \$ 185.055 million against US \$174.481 million last year, showing growth of 6.06 per cent in July (2024-25).

expand his business. He intends to open a new shop in the main bazaar of Pabbi, which he hopes will boost his income and create additional opportunities.

Fawad Khan's story exemplifies how small-scale businesses like milk selling can play a crucial role in alleviating poverty in rural regions. His success underscores the potential of local enterprises to drive economic development and improve the quality of life in underserved areas.

To promote livestock and dairy development in KP, the then Govt had launched three mega projects worth Rs3,214 million under 'National Agriculture Development Program' worth over Rs309.7 billion, which



QUETTA: WAPDA Hydro Union Central Joint President and Provincial Chairman, Muhammad Ramzan Achakzai, along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Milk Business: A key to alleviating poverty in rural areas of Pakistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Amidst the ongoing struggle to combat poverty in rural Pakistan, the story of Fawad Khan from Nowshera district stands out as a beacon of hope and resilience for many unemployed youth.

At just 28-year-old, Fawad's journey from unemployment to becoming a successful milk seller highlights how a simple business could transform the lives of youth of Pakistan. After completing his matriculation, Fawad faced the harsh reality of unemployment, a challenge that many in rural areas of Pakistan are grappling with.

Determined to provide a better life for his

family, he ventured into the milk business, a decision that has since proven to be life-changing. "Initially, I struggled with unemployment after completion of my matriculation," Fawad recounted in an interview with APP. "But diving into the milk business was a turning point for me. It allowed me to earn a decent livelihood and support my family besides fulfilling the education and other essential expenses of my relatives."

Fawad's daily routine begins before dawn as he travels to various villages, including Mohib Banda, Amankot, and Dheri Mian Ishaq for collection of milk from local livestock owners. The collected milk

is then sold throughout the day, often extending into the night. His dedication and hard work have paid off, allowing him to earn a reasonable income.

Describing the milk business as highly profitable, Fawad said that he collects about 20 kilograms of milk daily, purchasing it at Rs200 per kilogram and selling it for Rs240 per kilogram meaning by earning Rs40 per kilogram.

The success of his venture has not only improved his financial situation but has also enabled him to secure a visa for his brother, Akhtar Ali, to work in Dubai. Encouraged by his achievements, Fawad is now planning to further

played key role in alleviation of poverty, increase meat and milk production in the province.

These gigantic projects include 'Poverty Alleviation Through Development of Rural Poultry' amounting to Rs.834 million, 'Save the Calf' worth Rs1,554 million and 'Feedlot Fattening Programme' of Rs826 million, which provided much-needed relief to price-hike stricken people, women, persons with disabilities and underprivileged segments of society.

Gul Bibi, a poor housewife and mother of nine children at village Chamkani, Peshawar is among thousands of poor people and women.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting today with Mikko Keto, the Global CEO of FLSmidth, a leading global provider of engineering and equipment for the mining and cement industries.

PBC launched in Sharjah to enhance Pak-UAE economic, investment cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has officially launched the Pakistan Business Council in Sharjah, aimed at expanding economic cooperation between the business communities of the Emirates and Pakistan.

This initiative aims to boost trade and investment exchanges, capitalize on available opportunities for mutual benefit, and contribute to the growth of the private sector while enhancing its role in comprehensive economic development, according to a press release received here Tuesday.

Held at SCCI's headquarters, the inauguration ceremony was attended by Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce, and Industry; Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Ambassador of Pakistan in the UAE, and Waleed Abdul Rahman Bukhatir, Second Vice Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber, Hussain Muhammad, Consul General Pakistan along with key members of the Chamber's Board of Directors.

Also present were Mohammad Ahmed Amin Al Awadi, Director-General of SCCI;

Abdulaziz Al Shamsi, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Business Sector at SCCI; Fatema Khalifa Al Muqarrab, Director of International Relations Department at SCCI, and Syed Muhammad Tahir, Chairman of the Founding Committee of Pakistan Business Council, as well as representatives of the Pakistani business community in Sharjah.

In his remarks, Abdallah Sultan Al Owais affirmed that launching the Pakistan Business Council in Sharjah marked a significant new addition to the network of business councils operating under the umbrella of the Sharjah Chamber.

These councils offer ideal platforms for companies to connect, collaborate, and form win-win partnerships that benefit everyone involved, he added.

He further noted that the new council was a key part of SCCI's strategy to expand the number of business councils and capitalize on their role in enhancing economic collaboration, fostering cross-border partnerships among entrepreneurs and investors, and strengthening investment

Finance Minister discusses investment opportunities with FLSmidth's Global CEO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday held a meeting with Mikko Keto, Global Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FLSmidth, a leading global provider of engineering and equipment for the mining and cement industries.

The meeting was also attended by Ambassador of Denmark, Jakob Linulf, senior officials from FLSmidth and the Finance Division, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

The Finance Minister

emphasized Pakistan's strategic shift towards an export-led growth model aimed at ensuring sustainable economic development across various sectors.

He also highlighted the government's ongoing efforts in the form of comprehensive reforms in the energy and power sectors, privatization of state-owned enterprises, and restructuring of the tax system and public expenditure.

The minister underscored the government's commitment to facilitating private sector-led growth, with the

state focusing on creating a business-friendly environment.

"We are determined to pursue our change agenda despite resistance from those favoring the status quo. The private sector must lead the way, and our role is to ensure maximum facilitation," he added. The minister assured the delegation of Pakistan's dedication to providing a favorable and conducive investment climate for foreign investors. On the occasion, Mikko Keto expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the government of Pakistan.

Rs 23 bln USF, Rs 3.960 bln Ignite budgets approved

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy Committee approved a budget of Rs. 23 billion for the financial year 2024-25 during its 50th policy meeting on Tuesday.

The meeting was chaired by Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, with Secretary IT Azfar Manzoor also in attendance, said a news release.



SHARJAH: Hussain Muhammad, Consul General of Pakistan meets Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce, and Industry speaking at the official launch of Pakistan Business Council in Sharjah by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

KP govt to implement 10-year new agri policy to ensure food security

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture Sajjad Barkwal has said that the provincial government would soon approve a 10-year new agriculture policy to ensure food security in the region.

Presiding over a review meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee of the Agriculture Department here, he said that under the new policy, the barren land would be made cultivable while additional suitable land would be selected for the successful cultivation of

Saffron and other crops and increase the production.

He directed that a committee should be formed to ensure the use of the funds allocated by the government for various agricultural projects promptly and in the best interest of the landowners.

The meeting attended by Secretary Agriculture Atta-ul-Rehman, DGs of all wings, and other relevant officials gave a detailed briefing to the provincial minister and told that agricultural projects in the province include 21 ADP schemes.

Pakistan's meat exports to China surpass \$2.6 mln

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's meat exports to China have surpassed the US\$2.6 million mark from January to July 2024, according to data released by the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). This notable achievement underscores the growing demand for Pakistani meat products in the Chinese market, further solidifying Pakistan's position as a key exporter of quality meat.

Owais Mir, Chairman of the DEA Group and a leading meat exporter, highlighted that boiled beef

has been the primary export item driving this growth. "The surge in popularity of Pakistani boiled beef among Chinese consumers is due to its exceptional quality and competitive pricing, making it an attractive option for importers in China," he said. Mir emphasized that this development reflected the concerted efforts by both Pakistan and China to further strengthen their economic ties. "This growth in meat trade is a testament to the collaborative initiatives.



HYDERABAD: Members of All Pakistan Marble Association block road as they are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding and change the electric transformer in their area, at Maki Shah road in Hyderabad.

Israeli attacks in Gaza kill 35 Palestinians but pauses allow third day of polio vaccinations

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli forces killed at least 35 Palestinians across Gaza on Tuesday as they battled Hamas-led militants, Palestinian officials said, but brief pauses in fighting allowed medics to conduct a third day of polio vaccinations for children.

Among those killed were four women in the southern city of Rafah and eight people near a hospital in Gaza City in the north, the Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said.

Later on Tuesday, an Israeli airstrike killed nine Palestinians inside a house near Omar Al-Mokhtar Street in the middle of Gaza City, medics said.

Another strike hit near a college in Sheikh Radwan, a northern suburb of the city. The Israeli military said the strike targeted Hamas militants operating from a command center embedded inside the former Nama College.

Others were killed in separate air strikes across the territory, medics said.

The Israeli military said it killed eight Palestinian gunmen, including a senior Hamas commander who took part in the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel, at a command centre near the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City. A statement said Ahmed Fozi Nazer Muhammad Wadia had taken command of a "massacre of civilians carried out by Hamas terrorists" in Israel's Netiv HaAsara community near the Gaza border. There was no response from Hamas. She now finds herself sheltering in classrooms instead of studying in them. The armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad said they were battling Israeli forces in the Zeitoun suburb of Gaza City, and also in Rafah and Khan Younis in the south.

Nevertheless, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that it was

ahead of its targets for polio vaccinations in Gaza on Tuesday, day three of a mass campaign, and had inoculated about a quarter of children under 10.

The campaign, which was hastened by the discovery of the first polio case in a Gazan baby last month, relies on daily eight-hour pauses in fighting between Israel and Hamas militants in specific areas of the besieged enclave.

Diplomatic efforts to secure a permanent ceasefire and release foreign and Israeli hostages held in Gaza and return many Palestinians jailed by Israel have stalled, however.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israeli troops would remain in the Philadelphia corridor on the southern edge of Gaza, one of the main sticking points in reaching a deal to end the fighting and return hostages.



Palestinians try to put out a fire at the site of an Israeli strike on a college sheltering displaced people, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in the northern Gaza Strip.

DR Congo jailbreak attempt leaves 129 dead

Monitoring Desk
KINSHASA: An attempted jailbreak from the Democratic Republic of Congo's largest prison has left at least 129 people dead and led to women being raped, the interior minister said on Tuesday.

The circumstances around the bid to bust out of the Makala prison in the capital Kinshasa, which holds 10 times the number it is meant to house, in the early hours of Monday remain unclear. On Monday, witnesses told AFP they had heard gunfire at around

2am which lasted for several hours in the area of the prison, a popular and residential neighbourhood.

Democratic Republic of Congo Interior Minister Jacquemain Shabani in a statement released by video on Tuesday announced a provisional death toll of 129 people. They included "24 who were shot after warnings", he said. At least 59 others had been wounded and were receiving care, he said, adding that many people had been crushed or suffocated and that many women had been raped.

Trump says he had 'every right' to interfere in 2020 election

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump, who faces federal and state charges for allegedly trying to overturn his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden, insists he had "every right" to interfere in the election, while repeating his claim the criminal election interference cases against him are politically motivated.

"It's so crazy, that my poll numbers go up. Whoever heard you get indicted for interfering with a presidential election, where you have every right to do it, you get indicted."

Four shot dead on Chicago train

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Four people were shot dead on a train in the US city of Chicago on Monday, with a suspect apprehended soon after the mass shooting occurred.

Police said they responded to an emergency hotline call early on Monday morning, arriving at the Forest Park train station where they found the four victims. "Three were pronounced dead on scene, the fourth was transported to Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, where they were later pronounced," a police statement said.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mongolian President Ukhnaagin Khurelsukh attend an official welcoming ceremony in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Russian missile strike kills 41 people and wounds 180 in Ukrainian city of Poltava, Zelenskyy says

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Two Russian ballistic missiles struck a military training facility and nearby hospital in a central-eastern region of Ukraine, killing at least 41 people and wounding 180 others, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday. The strike occurred in the city of Poltava, the capital of the region of the same name, officials said. Poltava is located about 350 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Kyiv. The city is on the main highway and rail route between Kyiv and Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which is close to the Russian border.

The strike appeared to be one of the deadliest carried out by Russian forces since the war began more than 900 days ago on Feb. 24, 2022. "One of the

buildings of the (Poltava Military) Institute of Communications was partially destroyed. People found themselves under the rubble. Many were saved," Zelenskyy said in a video posted on his Telegram channel.

"All necessary services are involved in the rescue operation," he added. He said he had ordered "a full and prompt investigation" into what happened. Zelenskyy didn't provide any further details. The missiles hit shortly after the air raid alert sounded, when many people were on their way to a bomb shelter, Ukraine's Defense Ministry said, describing the strike as "barbaric." Rescue crews and medics saved 25 people, 11 of them dug out from the rubble, a Defense Ministry statement said.

Syria blast kills senior commander in Kurdish security forces

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: A war monitor said a senior commander from the security forces in northeast Syria's semi-autonomous Kurdish-led administration was killed on Tuesday in a blast near a prison in Hasakah province.

"A commander in the Kurdish security forces was killed and another person was wounded" in an explosion near the prison in Umm Farsan on the outskirts of the city of Qamishli "at the same time as a Turkish drone was flying in the area", the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Rebels use drones to drop explosives on Indian forces

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Insurgents in India's Manipur state have carried out a deadly attack on security forces, using drones to drop explosives in what police called a "significant escalation" of violence in the restive north-eastern region.

A 31-year-old woman was killed and six people were wounded on Sunday in what police said was an "unprecedented attack" by rebels who used drones to drop the heads of rocket-propelled grenades.

Fighting broke out in Manipur in May 2023 between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and mainly Christian Kuki community, an ethnic conflict that has since killed at least 200 people. Rival militias have set up blockades in parts of the state, which borders war-torn Myanmar.

Longstanding tensions between the two groups revolve around competition for land and public jobs.

China school bus crashes into crowd, kills 11 including students

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: A school bus ploughed into a crowd of people outside a middle school in eastern China on Tuesday, killing 11 people and students, state media reported. State broadcaster CCTV said that the driver had "lost control" of the vehicle as it approached the school in Shandong province's Tai'an city at 7:27am. The bus ran into a group of parents and children on the side of the road, according to CCTV.

"As of now, (the incident) has caused the deaths of 11 people, of whom six were parents and five were students," the broadcaster

reported. It said that one other person was in a "critical" condition, while the vital signs of another 12 people were "stable". Photos and videos circulating on social media showed people in blood-soaked clothes lying in the road near a hulking grey bus. Several adults knelt over children and sprawled unmoving on the ground, while other people were heard screaming in the background.

"They're all dead, it's so heartbreaking," a woman's voice was heard saying off-camera in one clip of the aftermath of the crash.



NEW YORK: Pro-Palestinian demonstrators call for a ceasefire and the end of Israeli attacks on Gaza.

Bangladesh floods leave 71 dead, fears of water-borne disease rise

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: The death toll from floods in Bangladesh rose to 71 on Tuesday with millions of people still stranded in devastated areas and increasing concern about outbreaks of water-borne disease as the inundation recedes.

The floods, triggered by relentless monsoon rains and runoff from upstream waterways, have wreaked havoc over the past two weeks, causing widespread destruction and affecting

around five million people. More than 580,000 families are still marooned in 11 flood-hit districts and in urgent need of food, clean water, medicine, and dry clothing. Nearly 500 medical teams were helping provide treatment, with the army, air force, navy, and the border guard assisting in relief efforts.

Authorities are now focusing on preventing the spread of waterborne diseases, a common aftermath of such disasters.

Venezuelan judge issues arrest warrant for opposition's former presidential candidate

Monitoring Desk
CARACAS: A Venezuelan judge on Monday issued an arrest warrant for the opposition's former presidential candidate Edmundo González as part of a criminal investigation into the results of the highly anticipated July election that both the ruling party and its opponents claim to have won. The warrant was issued at the request of authorities who accuse González, a former diplomat, of various crimes including conspiracy, falsifying documents and usurpation of powers. The move is the latest escalation of repression against the opposition in the month after election officials declared

President Nicolás Maduro had won a third six-year term in office.

Authorities sought the warrant after González failed to appear three times to answer questions from prosecutors. González, 75, has not made any public appearances since the day after the election. His campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press. Prosecutors have zeroed in on thousands of tally sheets known as actas — printouts measuring several feet that resemble shopping receipts — that have long been considered the ultimate proof of election results in Venezuela.

Putin gets lavish welcome in Mongolia despite ICC warrant

Monitoring Desk
ULAANBAATAR: Russian President Vladimir Putin received a red carpet welcome on Tuesday on a state visit to Mongolia, whose failure to arrest him under a warrant from the International Criminal Court was criticised by Ukraine as a blow against justice. As he stepped out of his limousine in the capital Ulaanbaatar, Putin was greeted by the Mongolian counterpart Ukhnaagin Khurelsukh in front of a row of ceremonial guardsmen on horseback wearing helmets with pointed tops.

The Kremlin leader stooped to kiss a young girl who stepped forward to welcome him in Russian

and present him with flowers. An International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued last year against Putin obliges the court's 124 member states, including Mongolia, to arrest the Russian president and transfer him to The Hague for trial if he sets foot on their territory.

Mongolia's failure to act on it was "a heavy blow to the International Criminal Court and the system of criminal law", Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Heorhiy Tykhyi said.

"Mongolia has allowed an accused criminal to evade justice, thereby sharing responsibility for the war crimes."

UN expert warns Israel's 'genocidal violence' may spread beyond Gaza

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: An independent UN expert warned on Monday that Israel's "genocidal violence" in Gaza risked spreading to other parts of the occupied Palestinian territory amid a large-scale military operation in the West Bank.

Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur on the rights situation in the Palestinian territories, warned in a statement that Israel's recent intensification of its operations in the occupied West Bank, which is separated from Gaza by Israeli territory, marked "a dangerous escalation". "Israel's genocidal violence risks leaking out of Gaza and into the occupied Palestinian territory as a whole," she said. "The writing is on the wall, and we cannot continue to ignore it. There is mounting evidence that no

Palestinian is safe under Israel's unfettered control." Albanese, who is an independent expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council but who does not speak on behalf of the United Nations, has repeatedly accused Israel of committing genocide in its conflict in Gaza.

Violence has surged in the West Bank after the Hamas October 7 raid in Israel. Monday's statement came after days of surging violence, with the Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry saying that at least 26 Palestinians had been killed since Wednesday when Israel launched simultaneous raids across the northern West Bank.

Middle Eastern and Western governments, as well as UN officials, have called on Israel to end the large-scale operations in the Palestinian territory.

IAEA chief meets Ukrainian energy chiefs on way to nuclear plant

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: UN nuclear agency chief Rafael Grossi met Ukrainian energy officials on Tuesday before a planned visit to the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, part of efforts to prevent a wartime nuclear catastrophe.

Grossi, the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), arrived in Ukraine a week after visiting the Kursk nuclear power station in Russia and warning of the danger of a nuclear accident there.

On his latest visit to Ukraine since Russia's invasion in February 2022, Grossi met Energy Minister German Galushchenko, as well as Petro Kotin, head of state nuclear power company Energoatom, and Oleh Korikov, acting head of Ukraine's State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate.

The IAEA was "fully committed to safety & security of (Ukrainian) nuclear sites, with (a) presence at each," Grossi wrote on X alongside photos showing him and Ukrainian officials holding talks. He said they were "exchanging (views) on

our support to Ukraine's NPPs (nuclear power plants) ahead of my ZNPP visit."

Grossi said on X on Monday that he was on his way to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP) "to continue our assistance & help prevent a nuclear accident."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he would meet Grossi after the IAEA chief visits the country's nuclear plants.

Classes in the metro have become a necessity, as the two-and-a-half-year war shows no sign of relenting. The ZNPP in southeastern Ukraine, Europe's largest nuclear power plant, fell to Russian troops soon after Moscow's full-scale invasion and is not operating now. Both sides have frequently accused each other of shelling the plant. Moscow and Kyiv both deny the accusations.

Zelenskyy and Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof on Monday visited the city of Zaporizhzhia, which lies across the Dnipro River to the northeast of the plant.

New Zealand spy report calls out China for interference

Monitoring Desk
WELLINGTON: New Zealand's spy service branded China a "complex intelligence concern" Tuesday and warned the Pacific nation was vulnerable to foreign interference.

In an annual threat report, the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service said several countries were undertaking "malicious activity" on its shores but called out China's attempts as "complex and deceptive".

In particular, Beijing was accused of using front organisations to connect with local groups to replace authentic and diverse community views with those approved by the ruling party.

In one example, a Chinese-language community news outlet parroting Beijing's talking points, it said. "These front organisations will often appear to be community-based... but their true affiliation, direction and funding sources are hidden," the report said.

The unusually blunt language comes as New Zealand's recently elected centre-right government tilts the country's foreign

policy more closely toward traditional Western allies.

This comes after years of growing economic ties with China—New Zealand's biggest trade partner.

In March, Wellington publicly said a Chinese state-sponsored group was behind a 2021 malicious cyber attack that infiltrated sensitive government computer systems.

China dismissed allegations of hacking and accused New Zealand critics of being puppets of Washington.

Asked Tuesday about the spy report, Beijing said it would "never interfere in the internal affairs of any other country".

"We hope the New Zealand side will maintain a rational and objective understanding of China, and create favourable conditions for the development of healthy, stable relations between the two countries," said foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning.

New Zealand's spy agency said the country's geographical position and role in the Pacific region made it "vulnerable" to other countries striving for greater influence.

Wall Street slips at the start of a week full of economic updates

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: U.S. stocks are sinking Tuesday ahead of a week full of updates on the economy's strength.

The S&P 500 was 0.7% lower in early trading, coming off a winning week that had carried it to the cusp of its all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 167 points, or 0.4%, from its own record set on Friday before Monday's Labor Day holiday. The Nasdaq composite was 1.1% lower, as of 9:35 a.m. Eastern time.

Treasury yields were also sinking in the bond market ahead of a report coming later in the morning on U.S. manufacturing. It's been one of the economy's areas hit hardest by high interest rates and has been contracting for most of the last two

years. Worries about a slowing U.S. economy helped send stocks on a scary summertime swoon early last month, but financial markets rebounded on hopes that the Federal Reserve could pull off a perfect landing for the economy. After jacking its main interest rate to a two-decade high in hopes of slowing the economy enough to stifle high inflation, the Fed looks set to ease interest rates later this month in hopes of avoiding a recession.

Other reports later this week that could show how much help the economy needs include updates on the number of job openings U.S. employers were advertising at the end of July and how strong U.S. services businesses grew last month.



People move a cart with a woman and child through a flooded street, in the Fazilpur area of Feni, Bangladesh.

CDWP okays eight development projects worth Rs144.3 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PDSI) & Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that approved eight development projects worth of Rs144.3 billion.

“Out of these, five projects worth Rs15.35 billion have been approved by the CDWP forum, while it recommended three projects of Rs129 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for its consideration,” a news release said. The meeting was attended among others by Secretary Planning Awas Manzoor Sumra, Additional Secretary Planning, Members of the Planning Commission, JCE (Ops), JCE (Ep), as well as respective federal secretaries, heads of provincial departments and representatives from federal ministries and provincial governments.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the prime minister for entrusting him with the position of Deputy Chairman for the fourth time.

He highlighted the significance of the forum in

relation to developmental projects, emphasizing that approval for development projects by CDWP exceeding one billion rupees was granted. He pointed out that in 2018, the PML-N government left Pakistan’s development budget at 1,000 billion rupees.

However, six years later, the challenge remained to even maintain this figure due to the country’s economic crises and the 2018-2022 era’s mismanagement.

He stressed that the shrinking development budget demanded a focus on sustainable growth, currency stabilization, and economic stability through resource mobilization.

The deputy chairman also noted that a more than 50 percent of the total expenditure was consumed by debt servicing.

He emphasized the need to expand the tax net and promote exports.

Despite these challenges, he expressed optimism, acknowledging the government’s efforts to reduce the inflation rate from 35 percent to 9.5 percent.

Ahsan Iqbal further stated that as 100 percent of federal government’s net resources were consumed by debt servicing and development budget was based on borrowing essen-

cial to ensure value for money through due diligence.

He called on all provinces and ministries to exercise the utmost caution and responsibility when planning new projects.

He urged that no compromise should be made on quality while preparing PC-I documents, and that national priorities should be considered while formulating any project. “Poorly prepared project documents should be promptly returned to the respective ministries.”

Ahsan Iqbal said the government was committed to turning around the economy by implementing 5Es National Economic Transformation Plan and restore 6 percent annual growth by 2029.

The CDWP approved a project “Reaching Out of School Children (OOSC) in AJK” worth Rs 7183.515 million, besides recommending the Establishment of Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment & Research, Lahore at the cost of Rs52772.520 million to ECNEC for consideration.

They forum also okayed four projects titled “Establishment of National Center of Artificial Intelligence (Revisited)” worth Rs1854.446 million.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of MQM (P) call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Effective legislation to be made for contract policy: Govt. decides to recruit teachers on vacant posts for making closed schools functional

Chief Minister directs to make final announcement of “SBK” tests according to the orders of court

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has decided to make recruitments of teachers on the vacant posts in order to make the closed schools functional.

All the recruitments would be made on contact while extension would be made on the basis of individuals’ performance. The effective legislation would be made for the contract policy.

The decision to this

effect was made during a meeting chaired by the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti here on Tuesday.

The Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan and other concerned high ups were in attendance.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister directed to make final announcement of the tests conducted by the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women Uni-

versity according to the orders of court.

He reiterated his government’s pledge that no job would be sold out at all and added that all recruitments would be made on merit.

He said that the sale of jobs is an intolerable act and as such, he directed to the concerned authorities to prepare effective mechanism for its prevention. He said that no irregularity would be tolerated at all.

Gilani emphasizes comprehensive efforts to ensure human dev., address climate crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday emphasized the need for concerted and comprehensive endeavors to effectively prioritize focus on human development, invest in human capital, and address the challenges of climate change.

In this regard, he called for forging robust partnerships between government institutions, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to ensure a cohesive and effective humanitarian response. The Chairman Senate was addressing the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) annual report launch event to acknowledge INGOs’ contributions to Pakistan. He acknowledged PHF and its member

organizations for consistently providing much-needed relief and assistance to the deserving and the affected during challenging circumstances over the years. He said that the true strength of a nation lies in its ability to empower marginalized and vulnerable communities. “Coming from South Punjab, I can personally relate to the struggles and aspirations of communities seeking opportunities and support to not only uplift their lot but also fuel national progress”, the Chairman Senate remarked in his address.

He observed that inclusive development is not just a moral imperative but it is essential for the progress and prosperity of the country.



QUETTA: Chairman Balochistan Public Service Commission Abdul Salik Khan meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

Pakistan Navy to observe two newly built warships induction in national fleet on Defence Day

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Pakistan Navy is going to observe induction of two newly built warships in the national fleet amid a massive increase in naval defense capabilities; on the occasion of Defence Day.

Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Babar and PNS Hunain will join the fleet of Pakistan Navy simultaneously, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

PNS Babar, the first Miljum/Babar class ship being built in Turkey, will officially become part of the Pakistan Navy.

PNS Hunain, the third offshore patrol vessel built in Romania, will also join the Pakistan Navy fleet.

The construction of PNS Babar started on 4th June 2020. PNS Babar was launched on 15th August 2021 while commissioning took place on 23rd September 2023.

Four Babur class ships equipped with vertical launching system are being inducted into Pakistan Navy.

Under the Pak-Turkiye agreement, two ships are being built in Istanbul and two in Karachi.

Ministers, ACS, IGP participate in funeral: Police Sub-Inspector gunned down by unknown armed assailants in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: A Sub-Inspector of Police, Amanullah was shot dead by unknown armed men in Killi Deba area of Quetta on Tuesday morning.

The police sources informed that the Sub-Inspector of Police was on his way riding in his personal vehicle when some unknown armed assailants approached him and shot him from the close range. They fled from the scene leaving the police cop in pool of blood.

As a result of firing, the police cop got injured seriously. He was brought to the Sandeman Provincial Hospital, however, he succumbed to his serious wounds and died.

In the meantime, the police reached the spot and cordoned off the area. However, no arrest could be made.

The investigations have been started into the cold blooded murder of the Police Sub-Inspector, who was posted in the Shaheed Ameer Dasti police station.

Meanwhile, the funeral prayer of Amanullah was offered at the Central Police Office the same afternoon. The Provincial Ministers Mir Ali Madad Jatak and Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahabuddin, Inspector General of Police, Moazzam Jah Ansari and other police officers participated in the funeral prayer.



RAWALPINDI: Chief Guest Chaudhary Nadeem Ijaz, CEO Blue World City awards winning trophy to Bangladesh cricket team captain Najmul Hossain Shanto after won the Test series against Pakistan at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Initiatives for women’s legal aid to be supported in Balochistan, says Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has said that provincial government is committed to creating a strong support system for women across Balochistan, and legal aid is a crucial part of this effort.

These remarks were given during a meeting with a delegation of female lawyers. During the meeting, the delegation expressed their enthusiasm about the presence of a female minister leading the Women Development Department and emphasized the need for enhanced collaboration to uplift the status of women across Balochistan.

The women lawyers proposed the creation of a new organization focused on the welfare of women, which would provide free legal aid and services to women facing legal challenges.

The initiative aims to support women who lack access to legal representation due to financial constraints, ensuring that their rights are protected and their voices heard.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi welcomed the proposal and appreciated the proactive approach of the female lawyers in addressing issues faced by women in the province. She emphasized the importance of empowering women through legal support and reiterated her department’s commitment to advancing women’s rights and welfare.

“The Women Development Department is ready to work closely with the legal community to ensure that women have access to justice and their rights are upheld,” said Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding appointment of teachers and reforms in Education Department

Aurangzeb vows to continue with tax reforms, rightsizing for macroeconomic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday reaffirmed the government’s resolve to carry forward the reforms agenda, aiming at broadening of the tax base and rightsizing of the federal government to achieve macroeconomic stability what he called ‘basic hygiene’ for sustainable growth.

In a televised message, the minister said 43 percent of sectors in the economy were paying less than 1 percent tax, curtailing the tax to GDP ratio to as low as 8.8 percent adding that this ratio needed to be lifted up to over 13 percent.

The minister requested all the potential taxpayers to come forward and contribute in country’s

economy. He particularly requested wholesalers, retailers and distributors to contribute in the economic uplift of the country, adding the government would try its best to bring simplicity in tax system and accommodate their recommendations.

However, the minister stated in clear terms that government was not going to take back its decision as it would be counterproductive and create difficulties for other sectors. “One thing I want to be very clear, this is not going to be taken back, because if we do this, the other sectors, who are annoyed, would go in further difficulties.”

The minister, who is also Chairman of High Powered Committee on Rightsizing of the Federal

Government, also expressed resolve to right-size different ministries and autonomous bodies to bring down the size of federal government. He said six ministries have been given two weeks to prepare implementation plan for rightsizing, keeping in view their employees, resources, properties and litigation matters. “Once the programme is executed, other ministries would be taken for the same process.”

He said, ministries and autonomous bodies were given opportunity to share their performance and justify what they have contributed in national economy. He said, the government would need to bring legislative changes in Civil Servant Act 1973 with the help of coalition partners.

MQM delegation meets PM; lauds pro-business, export growth policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Pakistan on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and appreciated his economic policies which led to the reduction in the inflation rate to a single-digit.

The MQM delegation, which was headed by party chairman and Minister for Science and Technology, Federal Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and comprised MNAs Dr Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal and Syed Aminul Haq, also lauded the prime minister’s business-friendly policies and measures to boost country’s exports, according to a PM Office

press release.

The delegation members put forward their proposals for economic development and uplift of the people of the country’s economic hubs, particularly those of Karachi.

Calling the MQM a key coalition partner, the prime minister said that the work on national development initiatives was at a swift pace in coordination with the coalition parties.

He assured the delegation that the resolution of the issues confronting Karachi city was among the government’s priorities for it being the most important one and a backbone of the national economy.



ISLAMABAD: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has approved 8 development projects worth of Rs. 144.3 billion during its meeting chaired by Minister PDSI & Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Ahsan Iqbal.

5 dead in Balochistan and 4 in KP in rain related incidents

QUETTA (INP): Five children died across Balochistan while four people lost their lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the past day as monsoon rains continued to wreak havoc countrywide, officials said on Tuesday.

Deaths mount countrywide as various areas continue to receive monsoon showers along with the remnants of cyclonic storm Asna that brought with it heavy rains for Sindh and Balochistan. Since July 1, a total of 39 people have died in Balochistan in rain-related incidents. Younus Mengal, head of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority’s control room, (PDMA) told.

The deceased include 19 children, five of whom died in three separate incidents on Monday, Mengal said. The PDMA official said a new spell of rain entered Balochistan a day ago and was expected to continue till tonight in 22 districts. Relief and rescue efforts were under way in the province, he added.

Detailing the deadly incidents, Mengal said a pair of brothers drowned in flashfloods in Zhob District, and their bodies were recovered by the district administration and the PDMA. In Khuzdar District’s Tootak area, three children were “immediately rescued” by Levies officials after they fell into a dam but were taken to a hospital, where two of them passed away, the official said. A fifth minor, Mengal added, drowned in a flash flood passing by the Kech River in Kech District.

The PDMA official confirmed that 11 Balochistan districts have been declared calamity-hit as of yet, where the authority’s aid efforts were under way. Mengal further said that in view of alerts by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), holidays of PDMA and other government employees.

Drowned body recovered from Surap river in Turbat

QUETTA (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) team recovered the body of the person who drowned in the Surap river area of Turbat and handed it over to the relatives. The deceased person drowned while bathing in Surap Dam on Monday. According to PDMA, a person named Khalil Ahmed son of Rafiq Ahmed resident of Apsar drowned in Surap Dam while bathing. On which immediate action was taken by the PDMA team under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Ketch Ismail Ibrahim on special directives of DG PDMA Balochistan Jhanzaib Khan and Commissioner Makran Division along with DD PDMA Turbat.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police, Balochistan is Moazzam Jah Ansari, and other offering funeral prayer of Sub-inspector who lost their lives in last night firing incident.

Judicial reforms Govt’s top priority: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that judicial reforms are the top priority of the present government.

Speaking in the National Assembly on Tuesday, he said the government is actively working on it over the last five months.

Eight bills were laid before the house on Tuesday. These included:

The Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024, (Article 184); The Criminal Laws Amendment Bill, 2024, the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024 (Amendment in Article 51, 59 and 106); The Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024 (Article 177, 193 and 208); The Contempt of Court (Repeal) bill, 2024; The Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024 (Article 198); The Civil Servants Amendment Bill, 2024 and the Allocation of Special Seats for Deserving Persons in Universities Bill, 2024.

The chair referred the bills to the standing committees concerned.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly today passed a resolution recommending the government to take immediate steps for the provision of state of the art medical facilities in federal capital hospitals and high quality healthcare for all patients.

It was moved by Ms Aliya Kamran.

Responding to a calling attention notice, Minister for Water Resources Musadik Malik said under Green Pakistan Initiative, a plan has been devised to bring barren land in the country under cultivation and enhance per acre crop production. He pointed out that Punjab and Sindh provinces have so far identified land for this scheme.

The house has now been adjourned to meet again tomorrow Wednesday at eleven am.

Armed men attack marble-laden trucks in Noshki

Independent Report
NOSHKI - Unidentified armed men opened fire on trucks carrying marble in the Sarml area of Noshki, setting one of the vehicles ablaze. According to sources from the Nushki district administration, the attackers also fired at the tires of another truck, causing them to burst. The armed men managed to escape after the incident, and no casualties have been reported, sources from the district administration confirmed. This incident has raised concerns about the security of vehicles transporting goods in the region. An investigation into the matter is underway.

Fateha khawani for Zareef to be held at Governor House

Independent Report
QUETTA: The fateha khawani for departed soul of relative of Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhai and former Senator Zareef Khan Mandokhai is scheduled to be held at Governor House tomorrow (Thursday).

According to an official hand out issued here on Tuesday, the Governor Balochistan and other relatives of Sheikh Zareef Mandokhai would take fateha from 10:00 AM to Asr prayer.



QUETTA: Leaders and members of Pakistan Peace Forces are holding protest demonstration to express solidarity with Pakistan Army armed forces and to condemn Terrorism in Balochistan, held at Quetta press club.