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Member APNS &amp; CPNE

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Climate change big challenge; need sustainable planning:

## CM directs PDMA to prepare effective and viable strategy for minimizing nature of destructions of floods

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that climate change is a major challenge and as such there is a need to have sustainable development to cope with it.

The Chief Minister directed to the Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to prepare effective and viable strategy to minimize the nature of destructions of the floods.

He also directed to release funds on an emergent basis for filling breaches in the Pat Feeder canal and drainage of water from there.

The Chief Minister was chairing review meeting about the damages

caused due to the recent monsoon rains in Naseerabad Division, here on Tuesday.

The provincial ministers and members of provincial assembly belonging to different constituencies of Naseerabad Division highlighted the situation of the flood rain affected areas of the Division.

The Provincial Ministers and the members of assembly also presented different suggestions for rehabilitation of the flood affected areas and people.

Present in the meeting were included: Provincial Ministers Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Mir Saleem Khosa, Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali, Nawabzada Tariq Magsi, Mir Asim Kurd,

Parliamentary Secretaries, Mir Muhammad Khan Lehri, Abdul Majeed Badini, Secretary Irrigation, Hafiz Abdul Majid, Director General PDMA and other concerned high ups.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that the flood situation is to face due to extraordinary rains every year and that because of climate changes in majority areas of the province.

The Chief Minister also issued directives to complete the rehabilitation projects of breaches and water drainage in the Pat Feeder within two weeks.

He also directed to prepare complete feasibility study of the Naseerabad Division to cope with the flood situation in future.



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

## PM, MNAs discuss country's political situation

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

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

Meanwhile Member of the National Assembly

Rashid Akbar Nawani and Member of the Punjab Assembly Saeed Akbar Nawani called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to discuss issues pertaining to their constituencies.

During the meeting, overall political situation of the country also came under the discussion. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah was also present, a Prime Minister's Office press release said.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto came to Pakistan along with her children.

PPP and PML-N signed an agreement for supremacy of democracy, we all have taken oath of defending the constitution of Pakistan. If there is any price of oath then speak openly on constitutional and non constitutional steps. We all stand with democracy.

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

## Interior Minister meets ANP President

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

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

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



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting about the damages caused due to the recent monsoon rains in Naseerabad Division

## Police enters into Parliament house, arrest several MNAs of PTI

National Assembly speaker vows action over PTI leaders' arrests; Summons Islamabad police chief, DIG, SSP with details of cases against assembly members; PTI vows nationwide protests after leaders arrested in late-night crackdown; ATC grants 8-day physical remand for PTI leaders in Islamabad rally case

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

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

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

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

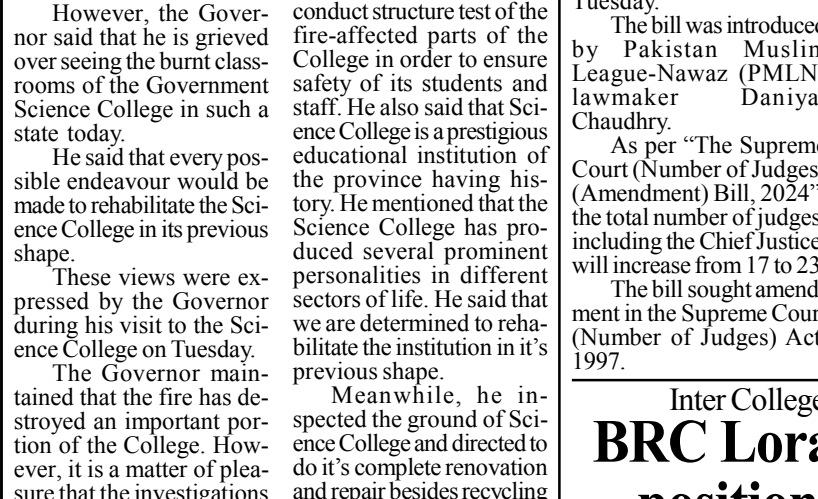
Speaking during Tuesday's session of the National Assembly, Sadiq said that 'no one will remain silent about the incident and that decisive action will be taken.'

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

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

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

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QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail visiting fire-hit Government Science College

## Governor grieved over post-fire state of Science College, assures it's rehabilitation to best

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that all educational institutions of the province are our national assets.

However, the Governor said that he is grieved over seeing the burnt classrooms of the Government Science College in such a state today.

He said that every possible endeavour would be made to rehabilitate the Science College in its previous shape.

These views were expressed by the Governor during his visit to the Science College on Tuesday.

The Governor maintained that the fire has destroyed an important portion of the College. However, it is a matter of pleasure that the investigations are continued by the committee formed to determine

the real cause of fire erupted in the Science College.

He directed to the concerned committee to present the report at the earliest.

He stressed the need to conduct structure test of the fire-affected parts of the College in order to ensure safety of its students and staff. He also said that Science College is a prestigious educational institution of the province having history. He mentioned that the Science College has produced several prominent personalities in different sectors of life. He said that we are determined to rehabilitate the institution in its previous shape.

Meanwhile, he inspected the ground of Science College and directed to do it's complete renovation and repair besides recycling of water for trees and saplings in the college.

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## Imran Khan 'closes doors to negotiations' with all stakeholders

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has announced that negotiations with any party, including the Establishment, will be closed. Speaking to journalists at Adiala Jail on Tuesday, the PTI founder said he had authorised six party leaders to talk to the Establishment.

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

When asked about KP Chief Minister Ali Amin

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

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

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

## Bill to increase number of SC judges tabled in NA

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

The bill was introduced by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) lawmaker Danial Chaudhry.

As per "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024", the total number of judges, including the Chief Justice, will increase from 17 to 23.

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

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## Inter College Basima's student obtains 3rd position: BRC Loralai's students clinch top position as Balochistan Board announces Inter Exam result

BRC Loralai students Shamraiz & Sharifullah share first position securing 1051 marks; BRC Loralai & BRC Zhob students Sajjad Hussain & Muhammad Zahid share 2nd position with 1050 marks



QUETTA: Chairman Balochistan Board Ejaz Azeem Baloch, Controller Examination Abida Kakar and Deputy Controller Result Qazi Anwar Hussain announcing Intermediate 2024 annual examinations result

Independent Report

QUETTA: Two students of Balochistan Residential College (BRC) Loralai clinched top position in the Intermediate's annual examinations 2024 of the Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary

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

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

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

Pakistani Army responded strongly to the unprovoked firing from Afghanistan and killed 16 Taliban fighters, while 27 were injured, according to security sources.

Two Taliban tanks were destroyed during the clash.

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

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

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



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

## Service delivery to be improved by making all departments efficient in Balochistan, vows CM

Mir Sarfraz Bugti takes notice of closure of schools in Pishin; orders to reopen non-functional schools by Dec. 14; assures to develop Pishin as model town

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has categorically stated that service delivery would be improved by making all government departments efficient in the province.

He said that the issues of people can be resolved through good governance.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the tribal elders and elites during his visit to Pishin on Tuesday. Also accompanied him were the Provincial Minister for Revenue, Mir Asim Kurd and other high ups.

Speaking to them, Mir Sarfraz Bugti assured that Pishin would be developed

as model town by resolving issues and hardships of the people.

He mentioned that a good and most competent civil officer has been deputed as Deputy Commissioner Pishin.

He on the occasion took notice of the closure of schools in Pishin district and ordered to reopen all of them by December 14.

The Chief Minister also directed to meet shortage of the teachers by recruiting them on contract.

Earlier, he expressed condolence over the death of uncle of Member Provincial Assembly, Asghar Khan Tareen and offered fateha for the departed soul.

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## PTI introduced tradition of vendetta in politics: Tarar

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

Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister strongly condemned the PTI leaders, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, for their abusive

outburst against national institutions, woman political opponents and journalists at the Sangiani meeting.

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

The minister said that Gandapur vented out his anger against institutions, Maryam Nawaz and the journalist community and used abusive language.

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## Inter College Basima's student obtains 3rd position: BRC Loralai's students clinch top position as Balochistan Board announces Inter Exam result

BRC Loralai students Shamraiz & Sharifullah share first position securing 1051 marks; BRC Loralai & BRC Zhob students Sajjad Hussain & Muhammad Zahid share 2nd position with 1050 marks



QUETTA: Chairman Balochistan Board Ejaz Azeem Baloch, Controller Examination Abida Kakar and Deputy Controller Result Qazi Anwar Hussain announcing Intermediate 2024 annual examinations result

Education (BISE) Quetta.

The BRC students namely Shamraiz Khan bearing Roll No. 250062 and Sharifullah bearing Roll No. 250106 secured 1051 marks to stand first in the Intermediate (F.Sc) examinations.

Similarly, another BRC Loralai student Sajjad Hussain bearing Roll No. 250059 shared second position with the BRC Zhob's student namely Muhammad Zahid bearing

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## Rana Tanveer urges Opposition sit together for sake of strengthening parliament, democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain extended an offer to the opposition on Tuesday, urging them to unite to strengthen parliament, democracy, and the country's overall progress.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said that this is the right time to work together for the common people's prosperity, development, and upliftment.

Recalling events from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, he said that during the PTI sit-in, institutions like PTV and parliament were attacked. He also said the civil disobedience campaign initiated by PTI leaders, during which people were asked not to pay their bills.

The minister also recounted the incident where the doors of Maryam Nawaz's hotel room were broken in Karachi. He said that opposition leaders were arrested on fabricated charges during the PTI government. He said that PTI

founder avoided meeting opposition members in the National Assembly.

He also recalled that during that time, parliamentarians urged the PTI leadership to refrain from victimizing opponents. He expressed regret that no PTI member condemned the inappropriate language used by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at a public rally.

He added that the National Assembly was unconstitutionally dissolved by the PTI, and the people of Punjab were also deprived of their representation due to the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly.

Commenting on a recent PTI public rally, the minister said that the leadership did not follow the instructions and code of conduct set by the local administration. He strongly condemned the remarks and language used by Ali Amin Gandapur at the rally, where media personnel, including women, were targeted.

The minister also said

that during the PTI government, Shehbaz Sharif, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Asif Ali Zardari had extended their support, while the other side promoted the politics of hate and confrontation. He recalled that when a PTI founder was injured during an election campaign, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited the hospital, and he also visited Banigala as a gesture of goodwill.

Meanwhile, MQM-Pakistan leader Syed Mustafa Kamal asserted that parliament is the supreme institution and should not be disrespected. He termed Ali Amin Gandapur's speech as undemocratic and divisive and also condemned the derogatory language used by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa against women, political leaders, and journalists.

He said that no single party can bring the country out of its current crisis and urged political parties to unite on a common agenda.



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

## Romina launches Recharge Pakistan—excess floodwater management initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said that Pakistan regularly experiences seasonal flooding, especially during the monsoon season, which poses significant risks to human life, property, agriculture, and infrastructure.

She said that no single party can bring the country out of its current crisis and urged political parties to unite on a common agenda.

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

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

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

## Senate HR panel irked by absence of IG Sindh

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

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

The Chairperson, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, expressed concerns over the absence of the IG Sindh in the meeting, emphasizing that his presence was essential for addressing critical issues related to the growing number of cases of domestic violence, rapes, murders and other crimes against innocent citizens of the province. She reiterated that the Committee's priority is to work collectively towards creating a safer society and despite repeated reminders, the IG had still not managed to attend the meeting that tantamount to a serious violation of the Rules.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## IG police deploys special squads for better traffic in Islamabad

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

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

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

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

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



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

## HEC commits to enhancing women leadership in higher education sector

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Senator Falak suspended for two days for using abusive language

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

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

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

## PCP takes suo moto notice against KPCM remarks

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

## Toshakhana vehicles reference: Yousuf Raza Gillani challenges powers of jurisdiction of AC, NAB

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Yousuf Raza Gillani has challenged powers of jurisdiction of court and NAB in Toshakhana vehicles reference.

Toshakhana vehicles reference against president Asif Ali Zardari, former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Yousuf Raza Gillani came up for hearing in Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad.

Yousuf Raza Gillani challenged the jurisdiction powers of court and NAB. Counsel for Yousuf

Raza Gillani said in the court the powers of jurisdiction of NAB and AC stands abolished following the restoration of NAB amendment Bill.

Judge Abid Sajjad of AC issued notice to NAB on the petition of Yousuf Raza Gillani.

Notice said NAB should inform either Toshakhana case falls in its powers of jurisdiction or otherwise. The hearing of petition on powers of jurisdiction of AC and NAB was adjourned till September 26.

## Delegation of IQRA students visits Safe City Islamabad

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

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

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

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

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

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



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of IQRA University students visits the Safe City Islamabad, a modern police station and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

The delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the

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

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

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

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

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

## Parents urged to support polio workers in eradicating polio

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Describing climate change as an issue of global concern, the speakers stated that climate change posed a major threat to those living in conflict-affected areas, where communities suffer a slew of challenges exacerbated by political conflicts, violence, and increased militarization. "Kashmir is one of the areas most vulnerable to climate change," they stated.

They went on to say that while the protracted conflict poses a serious risk to people's lives, health, food, and way of life throughout the region.



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



# Maryam seeks five-year vision reports from parliamentary secretaries

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

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

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

ment alone; everyone has to work together."

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

# Sindh Energy Dept supports IEEEEP Fair: Nasir Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Tuesday said that provincial Energy department stands fully committed to support the IEEEEP Fair.

"We will work closely along with our support departments in the ministries of Investment, Planning and Development to ensure robust participation and engagement during the three days of the fair," said Nasir Shah while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the exhibition.

He added that his presence at the fair demonstrate the provincial government's commitment to facilitating business-to-government interactions and driving growth in the energy sector.

"During the fair, relevant departments of my ministry are available to engage with international and local visitors and exhibitors to apprise initiative aims to showcase our ongoing and upcoming projects across rural and urban Sindh, inviting investment and fostering joint ventures and partnerships that will contribute significantly to our economic development," the Minister added. The minister said that the IEEEEP's contributions will undoubtedly strengthen our efforts to meet the nation's energy challenges and enhance industrial efficiency.

"I commend the IEEEEP for their tireless efforts in organizing this significant event and extend my appreciation to Badar Expo Solutions for their dedicated support over the years," Shah said.

Chief Executive TDAP Zubair Motiwala said that the IEEEEP Fair has grown beyond its original scope of addressing the country's energy needs, and today it stands as a crucial platform for showcasing innovations and fostering economic growth.

"The IEEEEP Fair has evolved to encompass a broad spectrum of Electrical, Electronics and Allied Disciplines. It now serves as a vibrant platform for companies to explore partnerships, drive innovation and facilitate economic collaboration within the region.

"This evolution underscores the fair's pivotal role in shaping the future of our industries. We welcome engagements with various public sector organizations, which will help bridge the gap between industry and government," Motiwala said.

He added that the fair attracts procurement teams from various industries, including construction, hospitals, textiles, hospitality, and academic institutions.

"Their presence underscores the fair's importance as a focal point for industry-wide interaction and collaboration. We are proud to support the 'Make in Pakistan' initiative, which promotes local products and technologies. This effort is crucial for driving import substitution and boosting our domestic industry," said Motiwala.

Chief Executive Badar Expo Solutions Zohair Naseer said this fair is to support local exhibitors, who aspire to enter the export market.



PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister Fasil Khan Tarakai addressing a seminar on International Literacy Day at a local school (ups).

# Commissioner Karachi reviews measures to control prices of essential food items

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi on Tuesday chaired a meeting at his office to review measures for control of prices of essential food items.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners in person and Assistant Commissioners via video link.

They presented the details of violation of official prices of commodities and informed about the actions taken against profiteers.

Additional Commissioner-I Ghulam Mehdi Shah, Additional Commissioner-II Syed Ghazanfar Ali Shah, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Rabia Syed, Assistant Commissioner General Hazim Bangwar and others were present in the meeting. The Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner East to make the role of Market Committee for making auction system transparent. The Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner East to activate the market committee and ensure the posted Assistant Commissioner plays its role as a monitor so that prices are fixed appropriately and citizens can get fruits and vegetables at reasonable prices.

The meeting also reviewed the campaign against encroachments causing traffic congestion in the city.

The Deputy Commissioners informed about the actions taken against encroachments in their respective districts.

# Four killed, two injured in road mishap at Shangla

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

Police said passenger jeep, that was en route to Chakaisar from Kazang village, fell into ravine. The jeep crumbled and ripped into three pieces before reaching the bed of gorge.

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

Rescue teams recovered the bodies and shifted injured to nearby hospital for treatment.

# Mills workers receive financial aid of Rs 4.6m

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

Director Labour West Ghulam Shabir Kalyar gave the cheques to workers by visiting Crescent Textile Mills. Syed Asim Shah from the mill's side, Union Leader Malik Imdad Awan and others were present.



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

# Kundi chairs BoGs meeting expresses dissatisfaction over delay in minutes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Minister assures to resolve problems of LG employees on priority basis

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

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

The Minister said that the KP government was bringing reforms in the local and district institutions and making the departments digitised to strengthen the institutions and eliminate corruption.

He said that through mutual consultation, reforms and transparency would be brought in all the government institutions.

Earlier, the General Secretary Local Government Employees Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Salman Khan Hoti informed the Minister about problems of the employees. There was a detailed discussion on local government members' powers, funds and other local government affairs. At the end of the meeting, the delegation expressed thanks to the Local Government Minister for assuring his support to solve the long-standing problems.

# Minister holds PEF 88th BoD meeting

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

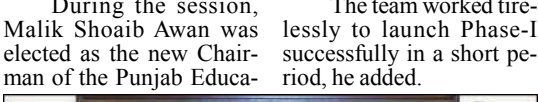
Member of Chief Minister's Task Force Muzamil Mehmood participated as a new board member while Secretary Schools Education Khalid Nazir Wattoo, Secretary Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education Syed Haider Iqbal, Education Expert Asma Waziri, Director STEM, University of Education Dr. Intizar Hussain Butt, Assistant Chief, Planning and Delected Department Dr. Saima Malik, Deputy Secretary Technical, Social Welfare Department Muhammad Iftikhar Hussain Bhatti, Additional Finance Secretary Meer Raza and Technocrat Dr. Basit Khan attended the meeting.

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

Managing Director PEF Shahid Farid updated the board members on the progress of Phase-I of the Public Schools Reorganisation Programme (PSRP). He informed that Phase-I of PSRP has been successfully launched and agreements with Young Entrepreneurs, Individual, Education Chains, Ed-Tech and NGOs will be finalised in the next two-day. Additionally, he provided a detailed briefing on the PSRP building code.

Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat congratulated Malik Shoaib Awan on being elected as the new chairman PEF and expressed his confidence that under his leadership, the PEF would further expand. He praised the entire PEF team for their efforts during the meeting and emphasised that all schools in PSRP Phase-I were allocated on merit.

The team worked tirelessly to launch Phase-I successfully in a short period, he added.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Japanese Ambassador, WADAMITSUHIRO during meeting held at CM House.

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

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

# KP to contact Center over financial issues in tribal districts

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

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

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

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

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

In this document, the KP government has written that after the merger, tribal districts have been nearly deprived of the development projects as these districts were obtaining an amount of Rs865 billion less than the Baluchistan and other provinces of the country. The tribal districts were facing a deficit of Rs 72 billion annually, the document added.

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

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

Ikhtair Wali Khan, the Information Secretary for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in KP criticized Gandapur's attack on the media, emphasizing that the press had played a crucial role in promoting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's popularity during the 2018 general elections when other political parties were completely sidelined, paving the way for PTI founder to get majority and become the prime minister of Pakistan.

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

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

The PML-N leader stressed that legal proceedings cannot be influenced through public rallies or agitation. Instead, he argued that PTI leadership should present concrete evidence in court in PTI founder's corruption cases.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, nearby Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly building in Peshawar.

# Minister for ensuring safe disposal of industrial waste

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo, taking notice of media reports about disposing of industrial waste in sewerage drains in an unsafe manner, on Tuesday directed the factory owners to ensure safe disposal of industrial waste.

The Sindh minister, in a statement on Tuesday, maintained that the unsafe disposal of industrial waste was not only adding up to the environmental pollution but those irresponsible practices were also causing diseases.

The minister for industries and commerce also directed MD Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (SITE) to require factory owners of disposing of industrial waste in a safe manner.

Dharejo while warning the factory owners who were disposing of industrial waste in an unsafe manner, stressed them to desist from the environmentally hazardous activities otherwise strict action would be taken against them as per the law.

# One killed, two injured in Pattoki road accident

PATTOKI (APP): A woman was killed and two others sustained injuries in a road accident that took place near Pattoki Bypass area of Kasur district, tv channels quoting Rescue sources reported on Tuesday.

According to details, a rashly driven car hit the two-wheeler on Pattoki Bypass area of Kasur district. As a result, a woman died on the spot. The two other persons of the same family were also injured in the same incident. The dead and injured were being shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital.

# PDMA DG discuss laws regarding public health, emergency response

LAHORE (APP): Director General (DG) Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Irfan Ali Khan held an important meeting to discuss existing laws regarding public health and emergency response here on Tuesday.

Provincial and federal health department representatives and doctors participated in the meeting.

The committee gave a briefing about the plan of action of the health department and medical assistance in disasters. A briefing was also given on measures to prevent epidemics in flood-affected areas.

DG PDMA Irfan Ali said that natural calamities can be dealt with by all the organisations only through joint and mutual cooperation. Steps are being taken to prevent dengue and other diseases in flood affected areas, he added.

The health department has a key role in any disaster, he said and added that the fight against the coronavirus, dengue, mpox and other epidemics is possible only through mutual cooperation.



KARACHI: Members of Pakistan Punjabi Organization are holding protest demonstration against target killing of Punjabis in Balochistan, held at Karachi press club.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



MASYAF: People inspect a damaged car at the site of overnight Israeli strikes in central Hama province.

## Typhoon Yagi claims 59 lives in Vietnam

**Monitoring Desk**  
HANOI: The death toll in Vietnam from Typhoon Yagi jumped to 59, state media reported on Monday, as business leaders said the storm had been a "disaster" for the country's vital manufacturing sector.

Yagi, according to meteorologists the most powerful typhoon to hit northern Vietnam in 30 years, downed bridges, tore roofs off buildings and damaged factories after making landfall on Saturday carrying winds in excess of 149 kilometres per hour.

Power blackouts caused major disruptions to factories in northern Vietnam, which is a major production hub for global tech firms such as Samsung and Foxconn.

The north was also battling serious flooding on Monday, with several communities partially underwater. The storm killed 59 people in Vietnam, state media reported, 44 of them in landslides and flash floods. The death toll had earlier been put at 21. Authorities said on Monday that 247 people had been injured.

"The (flooding) situation is very serious. We have ordered the discharge of water (from reservoirs)," Nguyen Hoang Hiep, deputy minister of agriculture and rural development, said in a statement.

"Localities must be active to support and ensure the safety of their people and assets." At least 24 others were killed as Yagi tore through southern China and the Philippines before hitting Vietnam.

Some 1.5 million people were still without electricity in Vietnam on Monday and a major bridge across the swollen and fast-moving Red River collapsed in northern Phu Tho province.

## India's Manipur orders internet blackout, curfew after ethnic clashes

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANIPUR: India's strife-torn northeastern state of Manipur ordered an internet blackout on Tuesday, after imposing a curfew following days of deadly ethnic violence and clashes between protesters and police.

Manipur has been rocked by periodic clashes for more than a year between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the mainly Christian Kuki community, dividing the state into ethnic enclaves.

At least 11 people were killed last week as hostilities between the two communities erupted again after months of relative calm.

A notice from the state's home ministry ordered all internet and mobile data services in the state to be shut off for five days in order to bring the latest unrest under control.

"Some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech, and hate video messages inciting the passions of the public," the notice said.

"It has become necessary to take adequate measures to maintain law and order in public interest, by stopping the spread of disinformation and false rumours."

Internet services were shut down for months in Manipur last year during the first outbreak of violence, which displaced around 60,000 people from their homes according to government figures.



Pope Francis is welcomed on the day of the Holy Mass at the Esplanade of Tacilulu during his apostolic trip to Asia, in Dili, East Timor.



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

## China announces joint naval, air drills with Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China's Defense Ministry on Monday announced joint naval and air drills with Russia starting this month, underscoring the closeness between their militaries as Russia presses its grinding invasion of Ukraine.

The ministry said the "Northern United-2024" exercises would take place in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk farther north, but gave no details.

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

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

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

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

The RSF killed one person and wounded 17 in artillery strikes on el-Obeid, another town it has struggled to assert full control of.

The progress of the RSF, which already controls most of Sennar and at least half of the country, has slowed in the southeast as heavy rains have made movement difficult.

Its war with Sudan's army has created the world's largest hunger and internal displacement crises, killing tens of thousands of civilians and destroying most of Sudan's infrastructure and economy.

Emergency Lawyers said the army had killed at least four people in al-Souki, a town near Sennar, during airstrikes.



Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaks during a strategic dialogue meeting with Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in London, Britain.

## Starmer launches anti-knife crime coalition

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer convened a coalition to stop young people from falling into knife crime on Monday, joined by actor and anti-knife crime campaigner Idris Elba. Starmer launched the coalition to fight the "national crisis", bringing together campaign groups as well as families and young people affected by knife crime, the most common method of homicide in England and Wales.

The annual knife crime meeting aims to increase understanding of the causes behind youth involvement in knife crime.

The government is also looking to strengthen laws around the online sale of knives and younger people's access to them. Addressing the summit at 10 Downing Street, Starmer said there was a need to "try to reach into the lives of young people who may be going off the tracks and trying to bring them back before they do so."

"Far too many knives are too easily available, whether that's online, whether that's through the post."

## East Timor turns out in force for Mass with Pope Francis

**Monitoring Desk**  
DILI: An estimated 600,000 people in East Timor, just under half its population, turned out in the baking heat on Tuesday for a Mass with Pope Francis at a coastal park synonymous with the country's long struggle for independence from Indonesia.

Filling a wide, dusty area where Indonesian forces buried slain Timorese independence fighters, people arrived as early as 1 a.m. and sat on the ground, many braving the sun for hours in temperatures as high as 32 degrees Celsius (90°F).

Many sheltered under umbrellas decorated in the white and yellow colours of the Vatican flag, while others carried signs asking for blessings and sang local melodies, in one of the largest ever turnouts as a proportion of a country's population for a Mass during a papal visit.

Rev. Pedro Amaral, one of hundreds of priests celebrating the Mass, said he came with 800 of his parishioners from Zumalai, a village about 140 km (85 miles) away. "I am so happy because we never thought we would see the pope," said the priest.

School teacher Jamie Belo, 60, said he left home 12 hours before Mass to secure a spot to see the pope.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Russia has now received shipments of these ballistic missiles and will likely use them within weeks in Ukraine, against Ukrainians," Blinken said. "The supply of Iranian missiles enables Russia to use more of its arsenal for targets that are further from the front line." It comes as Blinken and Lammy are preparing to make a joint visit Wednesday to Ukraine, where they will meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other senior officials to discuss bolstering the country's defenses.

The Kremlin is trying to repel Ukraine's surprise offensive that has claimed hundreds of miles of territory in Russia's Kursk region.

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

## Israeli defense chief says a temporary truce with Hamas is possible

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Prayers for birth in most populous nation India

**Monitoring Desk**  
VARANASI: Each year 25 million babies are born in India, the world's most populous nation, but for desperate childless couples wanting to be parents, prayers at a sacred Hindu well offer hope.

"We just hope that god blesses us," said 30-year-old Rita Vishwakarma, on pilgrimage with her husband Deepak to the ancient Lolark Kund well, in India's holy city of Varanasi.

Married for eight years, the couple has suffered the deep trauma of repeated stillbirths or their babies dying days after being born.

Varanasi is better known for where Hindus come to die, to have their bodies cremated on the banks of the sacred Ganges, believing that it will ensure liberation from the cycle of rebirth.

But it is also a site where people pray for new life.

Fertility rites at Lolark Kund well have taken place for centuries, and celebrations peak during this week's festival of Lolark Shasthi.

Thousands of couples and devotees from all over the country gather at the ancient well, climbing down steep steps into the dark waters to bathe.

Vishwakarma said her sister had two daughters after praying at the well.

"If it worked for my sister, there are chances it could work for us too," she said, having travelled 1,500 kilometres (over 900 miles) from the southern state of Goa.

Vishwakarma was among the throngs of thousands performing religious rituals—taking the holy bath and making offerings of fruits and vegetables.

"I have faith," said Sarita Yadav, 22, married for four years and coming for the past three to bathe while hoping for a child. "People come here in large numbers, and that does mean something," she said. "There is belief." Rinky Devi and Maya Devi, cousins in their 20s, queued for two days for their turn. The women prayed for a baby with their husbands.

"We just have one hope; that god listens to us and blesses us with a child", Rinky said.

## Eiffel family to fight Olympic rings staying on Paris tower

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: The descendants of the Eiffel Tower's designer say they will fight to stop the Olympic rings being left on the tower as the mayor of Paris plans.

The family of the legendary engineer Gustave Eiffel said they "oppose any alteration that negatively impacts respect for the work" of their ancestor, adding they had already consulted lawyers about blocking the change.

## Muslim scholar convicted of rape on appeal in Switzerland: court

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: A Swiss appeals court on Tuesday found Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan guilty of raping a woman in a Geneva hotel in 15 years ago, overturning an earlier lower court acquittal. The court said it "annuls the judgement of 24 May 2023" and sentenced the 62-year-old former Oxford University professor to three years in prison, two of them suspended.

The verdict was slightly more lenient than the three years in prison — half suspended — requested by the prosecutor in the appeals case in May.

The ruling — dated August 28 but not made public until after it was reported by broadcaster RTS early on Tuesday.

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

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

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

Paying tribute to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the president said that the Pakistani nation was indebted to him for his efforts and contribution to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-

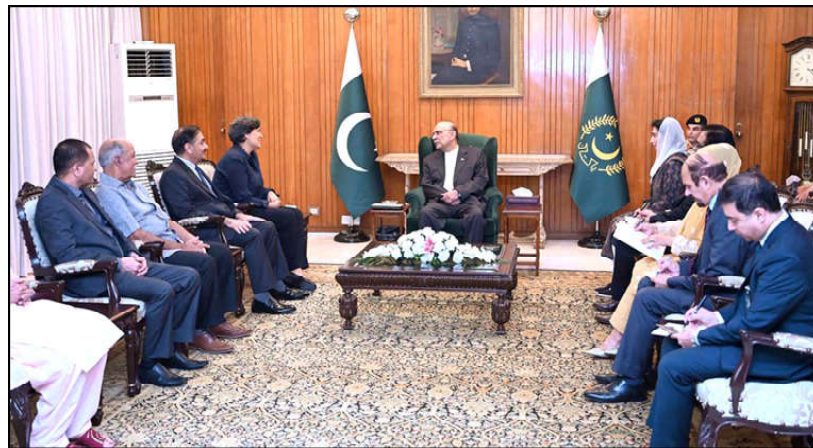
continent where they could live with dignity and exercise their political, cultural, and religious rights.

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

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

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

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



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

## Pak calls for mechanisms enabling UN peacekeepers to foster peace among conflicting parties

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called for strengthening the role and capacity of UN peacekeeping in hotspots around the world, proposing that the Security Council should create effective political mechanisms to promote peace agreements among parties to the conflict.

Speaking in the 15-member Council as it reviewed UN peacekeeping operations, Ambassador Munir Akram pointed out that such a mechanism would require greater cooperation among Security Council members, especially the permanent ones, notwithstanding their geopolitical rivalries.

The Pakistani envoy said that peacekeeping missions should also put greater emphasis on promoting local peace arrangements at the community level to reduce violence, citing the successful efforts of the Pakistani peacekeepers in restive Abyei, an area disputed by South Sudan and the Sudan.

Monday's Council meeting was organized by Slovenia as the rotating President of the UN Security Council for the month of September.

At the outset, Ambassador Akram said Pakistan has a long and close involvement with United Nations peace operations. Pakistan, he said, is host to one of the first United Nations missions — the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which was established in 1949 to monitor the ceasefire along the line of control (LoC) in disputed Jammu and Kashmir.

For its part, Pakistan has also deployed 230,000 peacekeepers in 46 missions and has lost 181 peacekeepers in the service of international peace and security, Ambassador Akram added. In today's day and age, he said, United Nations peacekeeping missions find themselves facing new and growing chal-

## Loss-making SOEs bleeding one trillion rupees of national exchequer, Senate told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday informed the Upper House of the Parliament that the loss-making state-owned enterprises were bleeding one trillion rupees of the national exchequer.

He was responding to the questions during the question hour session of the seventh meeting of the 342nd Senate session here.

Senator Aurangzeb said the federal government had completed its work on rationalisation of six ministries, whereas under the PWD discussion servants package was on the cards whereas change in legislation was needed as without changing it would not be able to move forward. "The treasury benches need the support of the house to enact this critical legislation for austerity and privatization, whereas pen-

ension is a ticking bomb and contributory define contributions are under discussion for public servants that will be proceeded," he said.

Replying another query, he said the debt to GDP ratio scenario in June 2020 was 77% and in June 2024 it was at 67% whereas its gradient was on right track along with its rate of growth declining gradually. Moreover, he said in Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) increase in debt percentage was 30% that had reduced to 15% indicating all indicators in positive direction, he added. Commenting on the government's strategy to pull the economy out of debts, the Finance Minister said, "Its road to market and we have to change our DNA of economy from import-led to export-led and the federal government are incorporating FDI and financing into exports that will further strengthen the economy."



MPA Asghar Khan Tareen receiving Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti upon arrival in Pishin

## Noorzai vows to take concrete steps to improve literacy rate in province

**Independent Report** QUETTA: In a bid to tackle the challenges of education in Balochistan, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Welfare Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai has vowed to take concrete steps to improve the literacy rate in the province.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark International Literacy Day, Noorzai acknowledged that Balochistan lags behind in education, with 300,000 children out of school. He reiterated the government's commitment to activating non-functional schools and ensuring that education reaches every household.

Noorzai also expressed concern over the exploitation of school children in political rallies and promised swift legal action against such practices. He emphasized the importance of education as the greatest wealth and the key to unlocking the future of Balochistan's youth.

The Balochistan government has already taken steps to send over 3,000 children abroad for education, a move aimed at bridging the education gap in the province.

With a population of 1.5 million, Balochistan faces significant challenges in providing quality education to its citizens. However, with the government's renewed focus on education, hopes are high for a brighter future for the province's youth.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Mir Barkat Rind and Secretary Hafiz Abdul Majid meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani

## CM to preside over meeting on judicious distribution of water between Sindh, Balochistan

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti is scheduled to preside over meeting on the issue of judicious distribution of water between Sindh and Balochistan today (Wednesday).

The Provincial Minister Irrigation Sindh, Jam Shoro would be participating in the meeting convened on directives of Chairman, Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the important matter.

The Chairman IRSA, Abdul Hameed Mengal, Secretary Irrigation Balochistan, Hafiz Abdul Majid, Chief Engineer Canals, Nasir Majeed, Secretary Irrigation Sindh, Zarif Khodo, Chief Engineer, Mukhtar Abro and other concerned high ups would also be attending the meeting. The meeting is aimed at adopting same stance on formula of distribution of water by Sindh and Balochistan at IRSA platform following the sincere efforts made by the Chairman PPP.

The delegation was headed by Mr Yuan Jianmin (Senior and renowned Economist) along with members representing various business enterprises, said a press release issued here.

The delegation was warmly received by officials of SIFC and comprehensive briefs were given covering potential and investment opportunities in priority sectors including Agriculture/ Livestock, IT, Energy, Minerals, Tourism, Industry, and policy level measures being undertaken to improve the overall investment climate in the country. The visit of delegation will further catalyze the ongoing engagements between Pakistan and China under Business-to-Business framework.

## Chinese business delegation visit SIFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level Chinese business delegation, comprising Xinjiang Iron Brothers Co Ltd with four other prominent Chinese business entities Tuesday visited Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The delegation was headed by Mr Yuan Jianmin (Senior and renowned Economist) along with members representing various business enterprises, said a press release issued here.

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



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Social Welfare Department Balochistan, Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai receiving shield to participants during the seminar on the eve of International Literacy Day held in Quetta.

## Advisor for Women Development emphasizes: Improving transportation facilities inevitable to enhance women's access to education & service

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, emphasized the importance of improving transportation facilities to enhance women's access to education and employment opportunities in the province.

She expressed these views during a meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, MPA Abdul Majeed Badini, here on Tuesday.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi stated that in order to ensure women's education and training in the province, it is essential to provide them with safe, reliable, and convenient transportation services.

She highlighted the need for special buses for women, particularly female students, and called for fare reductions, stressing that such measures would help women achieve greater success in both educational and professional fields.

She further added that to empower women, all relevant institutions must collaborate to effectively promote gender equality and women's rights. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi assured full cooperation regarding women-specific initiatives in the transport sector and reaffirmed that the Government of Balochistan is taking all possible steps to address women's issues.

On this occasion, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi reiterated that Balochistan's development is not possible without ensuring women's inclusion, and the government is committed to providing all necessary resources to help women advance.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Ahsan accelerates transfer of PWD Project to province

ISLAMABAD (Online): In a meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative s Ahsan Iqbal, it was decided to expedite the process of transferring ongoing development projects under the dissolved Public Works Department (PWD) to the provincial governments.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary of Planning and senior officials from various provinces. It was agreed that the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) projects would be transferred to the provincial governments as soon as possible so that work on these projects could continue without any hindrance. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that only the projects are being transferred to the provinces but the funding allocated to these projects under the PSDP will continue. He directed all provinces to inform within a week, the names of the ministries to which these ongoing projects will be transferred.

The ongoing PWD projects in the federal capital will also be transferred to the CDA and the relevant ministries. He clarified that the ongoing projects under the PWD are not being terminated but are merely being transferred to different institutions. Ahsan Iqbal appreciated that Balochistan has completed its work in this regard first and the remaining provinces should also provide complete details within a week. He said that the purpose of this committee was to resolve the difficulties faced according to the law.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Abdul Majeed Badini meeting with Provincial Advisor Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

## Govt eliminates 150,000 vacant regular posts in federal ministries, divisions

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has formally eliminated 150,000 vacant regular posts across various ministries and divisions.

According to the report, the Establishment Division has issued an official directive to all secretaries of ministries and divisions, following recommendations from the High-Powered Right Sizing Committee, says in media reports.

The decision to abolish these posts aims to streamline government operations and reduce unnecessary expenditures. According to the official letter, the authority to eliminate the posts has been delegated to the principal accounts officers of the respective ministries and divisions.

Each division is responsible for issuing a notification to close the vacancies within their sub-departments, and they must also send comprehensive information, along with the notification, to the Establishment Division by September 13.

The Establishment Division and the Finance Division are tasked with overseeing the implementation of this decision, ensuring that the federal cabinet's directive is effectively carried out.

To facilitate institutional coordination, Shahid Nawaz has been appointed as the focal person by the Establishment Division.

## Gillani challenges NAB jurisdiction in Toshakhana vehicles' case

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

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

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

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

## Two bills including SC (Amendment) Bill introduced in NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two bills including the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Pakistan Environmental Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2024 were introduced in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

Danyal Chaudhary sought the leave to introduce the bill to further amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997 [The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024] in the House while Nuzhat Sadiq moved the bill to further amend the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 [The Pakistan Environmental Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2024].

## Tarar visits residence of Asma Shirazi to condole her brother's death

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday visited the residence of Hum News Senior Anchor Person Asma Shirazi to express his condolences on demise of her brother. The minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the family on the death of Asma Shirazi's brother Mohsin Shirazi and recited Fateha for the departed soul.

Prime Minister's Coordinator Badr Shehbaz Waraich, Information Secretary Amreen Jan, Joint Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Principal Information Officer also accompanied.



QUETTA: National Champion Martial Arts Sher Baz Marri meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

## No decision made to shut down Utility Stores: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain informed the National Assembly on Tuesday that no decision has been made to shut down Utility Stores.

In response to a Calling Attention Notice, he said that restructuring of the organization would be carried out in consultation with all stakeholders, including employee representatives from the union.

Rana Tanveer said that Utility Stores Corporation (USC) is a crucial organization providing essential services, and efforts are underway to improve its operations.

He highlighted that the ordinance concerning state-owned enterprises clearly mandates that essential institutions will not be privatized or shut down.

The minister reiterated that the USC, established by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was designed to provide relief to the common people.

He said that, alongside programs such as the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), which now has a budget close to Rs 600 billion, the government has approved a Rs 60 billion subsidy for Utility Stores to ensure the provision of affordable and quality goods to the public.

The minister that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is personally committed to provide maximum relief to the masses and is taking steps to improve Utility Stores as well as other public sector institutions.

Regarding the Public Works Department (PWD), the minister said that the government has decided to shut down PWD and transfer repair works to the Capital Development Authority (CDA).

## PTI loses another seat in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lost another seat won in the February 8 general elections after a vote recount.

According to details, PTI's Sarbuland Khan lost to Asif Moosa of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) from Sindh Assembly constituency PS-112 after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) held a vote recount.

After a notification issued by the ECP, PPP's Asif Moosa took oath as a member of the Sindh Assembly. After the revised results, PPP's Asif Moosa secured the seat with 11,724 followed by PTI's Sarbuland Khan who bagged 9,943 votes.

## Repatriation of illegal Afghan nationals continues

ISLAMABAD (Online): The process of repatriation of the illegal Afghan nationals to their homeland is underway in a dignified manner.

According to latest statistics, the total number of illegal Afghan nationals who were repatriated till yesterday has reached more than seven hundred thirteen thousand. Twenty-one thousand one hundred and ninety three Afghan nationals including 7843 men, 6012 women and 7338 children left the country from 17th August to 09th of September.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretaries and MPAs meeting with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola